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## Nightmares

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## Nightmares

**Erica de la Cruz**

Walls caving,

fracas,

skirmish and smashing,

yelling,

profane

and ugly.

The monster doesn't live under my bed anymore

but it sleeps with me in mine.

Touching me, loving me, stealing my breath

and my kisses.

Tortured

and tied

I endure,

numb to time.

Numb to glass stems and broken bottles

and the shrill shrieks of attempted escape,

even to the guttural growling that spews the blame

everywhere

and on me.

Numb to reason

and drowning in doubt.

Demoralizing fear opens the screeching closet door but there's no where to run:

...it follows,

he follows

hot on my trail and hot for the tail.

It's a dichotomous dance of love-obsession and hate,

far from the wistful waltzes

of true loves

and first dates.

Erupting mad,

callous,

it grasps around my neck while

I'm...

... gasping

for breaths of strength

to fight off

the darkness.

It can only obey the iniquitous desire to strangle a life out

and claim it for its own.

To possess it.

Consuming and preying;

the codependent cannibal feeds off the conflict and aims to quell

what cannot be silenced

from the depths of a psyche too far gone to resist the demonic temptations to pursue

and devastate

domestically.

Razing the person I once knew with razor sharp pangs

of reality being punched into my sides

in the simultaneous and mutual effacement.

Monsters drive my car,

racing to hell with a stereo blast of screams

too high,                    for the beast to comprehend

-he is the vehicle for evil.

Every day and everywhere it follows,

sometimes a morbid amore,

others a needy nihilist;

it's a creature set out to self destruct and take a hostage.

Ticking,

every day,

every where,

I fear for my life.

It's constant terror:

the deafening, unnerving silences are snuffed by

tweaking aggression and

thunderous roaring

of riotous rage

reeking of whiskey fire.

Im bruised;

brow-beaten

and belittled

And yet-

there is a naïve and unnatural nerve

to feel most frightened

for the child:

desperate,

dysthymic

and dysfunctional

trapped inside the monster,

whose father left

and never returned to rescue him.