



# Volume 5

## SHORT STORY WRITING CLUB

*The Anniversary Edition*

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome reader, to volume 5 of Short Story Creative Writing Club's short story collection. This is also the one-year anniversary since volume 1 was made, so for me, this small collection of work is extra special. I want to say well done to all the writers who contributed work to this magazine. You started this journey by creating your characters, your worlds and the plots told within these pages and here is the result of those weeks of hard work. I hope whoever reads these stories can see all the hard work you have put into them.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported my students, whether that be family, friends or teachers. When you read this, please read these stories appreciating the effort and passion the writers put into them, but most of all, thank you for reading.

A special thanks to Alp Aksoy for his front cover design.

*Editor*

*Cameron Beale*

# THE LOST HALF-BLOOD PRINCESS

Ada Hazal Aydın

Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a family in Edinburgh Castle who, although they seemed like a happy family from the outside, did not get along very well. Living in the Castle were King Arthur, Queen Elizabeth and their son Axel. No matter how comfortable the king and his family lived, the same could not be said for the people. The people were in a terrible situation; everyone was inferior. Among those people, there was an elegant girl who attracted attention with her silver hair, black eyes, and beauty, but she did not like it at all. Her name was Isabella. Isabella lived with her mother in a small and old house. But apart from being poor, they had another critical problem. Isabella's mother was very sick and no one could find a cure. They did not have enough money to pay for the treatment anyway.

Isabella woke up at night to the sound of his mother screaming due to pain. Her mother no longer had the strength to endure these pains. She thought she needed to find a solution to this problem, but she did not know how.

The next night, Isabella woke up to the sound of her mother's cough. She was worried for her mother.

"Mom, are you okay?"

"Isabella, my lovely daughter, go and save your own life. Leave me, please."

"Mom, please. How can I leave you?"

Her mother's situation will get worse, and she didn't know what she could accomplish for her mother.

Isabella decided to go out to find water and medicine. While she was going out, the Queen and the guards came to Isabella's house. Isabella saw the guards and the Queen when she went to the house.

"Mom, I bought some medicines and water."

She saw the Queen and the guards when she turned back. Her mother needed to explain.

"My lovely daughter, sit down and listen to the Queen."

"Mother, the Queen? Who is she? Are you? I'm so sorry I could not recognize you."

"Okey. Stop flattering and listen to me. I'm the Queen of Edinburgh. Queen Elizabeth.

Suppose you want your mother to become healthy; you must come with me. My husband, the King, is dying. He is so sick. You will marry my son. Prince Axel. You will be a princess."

"What? Mother, did you hear? How do I do this?"

"Bella, Of course, I can not ask this from you."

"Is not there any solution, Mom?"

"If you do not marry my son, your mother will die. Did you understand?"

Isabella thought about it, but the most logical thing she could do was accept this offer.

"Okey. I accept it. I will marry your son."

...

Today was the big day. Isabella and Axel are going to get married. Everyone in Edinburgh was very excited because of their wedding. Axel and Isabella do not see each other before the wedding. They will see each other for the first time at the wedding. Isabella was waiting for Axel in the room, wearing her wedding dress. It could be the most beautiful wedding dress in the world. It was a color between white and pink and decorated with shiny stones. On his head was a crown with pink stones. She was very nervous. Both of them were very nervous. Axel came to the room to take her down to the Ballroom. There was a knock on the door. When Axel saw Isabella, he couldn't believe his eyes, she was so beautiful. Maybe he fell in love with her at first sight.

...

Six months have passed since that beautiful wedding. They were delighted. They started to love each other. Axel treated fairly by her, and she loved him because of his goodwill. But in the meantime, Axel's father passed away, and Axel ascended to the throne. Isabella was now the Queen of Edinburgh. Although Axel's mother was happy that her son ascended to the throne, she was not very happy about Isabella becoming the Queen. Also, there was an issue about Isabella. She always had nightmares at night and woke up screaming. In his nightmares, she always saw a man with hair and eyes similar to her's. He also had a scar on his neck, like Isabella's. On this night, she woke up because of her nightmare again.

"My love, is it the same nightmare again?"

"Yes! Axel, I can't stand it anymore. I want to know who is he!"

Axel couldn't stand her situation anymore and started doing research. He would find out who that man was.

...

In his nightmares, Isabella always saw a man with hair and eyes similar to his. He also had a scar on his neck, like Isabella's. Axel couldn't stand her situation anymore and started doing research. He would find out who that man was. After two months, Axel finally found some clues. He ordered the guards to find him. They found that the man in the nightmares was John, the Alpha of the Crescent Pack, but they could not bring him to the castle; they had to find a way. John was a werewolf and, worse, an Alpha. Axel thought it would be more effective to talk to John himself. Axel set out with the guards. But there was something they missed. Isabella could not stand it and followed them with a horse. When they found John's mansion, many werewolves were around. Isabella was hiding away.

"Alpha John! I came. I am the King of Edinburgh."

"The young King! Axel, welcome."

"I sent the guards, but you didn't come, so I thought I would come myself."

"Axel, what do you want?"

"My wife sees you in her nightmares at night."

John laughed and thought he was kidding. Axel had to do something.

"My wife has a scar which is the same as yours."

"What? It is not possible! The Crescent Scar happens in the royal family. Like me! You are lying!"

"Alpha John! I am here. I am Isabella. Queen Isabella. Look! Look at my neck. I have that scar, too. Who am I? Tell me!"

John knew from the first moment he saw her that Isabella was his daughter. Isabella's mother died while giving birth to her. They told her father that Isabella was also dead, but she did not die. The person Isabella thought was her mother was her grandmother. To protect Isabella, they told John that she, too, was dead. John had now found her and reunited with his daughter. He was his heir. Since the werewolf curse had not been broken yet, Isabella was not a full werewolf. She had to kill an innocent person to break the curse. Let it be. Everything would be okay now.

...

Time has passed since the events that happened. Isabella was now both the Queen and Alpha of the Crescent Pack. They had two children with Axel. His grandmother, whom she thought was his mother, was now much healthier. Axel's mother was a better person now. John was also happy; he was at peace now. Everything was fine. Everyone was happy. Isabella stopped writing her diary, placed it on the bedside table, and fell into a peaceful sleep in Axel's arms.

# NANO BOTS

Alp Aksoy

Aleksey entered the room and hailed his laboratory team and went through his office. After he started working, one of his secretaries entered and handed him a long list of demanded improvements by the USA Defense Minister.

“I was afraid of these,” said Aleksey with a gloomy tone. The document about avionic problems in supersonic jet the Hawkeye which theoretically reaches 15 times of sound velocity. Even though he had just came, he should inform his wife about the project's time and he should see his sick daughter because of her terminal lymphoma.

“You don't have free time even to spend time with your daughter,” said Jonathan who is Aleksey's adjutant.

“There is no rest for the head of the engineering unit,” said Aleksey. Albeit, how much he cares for his family, he was committed man in his job. After he reached the telephone room, he told the number and security code to the secretary with a video call request, since no personal phone was allowed in his workplace. After the phone call he felt guilt but there was nothing to do with it. His wife had said farewell to him only with a bitter smile.

“The avionics are going to be a pain in the neck,” he murmured. Then his name was announced from the lab with a demand for his help. He stood and after passing down the long corridor, he entered the laboratory with calm steps.

“We were waiting for you,” said the chief of the nanotechnology unit and greeted him with great respect.

“I have not much time so let us focus on our job,” said Aleksey and started working with no question.

When he finished his work with Alphonse's project (Alphonse is the head of the nanotechnology unit), he ordered a coffee and went towards meeting room V where they would discuss the avionic problems of Hawkeye.

But before that a CIA agent stopped him. “I am agent Hans, your daughter has been hospitalized so if you request to visit her in Princeton hospital, we will arrange a helicopter,” said the agent. Aleksey thought about a while and expressed his gratitude with a bitter smile.

“Thank you for your consideration but if I go there, there is nothing I can do.” said Aleksey and entered room V.

“So the rumors were true, he is an emotionless machine,” Hans murmured.

Aleksey was aware of these rumors but he didn't care even slightly since these rumors only were being taken seriously by personal who didn't really know him.

In the meeting they came up with a one-month program aimed at solving the avionic problems with nano bots. Actually, there was no mistake, both in the design and practical

usage. The USA defense minister complained that even most capable technicians couldn't solve malfunctions so they requested a simplified design, but Aleksey suggested creating nano bots which were able to fix malfunctions easily. Following Aleksey's suggestion they decided to end the meeting.

When everyone started to leave Jonathan approached Aleksey and whispered "I heard the news, I will drive to the hospital and you are coming with me, you irresponsible workaholic father."

Aleksey murmured with an ashamed tone "Even if I went to the hospital, there is nothing I can do for my daughter except cry for her welfare."

Jonathan walked toward Aleksey and grabbed his hand and started to drag him along the corridor and began to rebuke him with an angry but low voice. "You were like that when we were in university. You are always underestimating your presence in critical situations. You are a genius in engineering but when it comes to relationships you are a numbskull."

"Sorry about that, since then you have had my back," said Aleksey.

"Never mind just comfort your wife and cheer up your daughter," said Jonathan and patted his friend's shoulder.

When they arrive to the hospital's yard Aleksey saw a flower seller and decided to buy a flower bouquet.

"Albeit, you don't understand slightest, still you are trying to be careful for your family," Aleksey smirked.

After that they passed through the yard, asked the receptionist the room number and took the elevator. After they arrived, Aleksey saw his wife crying on a chair. His wife Marie hugged him and asked.

"The doctors said Natalia has only six months to live, her lymphoma reached an incurable state so can you at least allocate time one night to spend with her."

"Indeed," said Aleksey and headed towards Natalia's room. Natalia became lively when she saw his father. They talked a while then Natalia fell asleep. Aleksey said good night and left the room. When he entered the corridor he found his wife asleep and sat next to her and closed his eyes. *There was an enormous aquarium in a conference room. There was an enormous aquarium in the conference room. Aleksey was standing in front of it and watching Axolotls.*

*"These creatures possessing an ability which is considered impossible to reach for us"* Aleksey thought like that and heave a sigh. While he had been thinking these, Alphonse came nearby and woke him up his deep thoughts.

*"Isn't it beautiful," said Alphonso.*

*"Yes, I wish we had the technology to mimic their regeneration abilities"* answered Aleksey.

*"What you are thinking impossible is can be achieved by nano bots," said Alphonso.*

*"That's a brilliant idea, the only problem is that is impossible to create such complex AI."* Aleksey opposed.



*“How about Dimitri, you always praise him and once you said that he is the only person smarter than me,” said Alphonso.*

*“Maybe he can help but decades passed since our last meeting so that I am hesitant.*

*“.....”*

While he was dreaming his wife woke him up so he couldn't hear what Alphonso said.

“You were speaking in your dream,” said Marie.

“Yeah, that was a strange dream,” he said and looked at his watch.

“I have to go since I have already overused my total annual leave,” said Aleksey and stood. After saying farewell to his wife, he went to the lobby. Jonathan was waiting him; he called Aleksey and spoke.

“How was your daughter and did you comfort your wife?”

“Doctors said she has six months to live, I did my best,” said Aleksey and added, “why didn't you come with me?”

“They wanted to meet Aleksey, not with me”

“Do you have the number of Dimitri?” said Aleksey.

“Why do you need it, its have been 18 years since our last contact but I heard that he is unemployed. He has been behaving strangely since our university years. Nevertheless, I have written his number in my old agenda,” said Jonathan.

“Alright, try to find that agenda as quickly as possible,” said Aleksey.

“We can stop at my home before work, we have plenty of time,” said Jonathan. They headed toward the car by passing the reception while that Aleksey remembered his dream root in biology of Axolotl in the reception in the aquarium. *I don't have time due to work, maybe it's better to quit my job since I have enough money for a decade. When they passed through the reception Aleksey stopped and headed towards the reception.*

“I want a fountain pen and a white paper,” said Aleksey to the receptionist.

“What is happening?” asked Jonathan with a pale face and grabbed Aleksey's shoulder and pulled himself.

“I thought I need a vacation, I will resign from my position and I am going to write a recommendation letter since you are the only man who could fill my absenteeism,” said Aleksey with a smug face.

“What in the world you are up to? What will be happen to your family? What about Natalia's hospital expenses?” Jonathan bombarded Aleksey with questions.

“Be patient, I will explain everything and I have one billion dollars in my account so expenses are not a problem.” Aleksey was extraordinarily calm and happy he smiled strangely while answering. Jonathan decided to wait for answers and respect his friend's decision since his daughter was edge of death. Aleksey wrote his resignation letter, folded it, and put his pocket.

“I am ready let's go to your house then I will give my resignation to the manager,” said Aleksey and headed towards to exit. When they got into the car Aleksey turned the radio on and put on his favorite song.

“You know one day you will be arrested due to these Soviet songs,” said Jonathan.

“If my father didn’t suffer from Tito’s policies, I am sure that I will not be able to pass security inspection because of my nationality,” he said wearing a gloomy expression.

“You promised to answer my questions so tell me what’s the big deal?” asked Jonathan and muted the radio.

“What would you think If I said that I will invent nano bots which cure all diseases?” he asked with a smug face.

“I will say that you are insane,” said Jonathan with an astonished expression.

“For this reason, I need Dimitri, with his help, I can succeed in the impossible,” said Aleksey and he turned on the radio again. When they arrive Jonathan’s house Aleksey found Dimitri’s number and called. After a short conversation they decided to meet in New York. After that that they worked Aleksey’s project roughly two months and succeed to rescue Natalia.

# MAGIC FOREST

Asya Bati

It was a shiny spring day when the people of the magic forest woke up. They thought it would be a normal day, including Lily. She woke up early, had her breakfast, and drank her tea. Everything was perfectly normal until the mirror in Lily's bedroom, this mirror was magical and it was been inherited by the new queens or kings along all generations, told her there was an enemy clan which was coming to the magic forest. There was a forthcoming war. The mirror told her she should go to find The Wizard and listen to him about what should she do. Then, she ran to escape anxiously by leaving her people left behind.

Lily set out for finding the Wizard but she had no idea about where she should go. She walked around the town and asked for help to people if they have any idea about where the Wizard lives, but no one knew it. Furthermore, people weren't sure about whether or not the Wizard lives. Lily was very tired so she went to an inn to rest. When she was in there, she heard some whispers and gossips while she was eating dinner. People were talking about the enemy clan which occupied the forest. Lily listened them carefully because she wondered what people think about this situation. They were so angry and panicked. Also, the voice of a man who talked angrily was familiar to Lily. Then she realized he was Sir Jamie. He was a knight in the royal army before but he was retired now. Lily was very happy because of this coincidence and she went to Sir Jamie, then the retired knight was very happy too because of seeing the Fairy Queen. They started to talk and Lily told him about everything from how the enemy clan occupied the forest to the reason why she needed to find the Wizard.

"I think I know how we can find the Wizard but this trip is not going to be easy," knight said.

"I'm ready for everything, the safety of my people is at stake," Lily said. Then, they set out with the first light of the morning. They went beyond very dangerous roads, mountains, rivers and areas where dangerous creatures live in. But finally, they came in front of the Wizard's hut when the moon came out.

Wizard welcomed them like he has already known that they will come. He invited them into his hut, then they talked about what happened. Lily told him that they have to find the sword which the mirror talked about. As predicted, the Wizard has already knew about this.

"We should find the sword before it's too late, the enemy clan might learn about sword and try to capture it" Wizard said. "If we want to hurry, we should set out presently and go through in the forest, this is the shortest way for reaching sword"

Then, they started to walk into the dark of the night. Forest was too dark and trees were too dense. They couldn't see the moonlight anymore. Suddenly, they heard some voices which aren't belong to them. These were the soldiers of the Dark Forest. Dark Forest had only one

king and one people and they never didn't love the strangers. They kidnapped Fairy Queen, Wizard and the Knight, then they put them in the dungeon. They were shocked and afraid. While the Wizard was thinking about how they can escape and trying some spells, Lily and the Knight were trying to break the lock of dungeon, but it was in vain. This dungeon was spell-proof and lock was too hard.

"There is an only way to escape," a voice in the dark whispered.

They looked to place where the voice comes from. There was a guard fox. It approached slowly and said again what it said just now. "There is an only way to escape, and if you want I can show you but I have a condition"

"What is it?" Wizard asked.

"I will help you to escape this dungeon and you will let me come with you and live in the Magic Forest. If I live in the Magic Forest, I never get old and I can spend my whole life in wealthy and health (Because of the spell of tree of life. This tree causes wealthy and health to the whole area which it is located. Also this was the reason why the enemy clan wants to occupy magic forest.)

The fox also said that its family is very poor and its children are very sick. Fairy Queen very sad about this situation and

"Deal," she said and fox saved them, then they escaped.

When they were walking deep into the forest, all of them was so quite. They were hungry, thirsty and afraid. After a few hours, It was almost morning, they came out of the forest finally and they saw a village a little far away. This was a small village. They went to there to ask if the people of village can help them. The people said they will be very pleasure to help. So Fairy Queen, The Wizard, Fox and The Knight had a breakfast and rested. After that, they said goodbyes to the people of this small village gratefully and continued on their way. At least, it was morning now.

After walking for a while, they arrived in front of the castle. Before they tried to open the door, the door was opened by itself. They entered the castle. and there was a beautiful young lady who was waiting for them with a smiling face. They started to talk to girl and asked her how they can reach the sword. But. the girl wouldn't answer the questions and The Wizard noticed that something was wrong. The girl transformed to a monster slowly with a sharp claws and fangs.

"I will take care of the monster, you go and search for the sword," The Wizard shouted. The three of them left The Wizard with the monster and found the sword in a gloomy room. There was a warning near the sword that saying only people with good intentions can obtain the sword. If a person with a bad intentions, then that person will be vanished instantly. The Fairy Queen, confident in herself, she walked toward The Sword and grabbed it. And nothing happened. They were happy but before celebrating, they remembered to return back to The Wizard and help him. When they arrived back where they left The Wizard and ran into a horrible sight. The Wizard and Monster were lying on the floor in a blood pond. They checked

The Wizard quickly if he was dead. After they confirm that he was dead they came back because there was nothing they could do.

They returned to the Magic Forest after the walking which was continued days and days. And they fought with the enemy clan which occupied The Forest. And they lived happily ever after.

# TO FORGET

Begüm Yalçınrıdvanağaoğlu

Alex woke up at 6 a.m. and wondered if he had fed his cat Cookie. He immediately got up and poured food onto Cookie's plate, but Cookie did not come. He would go as soon as he smelled his food. Alex became worried and searched every room in the house to find Cookie. He later found him very sick and unconscious on the balcony, so he thought maybe he could survive and took him to the vet.

The veterinarian said that the cat had been hungry and thirsty for a long time, so it died. Alex wondered how he had forgotten to feed him. Even then, he couldn't remember the last time he ate. He panicked very much and went to the doctor immediately. The doctor diagnosed him with Alzheimer's and was very sad that he would forget everything in 5 years. Still, then he thought that there was an opportunity to kill those who killed his sister years ago because one day he would forget everything, and now that he was seventy years old, he had an opportunity. Even if he got caught by the police and went to jail, they still wouldn't suspect him; he did everything he wanted to do, and the only thing left was revenge. He took his gun and set out to avenge his sister.

Alex got in his car and headed for Texas.

He was thinking of destroying those who killed his sister twenty years ago. First, he asked his nephews, who lived in Texas, where the three men lived. He learned that these three men had not moved for years; one worked in a bank, one had a gallery, and the other ran a small market. It all started with someone who worked in a bank. After the mask and gun were identified, it was decided that this murder was a bank robbery. He waited in the car, entered the bank half an hour before his lunch break, pointed his gun, and told John to empty all the money into his bag. John was the one who ran his sister over with a car.

John hasn't changed over the years; he's just gotten older. Alex recognized him immediately. He last saw him in court but couldn't understand why they weren't charged with any crime. They ran over his sister with a car and ran away.

Alex pointed the gun at John and pulled the trigger three times, and he didn't blink. He then took the money and thought of donating the money to cancer patients and orphans. He quickly left the bank with his car and rested at his nephew's house. He was going to commit three murders in a week; he needed to plan very well and relax.

“Uncle, did you hear what happened at the bank today?” Alex’s nephew asked. “Someone took all the money and killed the man. John is dead, my mother's murderer died in a robbery today, can you believe it, it's a blessing from God. Uncle, aren't you going to say anything?”

Alex turns to his nephew. “Anything can happen in the mortal world.”

He traveled around Texas with his nephew for three days, visited his sister's grave, and said that he took his revenge and left her blood on the ground.

Meanwhile, his doctor was constantly trying to reach Alex, but Alex did not answer the doctor's phone and continues to use his medications. Now, the gallery owner had to make a plan to kill the man.

The plan would be as follows: He would go to the art studio to work and stab the man in the neck with his painting palette.

Alex entered the art gallery. He went before the palette as if nothing was happening and started painting. He was drawing the car that crushed his sister. While he was about to leave the vehicle, the murderer approached him. He had this car years ago, which made him sad. He was involved in a murder with this car, and then he sold it. Alex can't believe he admitted to being involved in the murder, and it bothered him that he talked about a murder so coldly.

Other people slowly began to evacuate the gallery. Alex got closer to the gallery owner and stabbed him with the curve of the brush, causing a bloodbath everywhere. He set the whole gallery on fire without leaving any trace, and until the evening when his nephew returned home, he was very pale. His nephew asked, his uncle asked for it, and he said he had nothing. Alex, the whole family was sad that he had Alzheimer's and was worried about him. In the evening, we decided to watch the news together and the man who murdered the mother, whose nephew was shocked, appeared in his gallery and the man died.

The police could not find any evidence but are waiting for a report at the hospital. The nephew realized that things were not every day anymore. Since his uncle came to Texas, murders had been committed constantly, and these murders were related to his family. The FBI was also there, but they could not find any evidence. Only the car's tire tracks resembled Alex's car, but this was enough for a seventy-year-old man to become a murderer. There was no evidence.

Alex started preparations for his son's sacrifice. He was going to poison him with wage poison. Stafen was selling natural products in the markets. Stafen Alex will go to the market as if he is going to sell milk and kill Stafen because the milk he gives will contain rat poison. The plan was straightforward; he just had to remember to add the poison to the milk. A week has passed since the last two murders. A prominent marketing executive, Alex, went with the document truck he rented for a day. The plan went as he wanted, and Stafen wished to taste the milk. He drank all the milk.

Alex waited for a while. Stefan fainted and couldn't breathe. Alex started screaming. My sister died because of you. You took no blame; why did I meet my needs and couldn't protect you from you? He was shouting in extreme panic. The customers who heard him came running but could not understand what the old men were doing. In the meantime, Stafen continued. Alex quickly left the scene but forgot to take the cameras from the market. All the hidden cameras caught him. Alex went home and left it to his nephew.

"It's over; everyone will be punished; he left his mother's blood there," he said.

It was thought that the old man, who still could not understand what happened to his nephew, was affected by the heavy drugs he used.

Meanwhile, the FBI investigated all the incidents and found a common point. These years ago, the investigation and the culprits of a case whose investigation was closed had disappeared. All eyes turned to Alex, but the police officer could not believe this seventy-year-old man could make so many plans until the camera records were revealed. How important it is to tell about

the behavior of this Alzheimer's patient for a year and to record the side effects of the malfunctions. Ten years after these murders, Alex remains a serial killer, avenging those who died, in prison.



# THE TRUE FACE OF LOVE

Burak Şimşek

It was a glorious, colourful summer. Like any other day, Ann is talking and chatting with her friends in her mansion. Thomas on the other hand, is looking for ways to get rich on his own. Alexander, another character in our story, is the same as always looking for ways to make money. Alexander and Thomas are very old friends. Thomas is as honest and chivalrous as he is. Alexander on the contrary is a cunning and evil person.

Let's talk a little bit about the beautiful girl of our story, Ann. Ann is a very beautiful, very affluent, and ladylike girl waiting for the love of her life.

One day, Thomas is sitting in his makeshift house, fed up, and suddenly Alexander comes along. They talk for a while and Alexander makes an offer to Thomas. The offer is a theft offer. As soon as Thomas hears this offer, he gets very angry and fires the Alexander.

He wandered around the house for hours and thought. He had thousands of thoughts in his mind. After much deliberation, he decided. He desperately needed money, with that money he can achieve both his dreams and he could also offer his mother a more comfortable life. Because his mother worked for him all his life and he owed her a debt of gratitude. Thomas grew up with his mother because Thomas' father abandoned them at a very young age. After weighing them in his head, he decided and he goes to meet Alexander. He is surprised when he sees Thomas because he doesn't think he'll accept the offer. But he's happy about it. Thomas wants to know the details of the business.

They talk about the details of the work for a while. They have a week for this robbery. Ann's parents will be back home in a week. For the first 2 days, they explore the house. They work on all 3 days to make plans. They think that the best day for a robbery is the day before their parents arrive. Thomas goes home on the night of the day they have chosen, unaware of what will happen to him. He enters the house with a dark mask and a lantern.

Just as he is about to enter, the alarm suddenly sounds, and he hears the sound of a car. Ann's parents had decided to come early. When Alexander realized the situation, she ran away without looking back. Ann noticed Thomas and screamed, when her father heard the voice, he ran to Ann. However, Ann didn't betray him and hid him. Her father arrives, and he says I heard a noise, Ann says I didn't hear anything then he left her room. Ann pulls out Thomas. He tells her about the situation. Ann tells him she can help him. However, Thomas can't swallow his pride and says he can't accept it.

Ann is fascinated by Thomas. But Thomas wants to go to see his mom. Ann follows in. Then when she goes home, he sees his mother's condition. She is very upset and secretly wants to help his mother. Unbeknownst to Thomas, she helps her. Thomas is very angry when he learns this, but he is very affected by it. After spending so much time together. They get married and lead a good life.

# APARTMENT NUMBER

## 4

Elif Naz Çepiç

*"To be or not to be, that is the question," said William Shakespeare. Is that the whole point?*  
It is 1.34 am.

I was startled in my bed by a rapid knock on my door. I got up from my bed and quickly tried to turn on the light, but there was no electricity. I staggered and started walking towards the door. When I looked through the peephole, Bud, who lived in apartment number 2, had arrived. He drank day and night. He would say he had no money and then buy half a loaf of bread and a drink with his last money. A long time ago, when I asked him why he drank so much, he said, "Children growing up without love make the world worse, and I am a bad person."

I quickly opened the door. "Barnaby, run." His hands and feet were shaking as he said this.

"Wait, calm down first," I said. "Tell me what happened. Did the men you borrowed money from come again?"

"The man in flat number 4," Bud said quickly, his voice trembling. His pupils were dilated.

"What happened, Bud? Tell me!" Immediately afterward, a scream was heard. I didn't know where the voice came from, but it sounded like Agatha's. "He's dead," Bud said quietly.

The entire apartment building quickly came out, and we met in front of Agatha and Elden's apartment. Holly and Annabel were already there when we arrived. Agatha burst into tears, and her hands were shaking. "Inside," Agatha said, her voice shaking. I looked for Cyrus next door, but he wasn't there.

"How did this happen? Did a thief break in or something? Did you check your valuables?" asked Annabel.

"Don't you ask too many questions of someone who finds her husband covered in new blood, Miss Annabel?" I asked.

Annabel remained silent. Cyrus began to descend the stairs, half asleep. "What's happening in here?" he asked.

Everyone preferred to remain silent.

"Is he breathing?" Holly asked. "Let me call the police right away."

Agatha looked at the blood on her hands. "Breathing...not breathing."

Annabel fell to the ground and began to cry.

"I'm calling the police immediately," said Cyrus. There was a short silence. "The phone is not receiving reception. There must be a problem with the lines."

"Who do we tell?" said Holly, her hands shaking.

I interrupted Holly by saying. "Everybody calm down. Agatha, could you close the door and lock it? There is no power line because there is no electricity. There is a heavy snowfall outside. The arrival of the police may be delayed. Agatha, come with me until the police arrive. Everyone should go home, lock the door, and stay calm."

It is 2.12 am.

"Would you like some more water, Agatha?" I asked. Agatha shook her head negatively. "How do you think it happened?" I asked, taking the glass from her hand. "Barnaby... I don't know. I sleep very deeply. He also often tried to drink water at night. I woke up at some point and realized that he wasn't with me. I thought he tried to drink water, so I didn't care at first and went back to sleep. Then I woke up again, and Eldon was still not with me. Afterward, I got curious and started walking towards the kitchen and found him lying in the living room, covered in blood. You already know what happened next. By the way, did you try calling the police again?"

"Yes, I tried, but there is still a problem with the phone line. Are you sure it wasn't a burglar, or did Eldon have an enemy?" I asked while lighting the candles with the matches in my hand. "As far as I know, it wasn't there. I only have one gold bracelet on my arm in our house, which I can call valuable." When Agatha said this, I saw the gold bracelet on her arm. "And Barnaby...was stabbed right in the heart," said Agatha.

"How did you never hear a sound, Agatha? How can someone stabbed in the heart die without making a sound?" I asked myself while pouring water. Just then, the doorbell rang.

*Did Hamlet organize this theater knowing that the person who killed his father was his uncle? Or are we all in this game?*

"Barnaby, is everything okay? I was wondering about Agatha?" Bud asked.

"Come in," I said quickly. Just as he was closing the door, a scream was heard. "Help! Please help!" I needed to understand who the voice was from, but someone was quickly climbing the stairs. Bud and Agatha came quickly toward the door. The person coming up the stairs was Holly. He was crying.

"Please, Barnaby, help me. Annabel..." said Holly. She was out of breath. "Annabel...she must have killed Eldon." Holly quickly walked through the door. At that moment, the door of the opposite flat was opened, and Cyrus promptly walked out.

"Holly, wait! Why would I want to kill you? Are you crazy?" Annabel quickly climbed the last step.

Holly was right behind me. "You..." Holly said as Annabel and Cyrus walked in. "You wanted to kill me because I knew about your relationship with Eldon," said Holly quickly, as if

he wanted to say it and get rid of it. There was a profound silence. Isn't the most significant gap between people's silence?

I looked at Agatha, and as I looked, she started crying again.

"What is going on here?" Bud asked. He was the first to break the silence.

"Holly, how could you think of that? How could I kill Eldon? How could I possibly kill you?" Annabel asked Holly.

"Because I knew you were having an affair, you got scared and tried to kill me. You are a crazy person." As soon as Holly said this, she tried to attack Annabel.

"Wait, Holly, calm down. That's enough. There's a dead man downstairs. We can't call the police. Everyone get inside and stay away from each other." I said, shouting.

"Don't cry, Agatha. We both know very well that Eldon gets up at night to drink water and meets me in the vacant flat number 1. Don't act stupid. Tell the truth." said Annabel and continued, "Tell the truth, Agatha, did you kill Eldon?" As soon as she said that, Agatha started to cry even more. I was trying to follow the events with my eyes.

"Is this true, Agatha?" I asked. "Yes, I knew they had a relationship for a long time, but no, I did not kill Eldon," said Agatha. I looked into Agatha's eyes. She didn't dare to kill a man. She was an ordinary housewife. They couldn't have children because of Agatha, and Eldon always spoke accusingly about this. But I thought maybe she killed him. If we live in this world, we can expect evil from everyone.

"I'm sick of you all," said Cyrus, looking at Annabel.

"I'm going to go get a drink from home," Bud said.

"You drunkard! You don't have anything else to do anyway! You drink and try to please people," said Annabel.

"That's enough, Annabel! Have affairs with married people and insult me; I won't allow it," said Bud as he walked out the door. Then he turned around. "Isn't it a pity for that woman?" he said, pointing at Agatha. "Who knows how many nights she cried? Have you ever thought about how bad she felt?" said Bud and left.

"I'm ashamed to be friends with you," said Holly. Annabel sank to the floor and put her head in her arms.

"I'll try calling the police again," I said. When I tried again, I waited for someone to answer the phone.

It is 4.09 am.

Bud came in with a bottle of liquor and leaned against the wall. "Everyone had a tired enough night," Cyrus said and continued. "I'm going back to my apartment."

While Cyrus was walking, Annabel suddenly ran towards Cyrus and started punching him from behind. Cyrus held his hands and pushed her. "What do you think you're doing, Annabel?" asked Cyrus.

"You found out about our relationship with Eldon and killed him, didn't you? All your dreams with me were fake, weren't they? Your only concern was Eldon's money," said Annabel. As Cyrus was walking towards Annabel, Bud intervened and pushed Cyrus.

"I didn't kill Eldon," said Cyrus, shouting. "Why would I kill your stupid boyfriend, Annabel? And yes, I didn't learn about your relationship when Holly told me. This drunk Bud, whom you call, told me everything when he was drunk. He also talked about how you guys secretly met in apartment number 1. You are a disgusting person." said Cyrus.

"Shut up," Agatha shouted. "I'm sick of this disgusting relationship... now shut up," she continued. Agatha took her shirt button out of her pocket. "I found this in Eldon's possession," she said.

I immediately looked at Cyrus; it was the same button on his shirt. When Cyrus realized I understood this, he opened the door and started running down the stairs, but I quickly followed him and caught him, and Bud promptly followed me. "The phone line is working. I called the police. They are on their way," said Bud.

We took Cyrus upstairs with Bud. "We'll wait for the police to come, stupid man." Cyrus was looking at me without blinking. When Agatha saw Cyrus, she started screaming and crying.

"You're a murderer, Cyrus." said Agatha.

Annabel said in a sobbing voice, "How could you do this, Cyrus? You have the blood of an innocent man on your hands."

Holly was trying to calm Annabel down.

"Innocent?" cried Cyrus, while I was tying him to the chair with a rope. "What are you, Annabel? Innocent or murderer? Do you have to shed blood to kill a person? You can kill people by forgetting them, Annabel? How many times have you killed me? Do you know this?"

"But that's not murder anywhere in the world, Cyrus." said Annabel quickly. I slowly heard the approaching siren. Then the siren sound increased in intensity. I quickly untied Cyrus' ropes, held his hands tightly. Everyone else was following behind me. When everyone went downstairs, the police quickly opened the door. "We received a report of a murder," said one of the police officers. "Everybody get out," she continued.

"Yes," I said, handing Cyrus towards the cops. "In apartment number 4."

*Hamlet prepared this theater play to kill his uncle. He looked for a tiny sign in his eyes. After this game, nothing was as he wanted and believed. Is that all there is to it?*

# DEAD SILENCE

Eren Zambak

I was drinking coffee while I was watching the snowfall. My wife had already prepared and awaited her friend Lana Greenwood's call. Nearly half an hour passed, but Lana did not let her know. Therefore, my wife started to worry. She looked out the window at her house. However, her home's light did not turn on. She turned to me and said she would visit their house to check on her. She wore her shoes, and when she opened the door, we heard a sudden scream. She looked at me with fearful eyes. I told her to wait for me, but he had already gone out of the door. I put my coffee on the table, I ran and followed her. When I went out, I couldn't see anything. The snow had increased in intensity.

I found Lana by following the crying sounds. When I went to her, her hands were shaking. When I asked her what happened, she pointed behind her. When I looked there, I felt sick and vomited. My wife was lying in a pool of blood. I immediately checked to see if she was breathing. Then I turned to Lana and shook my head. When Lana realized that her friend was dead, she continued crying and screaming. Neighbors started to come to us. When the neighbors came to us, I asked for a direct phone number and called the police.

When the police arrived, Lana started to calm down, thanks to the sedative she drank. None of us understood what happened. The police were taking statements from everyone one by one, but they said that no one understood what happened and that they came here because of a woman's scream. After these statements, the police thought Lana was suspicious and said that they had to accompany Lana to the police station. Lana couldn't understand what was happening and started crying again. I told her that I would follow the police car and that I would not leave her alone at the police station, and I started running home. I immediately took the car keys, and my phone and slammed the door.

While the police were trying to understand the incident, I was talking to Patrick Allister about the murder at this very moment because no one knew that Patrick had committed the murder. The police found evidence, and this evidence was about the person who committed the murder. As a result, our neighbor Billie Whiteface was brought to the police station. Because the evidence was known at the time of the murder, it showed that he was there. But no one knew the truth except me. I had to pretend because I feared my love with Lana would be revealed.

But Lana and Billie were excellent friends, so everyone was suspicious of this murder. Moreover, Billie was trying to prove that she was innocent, but she could not find an eyewitness in any way, so all our plans were in order. The police wanted to close this murder because everyone believed that Billie was guilty. But, the brave police officer did not want this case to be completed like this because he knew that the evidence was insufficient to put Billie in prison,

and because of Richard's, who is our neighbor, behavior, which seemed not to be very upset, he thought that Richard knew something, but could hide it because he was a very wealthy person. A few days after Billie went to prison, he saw Richard and Patrick, the police station manager, at a restaurant and wondered why these two people were meeting even though the incident was over.

However, investigating this issue would be risky because he had to research his manager. This officer was suspicious of Patrick because he was the closest to the scene and the first to arrive. Still, it was challenging to find evidence about him, so he started investigating, but he was beginning to attract a lot of attention. Chief Patrick became suspicious of him. 2 weeks after the murder, Patrick called me.

‘We need to talk urgently.’

We met him and he told me

‘A police officer said he would prevent the situation again, he thought there was something else involved.’ Then I told him,

‘We need to solve this problem as soon as possible.’

He came to us on the night of the same day, and I told him

‘What happened.’

If everything were revealed, our secret love would be disclosed, my entire reputation would be destroyed, and all my property would be damaged. Lana told me we had to solve this immediately because they knew that if Billie were found not guilty, they would be unable to continue their forbidden love.

I decided to kill the police officer because we had no choice now; he would never stop because if the police officer solved this murder, he would crack a very sensational murder and prove himself, so he would never let go of the murder. I talked to Patrick about this idea on the phone, and he accepted it desperately, and we made a plan to kill the officer. Patrick called him to his room at the police station after work in the evening for a matter; all the cameras were under maintenance at this time because the director, Patrick, was responsible for them, and at this moment, the officer suddenly went into the room while waiting for Patrick. I entered and shot him with two shots, and now Patrick was a party to my murder because he helped me. Now, we had to protect and defend each other. We removed the body and continued to hide everything. In this way, Billie would continue to be imprisoned innocently, and I would have my secret love with Lana.

But one day, while I was vacationing at the hotel with Lana, she confessed to me, and I told her everything that happened, so she felt the need to say to me. I learned that Lana had told me that she had committed the murder and that Patrick had deceived me into doing what I asked him to do. Patrick was not involved in any murder; he trapped us with these plans and took the money. While all this was being said, the police entered. Patrick walked through the door and looked at me with a wry smile. I wanted to hug her throat and take her breath away, but my efforts were in vain because my hands were handcuffed, and I was hurt.



I shouted, 'Your manager took money from me, I was going to have him do the murder, he also had a share in your deceased colleague.'

However, I knew no one would believe me. As I was leaving the door, I spit on Patrick's face. He was not expecting it and then he punched me. I could not hold my head. If the police had not been with me, I would have fallen to the ground. Then he added:

'Take him away.'

# THE MAN AT THE BAR

Helin Naz Bahadır

The clock almost shows 4 p.m. and. I am still in bed, trying to wake up from a bad hangover. When I finally wholly woke up, I was taking a quick shower and came to myself. I went downstairs and realized I was alone at home. Then I left the house and walked to the bar, which I always go to. I enter the bar and sit where I always sit—the high chairs near the counter. I shouted to my friend behind the bar and asked for a beer.

While I was drinking a beer, an older man sat beside me. He ordered a whisky and looked at me. I guess he wanted to cheer with me. Then, I greeted him with my drink; he did the same thing with me, and we started talking. He and I chatted for hours. And after countless beers, I told him everything about my life. I told him how I was an unsuccessful writer and still living with my brother and his family. And how I am at the edge of a depression.

Then I asked him: 'How about you, Mister? It is your turn to talk about yourself.'

'I'm a writer just like you.' 'Really?'

'I'm not a professional writer but have been writing for a century. Writing is my passion.'

'Do you have anything to show me? I wonder about your writing.'

'I have a story, but it doesn't have an ending. I always carry my sketches with me and look at them.'

Then he put his hand inside his jacket, took out a crumpled paper roll, and put it in front of him to read.'

You should take it and read it in your home, now I have to go, you know I am old. I need to go home and rest. '

'Okay, sir, thank you so much. Your writing will give me the inspiration I need. Are you going to come here tomorrow? I would have to finish it by tomorrow. '

'Yes, I will come here. See you soon. 'Then he walked away and came out of the pub. I started to read the papers that he gave me. The more I read, the more it gets interesting. Then, I went home to read more deeply; the story was very immersive. It is about a serial killer who kills her ex-wife's former lovers brutally. The man has been obsessed with her since their divorce. He couldn't accept that his wife didn't love him. They had known each other since they were children, and he had been in love with her from the first moment he saw her.

One day, he convinces the woman to marry him, and although it is a beautiful marriage at first, the woman is tired of the man's jealousy and paranoia and wants a divorce.

When he finally dared and told the man, the man had a nervous breakdown and beat the woman, then realized what he had done and fell to his knees and cried like a baby to forgive him, but the woman immediately went to the police and got a restraining order.

After that day, the man only saw her in the courtroom during the divorce, and they never saw each other again. But he couldn't give up on her and continued to follow her secretly and spy on her house. One day, while he was watching her house again, he saw a tall, handsome man entering her house late at night. And as soon as he saw it, he went mad and waited until morning. He left the house in the early morning hours, and she escorted him out to his car, kissed him on the lips, smiled, and put him in his car. After seeing her affectionate towards him, he thought about his marriage and remembered that she had never been like that. At that moment, he wanted to end his life. He could not bear this pain, but suddenly, his sadness turned into anger, and incredible anger filled him, and he followed the man's car with his car. He followed the man to his house, 40 minutes from the city, where few houses were around. After the man went to his house, he sat outside in his car and thought about it until he came to the man's house and his anger subsided.

Thinking, what am I doing? He leaned his head on the steering wheel and calmed himself down. He wanted to talk to his wife, his ex-wife, so he sent her a message. I need to see you, she replied instantly. I hate you; don't ever try to reach me again. Then she blocked him. The man stared at the screen; his whole world stopped, and suddenly, his anger flared up again. The woman hated the man, but now she was kissing the man sitting in the house in front of her and taking him home. Suddenly, he started shouting at the steering wheel and exited the car in a rage. Walking quickly towards the house, he picked up a large stone from the ground and knocked on the door. The man opened the door, and the moment he opened the door, he slammed the stone hard on the man's head. The man staggered and fell to the ground without realizing what was happening; he could not take his anger and collapsed on the man and crushed the man's head with a stone for minutes. The man didn't move at all, he was dead. He stood up and tried to realize what he had done; he had killed someone. He panicked and didn't know what to do. He went into the house and ransacked all the rooms; everything was as if a thief had broken in and killed the man when he came home. He wiped everything his finger touched, took the stone, left the house, got into his car, and drove away. He threw the stone into a lake, went home, and showered. And he lay down on his bed, thought about what had happened, and a peace came over him. He felt proud of himself for killing the man as if he had saved his wife from some trouble. He felt like he was her hero. The story went on like this.

The man became more and more delusional and began to stalk and kill even the men who had been in her life before. Since all these deaths were linked to the woman, the cops questioned her, too. The poor woman went mad. She couldn't understand why this was happening to me. The more the deaths continued, the more scared she became, wondering when the killer would come for me.

The man called the woman when she felt most alone and lonely and told her that she should not be afraid, that he would always be with her, and that no one could do anything to her while she was alive. The woman was very impressed by these words and chose to believe him. She moved into his house, and over time, he manipulated her; she could no longer use her brain; she thought and did whatever he said. The man finally convinced her he was in love with her, and they married again in a modest ceremony

. The story ended with the man's sentence, "I am finally happy now." I was very impressed by the story because it was so beautifully written. Even I felt the man's unhealthy obsession with the woman while reading it. The next day, I went to the pub simultaneously; I wanted to talk to the man about his story. I sat alone for 2 hours and waited, but he didn't come.

I asked the bartender if he knew the older man beside me yesterday. He looked at me sadly and said, 'Oh, didn't you hear what happened? His wife died of a heart attack this morning. The man woke up in the morning and found his wife lying next to him dead. The doctors said it was a heart attack. The poor man loved his wife so much, he couldn't bear her death, and after seeing her for the last time in the morgue, he went home and committed suicide.'

I was shocked when I heard it; I had just sat and talked with the man for hours yesterday, and he hadn't even told me he had a wife. But there was nothing to do, I said, that's life, and I drank a little more and went back home. I couldn't sleep at night. I wanted to turn this story into a book in memory of the man. I didn't sleep at night and made the final draft by neatly organizing what was written on the papers. And on the last page, I briefly told the story of meeting the man and ended the book. Then I showed the book to my friend who works in a publishing house, and he loved the story and immediately helped me publish it. The first edition was finished immediately, and it became a bestseller. This made me extremely excited. Yes, it is not my book, but so many people love something I wrote for the first time. Immediately, my friend at the publishing house organized a signing day for me upon request. It was very crowded on signing day; many people were going for the book. I sat at the table allocated to me and started signing the books that came one after the other. Everything was going well until 5 or 6 policemen came in. They approached me without realizing what was

happening and said they wanted to talk to me. I still didn't understand what was happening, but the tense expression on their faces made me stand up.

Those waiting in line for the signature were at least as surprised as me. We passed between them and went to the backstage reserved for me with the police. They told me to sit down, and I listened to them and sat down immediately. They stood over me and asked me how I wrote this book. I told them again the explanation I had already added to the book's last page - an introduction to a man in a pub, and this is his story - the police officers looked at each other and then at me.

They asked me the man's name, and I said, 'Leonard, I only know his name; I don't know anything else,' they shook their heads.

One of the policemen sat across from me and started talking to me, 'All the stories in this book are true, Mr John. The murders described in this book are all premeditated, and there are details in the book that only the murderer would know.

I was shocked; I didn't know what to say; a terrible fear gripped me, and then the policeman continued to speak, 'Calm down, we don't suspect you because these murders were committed 20 years ago, and we understand that you are not you because of your age, we are only here to get more information from you.' Even though I was relieved for a second when they said this, I felt the same fear again and told everything I knew.

2 weeks after this signing day, everything came to light, and what I learned shocked me. It turned out that Leonard, the older man I met in the pub who could not bear the death of his wife and killed himself right afterward, and his dead wife were the people in the story. Leonard probably couldn't keep it in his heart, so he put it down on paper, and that's how it came to this. But in the end, these murders committed years ago were clarified thanks to this book.

# STORY

Merve Ayşe Erdem

Once upon a time, there was a guy named Chuck. He was really tall, had a big nose and dark hair. Chuck got in trouble in college and had to leave so now he didn't have a job. Chuck wasn't a good person-he lied a lot and didn't have any friends. This is where our story begins.

It was a sunny day in Los Angeles. Chuck was wandering around the streets with his head full of thoughts. He was jobless for three years and this situation started to bother his parents whom he lived together with. He was thinking of a plan to save himself from this miserable situation. While he was wandering meaninglessly, he suddenly thought of something. What was one thing that made people curious and ready to spend money? "*Magic!*" he thought. If he lied about being a wizard and did some magic tricks, people could give money to him. He was proud of this plan and immediately started to work for it. He searched for magic tricks for a while. And when the time came, he went to the city square in magician clothes. He started to make some magic tricks which made people passing by curious. After a few minutes, there were a lot of people watching and recording him doing his tricks. That night he went viral on social media platforms and people started to believe he was a real wizard. He started to do interviews and shows. He even got on TV. He kept lying and lying. After a few weeks, he made tons of money. He was finally happy. But these kinds of lies cannot last forever. It did the same for Chuck too.

Meanwhile, there was a girl called Rachel who was studying at the same college that Chuck had attended. She was a hardworking, idealist student and she was liked by many people around her. However, there was a secret she hid from everybody else: She was a witch. Her parents and also their parents were wizards and witches. But they all hid it from the eyes of people because it would scare them. So they all agreed not to tell anyone about their magic. Rachel was good at hiding her little secret. But one day, when she saw her former classmate Chuck Addams on the TV, she was shocked. She did not like Chuck when he was back at school. She always thought he was a liar and a bad person. That was why she couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Chuck doing magic tricks on the TV.

*That can't be true*, she thought to herself. *Is he a wizard like me too? But why is he not hiding it?* But the more she kept on watching the program, the more she realized that there was something odd. Chuck's magic wasn't the same as hers. He was just doing simple magic tricks to fool people. But the worst part was that everyone believed him! "This is ridiculous!" she shouted in horror.

Rachel watched Chuck on TV and tracked him on the internet for a while. She was getting angrier with every passing day. *How could he be so vocal about something we try so*

*hard to hide?* she kept thinking. One day, she saw a video on YouTube where Chuck claimed to have been a real wizard since he was born and that his parents were proud of him.

“That’s enough,” she said finally. “This guy needs to be stopped immediately. He has been endangering us and he is also earning money just by lying. Unacceptable!”

She started to think about what she could do to stop Chuck. One thing she was sure about was that she couldn’t do this all by herself. She needed help. That was when she thought about someone who could truly help her: John Hunter. John was her professor at the university and he has always been so helpful to his students. He cared about them and tried to help them at every chance he had.

One day, Rachel went into John’s office. “Oh, welcome Miss Johnson!” said John when she came. They chatted about their lives and classes for a little bit.

“I came to ask you about something, Mr. Hunter,” she said. “Do you know your former student Chuck Addams? He has often been in the media recently.”

“I remember him. He was...interesting. Why is he in the media?” he asked.

Rachel started to explain what Chuck had been doing and how awful it was. “I shouldn’t say this to you but you are a person that I trust, Mr. Hunter. I am a real witch. I have magic and my parents can do it too. It comes from my blood. But it’s an agreement in the wizard world that we must not tell anybody about our power. Because it would be dangerous for us. But Chuck has been lying and endangering our lives for too long. I need to stop him. “Can you help me?”

John seemed to be shocked by everything he heard. “Are you a real witch? What magic can you do?” he asked.

Rachel just pointed her finger to a pencil on John’s desk and with her hand’s movement, the pencil started to fly.

Then, she looked at the curtains and they immediately started to open and close. She snapped her fingers and boom! Some music started to play really loudly in the room.

“Okay, okay I see!” shouted John to make himself heard. Rachel snapped her fingers once more and everything she just did stopped.

“I only use my magic to help people in need, Mr. Hunter,” said Rachel. “My family did it like that too. We did not try to earn Money from our magic because it would not be ethical. Everything Chuck does endanger our lives and it’s wrong. Will you help me stop him?”

“Well I want to help you, Miss Johnson,” murmured John. “But what can I do? I am just a university professor.”

Rachel smiled when she heard him. “You are a professor with 20 years of academic background. People need to hear from a scientist that magic’s not real. “Only then they would believe us.”

“So you want me to lie?” said John while frowning his eyebrows.

“No,” she said.

“Minutes ago you thought that magic was not real. I know it sounds wrong but you just need to erase the last few minutes from your brain. I can do it for you my magic if you want?”

John laughed. "There is no need for that, young lady. I guess it wouldn't be wrong to tell some lies just for something worse to not happen."

So they agreed and made a plan. Rachel called one of the best TV channels in the country. She said there was something very important and urgent and they wanted to get on TV. The TV channel assistant did not seem to be interested, so Rachel snapped her fingers once again. And there it was! They booked Mr. Johnson as a guest in a night show. They practiced what John was going to say until the day he got on TV.

When the day came, Rachel was backstage with John. He was nervous as it was the first time he was on TV. The time came and the host of the show started the live show.

"We have two interesting guests today, dear viewers! One is our one and only little magician, Chuck Addams!" The audience started clapping as Chuck came onto the screen and sat on the sofa in front of the host's desk. "Our second guest is somebody unknown but important. Say welcome to a university professor, John Hunter!"

John went next to Chuck and shook hands with both of them. However, Chuck seemed nervous as he walked into the room. Rachel, who was watching all these from backstage, grinned.

"Hello, dear guests!" said the host once again.

"It is so nice to see you here. Firstly, Chuck, how are you? Are you doing new magic tricks for us today?" Chuck shook his head nervously.

"Yes. I will. Here's some of my new tricks." He stood up and did some of the tricks: He made a chair fly, got a person in the audience to dance even though he said he wasn't trying to dance, he somehow sliced a lady in a box in two and rejoined her parts again. It seemed so realistic and even though John knew all these were not true, he almost believed him.

When his show ended, Chuck sat down on the sofa. He seemed less nervous now thanks to the little show he made and the audience cheering for him. "Now, Mr. Hunter," said the host. "You said there was something really important and urgent you needed to tell people. What is it?"

"Well," said John with a serious look on his face. He adjusted his canal phone. Rachel was telling how Chuck did all those tricks through the canal phone. He stood up and looked at Chuck. "This guy, Chuck Addams, was nothing but a liar this whole time," he said.

The audience gasped with shock. "What do you mean?" the host said in disbelief.

John started to explain each trick Chuck did in detail. Even the ones he did before the show. He also made a similar show so the audience could see everyone could do all of those. When he stopped talking, Chuck's face was really pale and he seemed full of shame. When the audience understood the truth fully, they started to boo him.

Even though Chuck got up and tried to clear himself by saying "No, no! Don't believe this guy! He's just jealous of my power!" Nobody now believed him.

The host finally said, "Security, please escort this little liar to the exit." As two big security guys came and took Chuck, he was still shouting and lying.

John looked backstage where Rachel was watching everything that happened. They smiled each out in relief. Now their secret was safe.

“And that’s why, kids,” said John, returning his face back to the camera. “You should never ever lie. That can never end well.”

THE END



# WILD ISLAND

Fevzi Ünal

While falling, John felt like a Mouse encountered with a cat, which was very scared. Captain Bob told him to hold the bars so that he could not take serious damage after the crash into the ocean. After a second, the plane crashed with an enormous sound and John tried to get out of the plane and swim to the surface. The ocean was like a huge dark blue blanket with another world under it.

He sought Bob but there was only the plane with its terrifying sound. Later, he swam to the island. He was by himself and nobody else. It was like a bad nightmare, he hoped to wake up as soon as possible but it was nonsense. There was a huge ambiguity inside the big jungle. And the huge ambiguity was calling for John. After lying on the beach for hours like a big whale, he stood up and got a stick to protect himself. Walked as silently as possible like a jaguar approaching its prey. He was very thirsty and hungry. For the first night, he saw coconuts at the top of the trees, they were like a sun, filled with life and shining. He tried to adapt and survive.

That night, he couldn't sleep. In the morning he was scared of going to the jungle. But later he thought about whether or not to stay here. He finally decided to go into the jungle like a fighter. He took a stick and entered into the jungle. While walking, he heard a sound which was like a cat. He was confused about whether he go more or not and decided to go to the sound. The place where the sound came from was very dark just like his mind. Suddenly he thought he saw a baby lion but it had dots on it and he realized that it was a leopard with no mom. He took it and continued going inside the jungle like going to death. Little leopard was consistently meowing and he thought he must give it a meal. He took those shining coconuts and gave them to it. Later he made a shelter for himself and put the leopard there. It felt like he always sleeps and sees nightmares every time he enters the jungle. Later he found big birds in their nest and killed them to eat as a lion. He took one for the leopard.

And suddenly it started raining. He hid in the shelter and after the rain, he went into the nightmare and collected some water from big leaves. Days went like this until the leopard became an adult and helped him to hunt. One day, as always, he swam and tried to see if there was any vessel or not. And suddenly he saw one and burned many leaves to show them the smoke. He saw the horizon as the beginning of a new life and a messenger from it was coming for him. After the vessel came to the shore, they were scared of the big leopard but later John made it calm so that it could enter the vessel. That vessel felt like Noah's ship which lets you survive. After all these moments, they finally escaped from the cursed GameHouse and lived together.

# ROOM 58

Osman Mert Kesgin

On a hot July day, Olga and her friends set off for a vacation in Turkey. After a tiring journey, they were staying at a hotel in Antalya. When they entered the hotel, Eren, the receptionist, greeted them and took their suitcases. Olga and her friends put their things in the room and started to look around the big hotel. The hotel was huge and beautiful. On the second day's morning, Olga's best friend Natalia woke everyone up early and forced them to go for a walk to the beach. Natalia was a bit more fun-loving than the others. They spent the evening at the sea and the pool and then returned to their rooms to prepare for a night out. After getting ready, they went down to dinner at the hotel. They had a lovely meal in the hotel's a la carte restaurant and left the hotel after dinner. They went to a nightclub in Alanya, a little far from the center of Antalya.

Natalia, who got sick at the nightclub, told her friends and left for the hotel before them. When she arrived at the hotel, she went to the infirmary, took some medicine, and went to her room. On the way to her room, she saw traces of blood in front of another room and immediately started walking towards the reception desk.

When she told Gokay, who was working at the reception desk, Gokay didn't believe her and said, "You are drunk; you need to go to your room and rest."

Eren, who came down from upstairs, heard the events, winked at Gokay and said, "Let's check the room together with the lady. Eren and Natalia went upstairs, and when they got there, there was no blood on the floor, and everything was cleaned.

Natalia was sure she had seen blood outside door number 58, but they didn't believe her. She immediately called her friends, but she couldn't reach them. She went to her room and waited. When Olga and Irina came into the room, she ran to tell them, but her friends were too drunk and didn't understand her. Natalia couldn't sleep that night, and in the morning, she woke her friends up and told them what she had seen. Her friends and Natalia were frightened by what had happened. They all went down to the lobby and said they needed to check the records of the night. Gokay talked to the security guard and asked for the records, but they had been deleted.

He asked the security guard if he had seen anything strange that night. The security guard panicked and said that he had fallen asleep the night before and someone had brought him coffee to help him sleep. Eren, who helped Natalia last night, was the one who brought her the coffee. Realizing something was wrong, Gokay finally believed Natalia and called the police. Natalia told the police who came to the hotel what she had seen. The crime scene investigation team started to examine room 58. Gokay checked the hotel records and saw that Eren and his girlfriend had arrived two nights ago to stay in room 58.

They immediately searched for Eren, but he was nowhere to be found. The police officers inspected Room 58 and found traces of blood and broken glass on the floor of the room. They told Olga and her friends that their suspicions were correct and took them to the police station

to wait in a safe place. The police caught Eren at the airport, took him to the police station, and interrogated him. At first, he said he had no idea what had happened and that his girlfriend had been alone in the room, but when the police told him that there were fingerprints on the glass in the room, he told the truth. He said that he had beaten his girlfriend that night in the room and then killed her with a beer bottle. He was crying the whole time he talked, and it was clear from his face that he was scared. When the police asked where the dead body was, he told them that he had put it in the boiler room of the hotel. The body in the hotel was found, and Eren was arrested. The police department took Natalia, Olga, and Irina back to the hotel. The hotel manager offered them to stay here for a while for free, but they refused and went back to their country.

# THE PURGE BOY

Zeynep Sevim Topbaş

Unaware to his family, who are waiting for the year's most important day, Joe wastes the last school day of the week. Joe doesn't expect such warm weather in March, and can't wait for the day to end and go home. Today also was a standard and boring as usual day. Like every March 21st, he will stay home and spend his evening with his family and he is excited about this. His mother said to Joe a long time ago, that they will always be together on that day. They have been together since his mother said that. At first, Joe didn't understand why they do that each year but in recent years Joe realized something.

On March 21st, while they are setting the table, Joe's parents are nervous as if they are hiding something and Joe can't make sense of this because they don't say anything to Joe. Joe's little sister, the littlest person in the family, runs around looking like she's excited for Christmas Eve. Additionally, Joe loves her more than his life. While cooking, their mother and father talk quietly and are heated between themselves. Joe eavesdrops on this but he can't hear so much thing.

'Make sure the doors and windows are locked Joe!' his mother says suddenly.

Joe does as he is told. *Something is wrong*, Joe thinks to himself.

Later in the evening they enjoy their meals

'Mmm! Mom these meals are delicious.' Siblings say at the same time.

And they keep talking about Joe's and his little sister's childhood memories.

'Once we thought you ran away from the home but you just fell asleep in the wardrobe while playing hide with your brother,' says Joe's mother.

Joe sees in his parents' faces that they worked too much today and they looked so tired. He is falling asleep standing up. Joe's parents have a security company and they said this was a very busy month today is their last busy day in this month and there were nights when they worked without sleeping.

*Click!* The city lights go out and everywhere goes dark. Joe's sister starts screaming, and the sound of his parents rushing to hug their children. Normally, their house lights usually go out for short time and Joe's parents say this is because this house has an old electric system that's why short-term outages can occur, but this time, something is different. The Lights not coming back on for long a time made everyone anxious, their parents pull down the shutters that come down once a year. The parents bundle their children into the basement.

'Why don't they check the switches as usual? Why are we hiding in here and who are we hiding from?' Joe asks his father.

His mother locks the basement door. 'We are going to spend tonight in there.'

When Joe gets poked out around, he is trying to make out the furniture with his eyes behind the darkness. His mom had obviously prepared there in advance as she knew they would be there. There are blankets on the couch and a chest in the middle of the basement. *There smells like rotten cheese*, Joe's sister thinks to herself. Since this house is old, moisture has affected it.

*Tik!* The lights come on. Clocks show at eight o'clock. *Aaaa!* There are sounds and screams coming from outside. Joe was very scared and terrified because they feel under the pressure but Joe's sister fell asleep because it was too past her bedtime.

'I'll check the doors and windows and get something to eat downstairs,' Father says.

'Be careful Chuck!' Mother says. Then Joe's mother started to explain something to Joe.

'I don't know where I should start but we will always be there for you and your sister, don't be afraid.'

I again don't understand anything. Our government made a law and this law is very dangerous because this law allows us do everything such as burglary, irregularity or kill someone. Therefore, we will stay at home in the basement and protect each other at tonight. You are very strong and brave person, I know that my son so I decided I will say that because you should know that, I wish you will receive this situation like an adult.'

Joe is shocked in by what he hears. He understood something was going on but he didn't exactly expect something like this.

*My family and I are in danger and I can't do anything about this.*

Joe's mom worry because Chuck didn't come from downstairs for a long time.

'I am going to check with your father whether he needs something.' Mother says.

When Joe's mother goes to Joe's father to check on him, she can't believe what she sees.

*Aaaa!*

She sees her husband bleeding on the ground, Joe's mother froze in place and can't even notice the person appear behind her. In Chuck's belly, a knife was stuck and killed him. Joe and his sister, due to their mother's scream, Joe's sister started to cry. Joe tries to calm her down but he can't get a result because he is also afraid.

*What if something happened to my parents?*

Joe's mother doesn't accept Joe's calls and Joe decides to go upstairs.

'Stay and if something happens, you will call me,' Joe says to his sister, then anxiously goes upstairs and prays for his parents. Once upstairs, he saw his mother sitting on the sofa but he couldn't see her face. He went to her, he sees his mother was stabbed on the sofa with a bloody knife.

He was just 13 when this indecent happened and today he is 25 and he doesn't have a good life obviously. Despite 12 years since that night, the effects are lingering on Joe. He can't think healthily and became completely different person. If you look, you can see the ambition lying in his ocean eyes. He spends his entire life from that purge night with wanting revenge. He killed 13 people in these 12 years; each person was killed who was a notorious murderer of purification nights by Joe who was left without his family because of the government's greedy bullshit.

During these 12 years of pain, he also tried to find his sister Jessie who disappeared on that night. Joe hadn't heard from Jessie until now. He didn't realize that he loved and cared so

much about his sister until he lost her. Jessie was only years younger than him, is very attached to her brother but she usually feels that his brother doesn't care about her. How could he know that he would find the sister he thought he had lost 12 years ago while searching for their parents' murderer?

The only purge night murderer that Joe missed was his own parents' murderer. Joe started his search in order to kill his parent's murderer. After years of long research, Joe learned that his parents' murderer was in Brazil and Joe moved to Brazil. The big day came and Joe arrived at the killer's house at night. This was the hardest murder he had ever had. His hands shook and he was worried and the reason for his is responsibility he felt until he saw what happened when he entered the house.

While he entered the house, he saw his sister; Jessie. She was standing over the murderer of their parents, who were bleeding on the ground, with a knife just like the knife with which their parents were killed.

Who could have predicted that the moment the siblings would reunite would be like this?

**END.**

