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A Short Story

Written by  
Anthony Shieh  
and his  
Masterclass  
Students



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FLASH FICTION CHALLENGE

The old house had stood empty for years, its windows like scary eyes watching every soul who dared to approach. Its nearest lamp post is 3 miles away. But Carrie couldn't help but go inside. As she saw an eight-foot monster. It resembled the stuff of her worst nightmare.

The doors slammed shut behind her. She was welcomed by a thick fog, a sight not to behold, but to fear. Carrie retched as a pungent scent filled her nostrils. That familiar metallic tang filled her mouth once again. She felt the lingering horror of a lucid dream.

Through the windows of the old house, no stars were visible; only the moon, a bright white dot glowing in the inky black night sky. Its cold light fell harshly across the landscape, offering no warmth or comfort.

Carrie took a cautious step forward, her breath catching as a black cat appeared in the doorway, its piercing eyes glowing like embers.

The cat let out a menacing hiss, its fur bristling as if warning her to stop. Heart pounding, Carrie watched in horror as the cat began to twist and morph, its body elongating into a grotesque, shadowy monster. Before it could complete its transformation, she dove into a nearby wardrobe, pulling the door shut behind her.

## **BEAST IN THE DARK**

Inside the cabinet, Carrie pressed her back against the wooden panels, her fingers trembling as she locked the door. A sharp creak sounded from outside, the groaning of floorboards, and then the deliberate echo of footsteps. Suddenly, the cabinet shuddered violently and splintered apart, sending her sprawling onto the floor with a startled cry.

Carrie froze as the faint moonlight illuminated the figure before her; a monstrous creature with distorted limbs and familiar, agonized eyes. Recognition struck her like a thunderbolt;

This was her brother.

Memories of his failed transformation ritual flooded her mind, along with the guilt of her role in his suffering. Shaking, she rose to her feet, tears streaming down her face as she resolved to end his torment.

Recalling the tale their grandmother used to tell, Carrie steadied herself. The warrior in the story had defeated the great feline monster by luring it into a fatal mistake. With a deep breath, Carrie darted toward the wall, pivoting sharply at the last moment. The creature followed, crashing headlong into the solid surface with a bone-jarring impact. It let out a guttural roar before collapsing to the ground.

## **BEAST IN THE DARK**

Panting, Carrie took a shaky step back, her eyes fixed on the fallen monster that was once her brother. Emotions swirled within her; grief, relief, and an overwhelming sense of emptiness. Turning on her heel, she stumbled toward the front door and flung it open. As the chill of the dark garden enveloped her, she sank to her knees, her sobs breaking the silence of the night.

To be continued...

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**BEAST  
IN  
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DARK**