

The Fall

As the time passed and the night was becoming darker and darker, rain added itself to the discreet sound of footstep that could hardly be heard until then. This rain made her stop her flight and look through the cobwebbed and half-broken window of the staircase. She took her time to breathe, to calm herself, while fixing the pouring rain outside but her rest was not meant to last. At some point, she heard a deep sigh accompanying the loud footstep that had followed her for a while already. Her mind became blank once again as she thought of the monster which had captured her and was now pursuing her and wanting to catch her to do god knows what.

She remembered that moment when she woke up. The fear that crossed her body when she opened her eyes and understood that she was no longer in her peaceful house with her beloved family. She looked around her and saw a room with a strange and oppressive atmosphere. There was a locked door, and no window, only a little light coming in dustily between the cracks of the walls. She could feel the cold outside wind and shivered several times before her first attempt to rationalize and think of a way out. She stood up and reluctantly moved her weak bare feet on the dirty and icy floor of the dark room to reach the door. Its lock swung from right to left in a worrying way. However, she tried to catch it but the possessed object went to the other side immediately. Slightly scared, she took a step back to observe it when a spectre abruptly flew through the gloomy door and then through her. She felt dizzy as the supernatural apparition tormented her. Exhausted, as she couldn't bare it any more, she ran without looking in front of her and fell on the floor violently. The spectre just opened the door for her but was it really a good thing? She was now brought face to face with a frightening number of spectre of all forms and sizes. Instinctively, she closed her eyes, put both hands on her ears, cowered and shrieked to scare them or at least make them leave her alone. She didn't know for how long she was there sobbing on the floor but when she regained her courage they all had disappeared mysteriously. It might have been nothing in reality. She made her way to the only logical way out this subterraneous prison: the stairs.

Now, all of her limbs were shaking in fear as she thought of the terrible things she had to endure already. None of the part of her body was responding to the order of running away. As a proof of her determination and to wake up her disobedient body she clenched her fist, pushing her nails in her palm. She looked back and saw nothing but the unwelcoming darkness that she came from and didn't want to go back to. Worried but with no other choices, she took a step forward and continued to climb the endless stairs with the sound of her kidnapper's footstep echoing. Every step she went through seemed harder than the previous one as the light was disappearing more and more. Soon her surrounding became darker than ever. The only dim light on the wall could barely help her

desperate eyes to perceive the cracked floor of the abandoned castle she was wandering in, when suddenly a growing shadow appeared beside her. It was coming for her.

She had no time to lose. She speeded up as the shadow grew bigger and bigger. Soon she started to run. The stairs flew under her feet, her breath became chaotic and tears mixed with her sweat began to appear on her red cheeks. She didn't want to die like this, she wouldn't die like this. She thought of the sunlight and her father's dear voice when he welcomed her after returning from the factory, she had to run away from this vile place and its master for his sake at least. The portrait hanging on the wall she was passing by were all following her with their eyes as they were moving in a horrific way, possessed by the spectre she had already ran away from, but she didn't care any more. She didn't see them any more as her mind was focusing on running without falling because falling now meant give up hope of coming out one day. She climbed and climbed again without resting. The time was like stopped at this moment of despair leaving her uneven breath and weak footstep echoing in the narrow staircase. She realized that the stairs really became narrower when she finally reached a corridor.

Unfortunately, this new path was as tight as the previous one. The corridor looked like a long and gloomy way with an infinite number of doors alternating with disfigured statues encrusted in the walls. She didn't stop her flight and passed by numerous door before hearing the first scream. Then another blood-curdling one reached her. Confused, she didn't try to search where that came from or who was screaming so sorrowfully as an another scream and another scream added themselves to the dirge. All of this seemed distant but so close at the same time confusing her even more. At one point, she couldn't even recognize her own voice that joined the others but noticed that the faces of the statues were not immobile at all. They were looking at her, mouths wide open as a mute call for help. This torture didn't stop until she caught the sight of a broken door at the end of this cursed corridor.

She hurried to open the rattling door with a trembling hand. The frightful noise was the only sound that stood out in this black night. The pouring rain and cold wind welcomed her. The pale glow emanating from the full moon behind the clouds brought out the obvious fear in her eyes but also this tiny spark of hope and determination. Her life wouldn't end like this in the hands of such a monster. She approached the edge of the rooftop she was on and looked down carefully. A thick fog prevented her from seeing more than one foot away but she felt that falling from here would be fatal.

Lost in her deep thought, she had almost forgotten the awful creature who kept her in this abandoned castle all this time. The door behind her opened in a huge slam but she saw no one. Innocently thinking that it could be because of the strong wind, she turned her back to it. Then a

deep sigh was heard, a loud footstep soon joined it. She quickly understood what it was. The sound got closer and closer and a monstrous shade appeared. The first thing she saw was its eyes, two piercing red eyes, then it was its stitched mouth with blue lips. Its few hair was falling on his forehead due to the rain but its gaze could still be seen because of its hazy and devious glow. As she looked down, her horror was only increasing. Its limbs were disproportionate and were moving in a jerky and terrifying way. She couldn't stand the sight of it and started to take some step backwards unconsciously, in order to be the farther away from this thing that fixed her that she could. It tried to approach her, one of its abnormal hand stretched out toward her but it only terrorized her more. As her tears kept running down on her face paralyzed in an expression of terror, her shaking legs were getting closer to the edge of the rooftop and before she knew it, she didn't feel the cold floor under her feet any more.

At first she didn't understand how her view changed from the awful vision to the beautiful and clear night sky. Since when the sky was this beautiful... at the end, was all of this only a dream? She closed her eyes in her fall only to see the two piercing red eyes of the hideous creature as her last thought.