

The moon had a strange kind of brightness. It cast an unnatural light and hung in the clouds like a silvery fish. The night was menacing. Not even so much as a cockroach scuttled across the pavement. From across the fields, mist began to roll in, enveloping objects within its path.

Maple Street was a strange place at the best of times, the people who lived there were 'odd'. There were only a few houses left on the short stretch of road, many of them having been knocked down by the developers building the new motorway. Looming over the right side of the pavement was a large, derelict house. A figure moved in the shadows opposite. Darting. Dashing. Distressed.

Sarah, who rarely ventured out alone, felt threatened by the sense of unease although she knew this **had** to be done. Suddenly, she realised how alone she was. How dangerous this might be. Not another soul could be seen on the street. No one to hear her screams if this all went wrong. Whispers from the trees whipped the air, fingers caressing her ginger locks. There she stood, staring up at the windows of **that** house. They yawned in front of her like the jaws of a monster. Strange... Who had turned the light on in the top window? All was silent...all was still. Sarah took baby steps closer, being careful not to lose her footing. Shuffling as close as she dared to, she opened the door a crack. The metal hinges creaked, the whine piercing the now motionless air.

She peered cautiously into the darkness, jet black. The abyss that she faced appeared endless. She shuddered as she thought about the depth of the shadows. As Sarah stepped over the threshold, she felt woozy and dizzy, as if she was teetering on the edge of a cliff. The sense of disquiet made her feel uneasy. However, this was not what Sarah should have feared. At that moment, she should have felt **MUCH** more uneasy and frightened, if only she had realised what was lingering in the shadows, staring back at her.

A loud bang sounded from the cellar. The building shuddered. With startling speed, the house lifted from the ground...