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Creative Writing

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The Knock

This job couldn't be any easier. Relaxing by the pool, tanning, eating whatever I want and a whole house to myself. It doesn't get any better than this. My aunt had asked me to watch my cousins for two days. Usually they go away for longer and hire a nanny, I guess all they needed was a weekend getaway. To say the least, I was a little nervous to be alone in their mansion of a house for that long, but I could use the money. The kids were splashing around in their pool as I walked back inside the huge house to make them a snack. I found my way to the kitchen and thought about how uncomfortable I would be if I actually lived in a house with so much empty space. It feels cold and dark as my barefeet slide along the painfully clean floor. I noticed the bare walls and vacant corners everywhere I went. As I put together the perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich, knocks on the door echoed throughout the wide hallways.

As soon as I looked up at the door, my heart began pumping so fast I thought my arteries were going to explode. The room froze over and it's almost as if the house doubled in size. An unexpected visitor is the absolute worst thing that could happen while I'm alone. I began my long walk to the door, careful to stay on the outskirts of the door so the stranger couldn't see me. Pulling back the heavy curtain slowly, a tall slender man wearing a navy blue hat and badge was standing at the oversized front door. Startled, I fumbled to unlock the door and turn the handle. I stared in awe and must have looked ridiculous as I didn't know what to say to him.

“Good afternoon ma’am, Officer Henry.” He extended his hand toward mine. “ May I speak to the owner of the house please” he sternly stated, clearly noticing how young I am.

I stuttered as I replied “My aunt and uncle are out until tonight I’ve been watching my cousins since yesterday. Is everything okay? Anything I can do for you?”

“I don’t mean to scare you when I say this but... your neighbors house was broken into and some items were stolen as well. We wanted to know if you’ve noticed any suspicious activity lately. We believe the crime took place late last night or early this morning. Remember anything weird going on?” He questioned in a hesitant tone.

“Well I really have no idea what you’re talking about. I’ve just been in the house and the pool in the backyard, that’s it. I haven’t noticed anything at all. We haven’t left the house.” I answered as quickly as I could, and realized I probably sounded extremely suspicious.

I offered for him to come inside if he wanted as he demanded that I call my aunt and uncle first. We sat uncomfortably at the countertop in the kitchen. I stared at the apples I was cutting earlier, they were starting to brown. The phone rang for what felt like hours as I pulled at the seams of my sleeves waiting for someone to pick up. I tried 5 times and got their voicemail with each call. Yelling from the kitchen, I called the kids up from the pool, and told them not to worry about drying off all the way. I was scared. Everything felt wrong and I had a weird feeling in my gut, but I didn’t do anything. Officer Henry sat at the table, talking to the kids as I held my phone in my hands.

“Uhhh Officer, neither of them answered their phones I’m really sorry to have wasted your time. Is there any other way I can help?” I asked.

“That’s alright, I’ll just make my way around the neighborhood and see if anyone else noticed anything going on last night. Thanks for your help.” he sighed.

I swear he must have walked 2 mph around the house making me anxious as hell. Looking in every direction and every piece of furniture. I watched from the counter in total silence. There was nothing to say anyway. I could tell he didn’t want to freak me out, but he was so obvious. I could tell he was trying to figure out if I was lying. Really? A 16 year old girl broke into a house? Funny. After what seemed like an eternity, his toes finally reached the doormat.

He slowly turned, getting one last look before saying “Hey, just call if you need anything okay? If we find the person, I’ll let you know. Just stay inside and keep the door locked alright? You’ll be okay kid.”

“Yeah... we’ll be just fine. Thanks for stopping by, I will call if anything comes up. Have a good day.” I spoke in an inaudible voice that I doubt he heard. He left without another word and slammed the door behind him.

I stared at my cousins with a blank look. What do I do now? I’m scared to let them go outside again, plus it was starting to get dark now. I resorted to putting on one of my favorite Disney movies, *Monsters Inc.* just to keep our minds off of it and waste a little time before they got bored again. Just as my eyelids were about to flutter shut, someone knocked on the door. My heart dropped to my stomach for the second time in one day as I looked over and saw my two cousins sleeping soundly on the couch. Shuffling to the door, careful not to wake them, I hoped that it was Officer Henry, there to tell me that they had caught the criminal. However it was my aunt and uncle, who had incidentally left their key at home. They looked a little more drained then before they had left which I thought was a bit strange, they always looked so put together. I

asked how their trip to the beach had been as my Aunt Kathy pulled out a stunning gold necklace from her bag. Sparkling against the granite countertops, I was not surprised to see her with jewelry as rich as the gaudy necklace. I noticed that she wasn't sunburnt at all, which was strange for her, especially with how pale her skin is.

As I gathered my things before finally leaving this empty house, my aunt and uncle had taken the kids and put them to bed upstairs. I heard yelling outside and the unmistakable blue and red lights of a cop car. I walked confidently to the door, knowing Officer Henry would be there to give me good news. The look on his face was pure disgust.

"I happened to find this watch laying on the driveway. Know anything about it? Mind if I take just another look around the house?" he growled at me.

Before I could even move, I was brushed aside and stuck to the floor. The necklace. The watch. It all makes sense. With no time to stop him, he came across the gold necklace sitting pretty on the counter.

"Miss, you are under arrest for robbery and breaking and entering" grasping the necklace and watch in his hand.

"Wait no! I can explain it wasn't me, they're home I swear! My aunt..." I tried mustering through my tears and throat that was slowly closing with each breath.

"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be used against you in a court of law." he snarled as he wrapped his large hand around my arm, pulling me out the door.

As I was dragged out the door, I looked up the stairs through the water building up in my eyes. It's almost as if it were in slow motion. I watched as Aunt Kathy smirked from the banister and disappeared slowly into the master bedroom.

