

Dark and Sinister

I had to have it. My desire grew stronger with each passing hour. I lay in bed visualizing and re-visualizing the moment that smile had opened wide on that little girl's face. A child's smile. A joyful smile. Something I had not had for years. This particular smile was, oh, so bright! It hurt my eyes. Yet it grabbed me and pulled me tight. Lit from within, that was it. It felt like little happy angels with their little fairy dusters were flitting about in this child's head and were beaming out through her smile. And those pearly white teeth! Ah those teeth. If only. I lifted a long bent and boney finger and ran it along my horse-like fangs, long and yellow from age. I felt the gap in front—deep and cavernous. Some say it made me look even more sinister. A long sigh escaped my lips. That was it, I decided. I could stand my yearning self no more. I had to grab that smile for my own.

I threw back the black satan sheets and jumped out of bed. Fired up with purpose and intent, I stuck my head into the dim, dark closet and flung my many boots, hats and cloaks onto the cabin floor. Searching. Searching. Finally my hand clasped onto the black brooch made of onyx and surrounded by snakes of silver. My mother had given it to me on the last day of our journey together. "Go with speed. Get what you want," she had said. Well

today I would. I pinned the brooch to my collar, bringing the ends of the cape into tight alignment around my neck. I was off.

I grabbed my broom and took the speediest route I could find. No moon tonight. Below me black shadows stained a black landscape. I hid behind clouds.

Dawn came slowly. Twinkling stars faded into grey, white then blue. I landed gently and gathered my garments into a shroud of invisibility around me. I stood still and waited.

Then I heard it. A tinkling laugh. And then another. I peered through deeply sunken eyes and caught sight of my prize child skipping down the sidewalk on her way to school. In one swift movement I rose straight up and raced towards the girl. I would surprise her. I would rip that smile off her face and it would be mine forever. "Ha ha ha ha."

The little girl looked up in horror as a giant bat swept towards her blocking the sun from her sight and plunging her into deep shadow. She let out a scream and then felt the scream being wrenched from her throat. Her eyes dimmed as she crumpled to the ground. tbc