

“Monster At Midnight” by Erin O'Donnell

Foundations of Story

Professor Hafizi

I walked to the end of the street and I still think that late afternoon walks are the best way to beat the summer heat. It's June and the sun begins to move into the sky early, with the morning dew fresh on the trees. By noon a soft hum of the bugs makes it obvious that it is best to be indoors in the AC with a cold glass of water. I remembered of the newest family on the block to move in, they had a daughter that appeared to be in high school and a son that was eight years old. The daughter has long curly light brown hair and almond shaped brown eyes. The son gets out of the car first holding a tablet playing a video game. Being completely immersed in his game he does not pick up any of the groceries. The mother gets out of the car and calls out to him but it is already too late, he has walked inside the house. The daughter exits the car and begins to help by picking up plastic bags containing groceries. Two bags in each hand, she walks into the house. The mother proceeds to pick up the remaining three bags and walks into the house. After a moment has passed I slowly walk up to their front door. They have an oak tree to the left of their front yard. As I walked up to the front porch there is a bench to the right. I rang the door bell and rapped on the door. A moment passes before the door opens to show a woman in jeans and a floral blouse with a youthful appearance. "Hello, I'm Elenor. I would like to know if you have availability tomorrow to eat dinner.". The woman replies, "Hi Elenor! My name is Alexis. Nicholas and I will not be able to go to the dinner tomorrow. I have to take my son, Gabe, to lacrosse practice tomorrow. I hope we can schedule for another time!". Elenor replies, "That's alright. I hope you are adjusting well to the neighborhood. My house is towards the end

of this street. Just let me know, when you have a moment, when would be a good day.". Alexis responds, "Thank you for inviting me, it was nice to meet you.". Elenor responds, "Bye." and Alexis says "Goodbye!" and she closes the door. Elenor begins to walk away from the house and the weather is cooler. Thunder rumbles nearby and I open my red umbrella. Elenor walks back to her house. Elenor reaches her front porch and rain begins to fall to the ground. Elenor sighs, she opens the front door, and enters her house.

When I woke up this morning, I walked out to the living room. Gabe is sitting at the dining room table munching on Krave cereal. Mom is sitting in the living room on the couch drinking a cup of coffee and watching the television. "Good morning Natalia, did you sleep well?". "I slept alright, what do we have for breakfast?" said Natalia. "I made some pancakes. If you want one they are on a plate on the kitchen counter." said Mom. I walk to the kitchen, and find the light switch to turn on the light but the light won't turn on. To the right to see three golden pancakes left on the plate. I grab two of them, open the refrigerator to find a bottle of orange juice and maple syrup. I take a glass from one of the boxes and begin to unwrap the paper protecting it, and throw the paper wrapper in the trash can. After the orange juice is poured I meet Gabe at the dining room table and begin to eat. "Mom, I think one of the light bulbs is out in the kitchen.", I said. Mom responded, "No, a little while ago the news reported that there was a power outage last night. They were working on some overhead power lines yesterday and when the rain storm came they were not able to finish on their work. The news anchor said that they are expecting the power line to be fixed by noon.". I responded, "Okay.". I took another sip of orange juice before picking up my plate to be rinsed and placed in the dishwasher. I went to my room and put on a t

shirt, jeans, and sneakers. I tied the shoelaces and grabbed my purse. "I'm going out for a walk." I shouted. I unlocked and opened the front door. Today is definitely sunnier than yesterday. As I walk on the driveway, I notice sticks that have fallen from the trees and leaves are scattered on the pavement of the sidewalk. I begin to walk on the sidewalk and as I stroll to the end of the street and I saw that the second to last house on the street was different. The front landscape that had planted tulips have now been extracted from the ground and were placed close to the front door. Maybe they were gardening yesterday I thought, and I walked to the end of the street. After reaching the end of the street I turn to the left and continued on the path. A new set of houses could be seen and this street had sticks from tree branches all across the road. There was a man standing outside of the fourth house on the street. His back is turned and looks annoyed with the person he is speaking to on his phone. I walk closer to this house and I heard the man say goodbye and he ended the phone call. I walk up to this person's house and introduce myself. "Hi! My name is Natalia, My family and I just moved in to a house in the neighborhood. How are you?". The man replies, "Hello Natalia, I'm Ryan.". Ryan has brown straight hair and oval shaped blue eyes and is tall. The storm last night really messed up the backyard.". He walked towards his car on the driveway and showed pieces of shattered glass on the ground. The windshield of his car is broken. He walks towards the backyard gate and opens the lock, there are footprints in the grass. When I walked closer I realized that there was an oak tree in their backyard. The oak tree has claw marks scratched into the surface of the tree bark.

I gasped and took a closer look at the footprint leading up to the tree. I saw the footprints on the grass and I realized that they were from an animal. I said to Ryan, "Yeah, I don't think rain and

lightning could make scratches in a tree.". Ryan nodded his head. Ryan and I walked to the front yard. Ryan said, "Goodbye.". Ryan walked up to his front door to enter his house. I began to walk back to my house. I made a right turn on the side walk and walked on the street that I lived on. The second to last house at the end of the street now has a man standing outside of the house, with wide eyes and his cheeks are red. "Who tore up the front yard!", he shouted at the front porch. The tulips stayed on the ground and placed close to the front door, and the man enters the house and closes the front door shut. I quickly walk back to my house, and as I am about to step on to the front porch I see my friend Lauren. Lauren has straight blonde hair with oval shaped brown eyes. "Hi Lauren!" , I said, "Do you want to go to the cafe in the town center?". I walk to Lauren who is standing on the sidewalk. "Yeah, that sounds like fun." Lauren said and she smiled. We walk to Lauren's house that is four houses away from mine and she takes out her keys to her car. I open the passenger side car door and sit in the seat, and close the door. Lauren sits in the drivers seat and puts in the key to start the car. Lauren drives to the town center and parks the car in the parking lot of the town center. We get out of the car and Lauren locks the car. We walk to the courtyard of the town center. There were only a few people in the courtyard, and leaves and sticks from the trees have fallen to the ground and blobs of dirt fill the path. There is a bench to the left side of the courtyard, Elenor walks to it and sits down. She takes a sip from the water bottle she is holding. Lauren and I walk up to her and greet her. "Hello Miss Elenor, how is your day going?", I said. Elenor responded, "My day is going well.". Lauren responded, "That is good to hear, Natalia and I were wondering if you would like to eat dinner with us.". "That would be nice. I would love to have guests to visit for dinner, is six o'clock alright?". "Yes, six o'clock is good.", Lauren said. Lauren and I walk to the cafe to grab some lunch and walk across the

courtyard. A man on the left side of the courtyard tells his friend, "Yes the storm last night left some scratches on our tree in the backyard. Thankfully the plants we just put in are alright".

There is a faint melody heard nearby as we walk away from the courtyard. Lauren looks at me confused, brushes it off and unlocks her car. We both get in the car and Lauren drops me off at my house. Three hours later, Lauren and I walk on the sidewalk towards Elenor's house. We walk up to her front door and I ring the doorbell. Miss Elenor opens the door and greets us and welcomes us inside her house. We enter her house and the smell of beef stew fills the room. We sit down at the dining room table and she takes off the covering of the pot and pours the beef stew into three bowls. Miss Elenor brings the bowls of beef stew to the dining room and places one bowl in front of each person before sitting down. We begin to talk about our day and began to think about the claw marks on the tree in Ryan's backyard. After, I decided to ask Miss Elenor about the local wildlife. She said that there were some hawks and snakes, but nothing that could make the incisions into the tree that I had described. She began to speak of a local tale in which a monster awakens about every fifteen years, but it has not made human contact for awhile. This has lead many people to think that this animal has passed on and people of the town of Dover have spoken less and less of this animal in conversation. My stomach started to grumble and I reached for a spoon to eat the food Miss Elenor has prepared for us. An hour later, Lauren and I say goodbye and thank you to Miss Elenor. Lauren and I are walking home on the sidewalk. I take my phone out of my pocket and unlock the phone. I begin to search the internet for the animal that Miss Elenor described. I couldn't find any articles about the animal and pressed the button to close my phone. I said "Goodbye". I walk up to my front door and Lauren continues to walk on the sidewalk to her house. The next morning Lauren and I walk to Ryan's house and ask

Ryan to look at the oak tree. The muddy footprints are still imprinted into the ground, and we follow them past the tree. We step down a steep slope before reaching the edge of the forest. The footprints were pointed to walk into the forest, but they vanished once we entered the forest. Disheartened, we started our journey to walk back home. As we turn the corner to walk to our street we see a figure moving towards us. It stomps it's feet from one side of the street to the other side of the street and my eyes widen. We just found the monster. It begins to walk closer to Lauren's house and Lauren's dog Pepper begins to bark at it and it turns it's head to look at Pepper. Lauren runs to her house, opens the backyard gate and closes it. I open up the bag I brought with me and take out the dagger. I close the bag and place the strap of the bag back on my shoulder. I run towards it and make an incision into it's skin. The monster becomes angry and now it is chasing me. I opened the front door of her house and the monster followed. I make quick movements with the dagger close to it's skin, but do not injure it. The monster scratches my arm and Lauren opens the door to the backyard and I lead the monster to the backyard. I make one more cut into the monster with my dagger and it stumbles. It falls into the bear trap Lauren placed. It lets out a growl and it's head falls to the side. Pepper runs out to the backyard and begins to bark at the monster. Later that day, Lauren and I tell our story of how we killed the monster in the town center courtyard to the people of Dover. The people rejoice and are delighted that the monster is gone. The people in the courtyard laughed happily and are speaking to each other again. The End.