

# THE DOLLS





I'M HERE TO TELL YOU A TRAGIC TALE  
OF LOVE, LOSS, AND UNHOLY TERROR THAT I CALL...

# THE DOLLS

STORY **CHRISTOPHER CHARLTON**

ART **RYAN QUACKENBUSH**

LETTERS **TIM FULLER**

THIS HOUSE WAS  
ONCE CAREFULLY MANICURED  
AND CARED FOR. NOW ONLY A  
HOLLOW SHELL THAT GIVES EVEN  
THE BRAVEST OF MEN A CHILL  
DOWN THEIR SPINES.

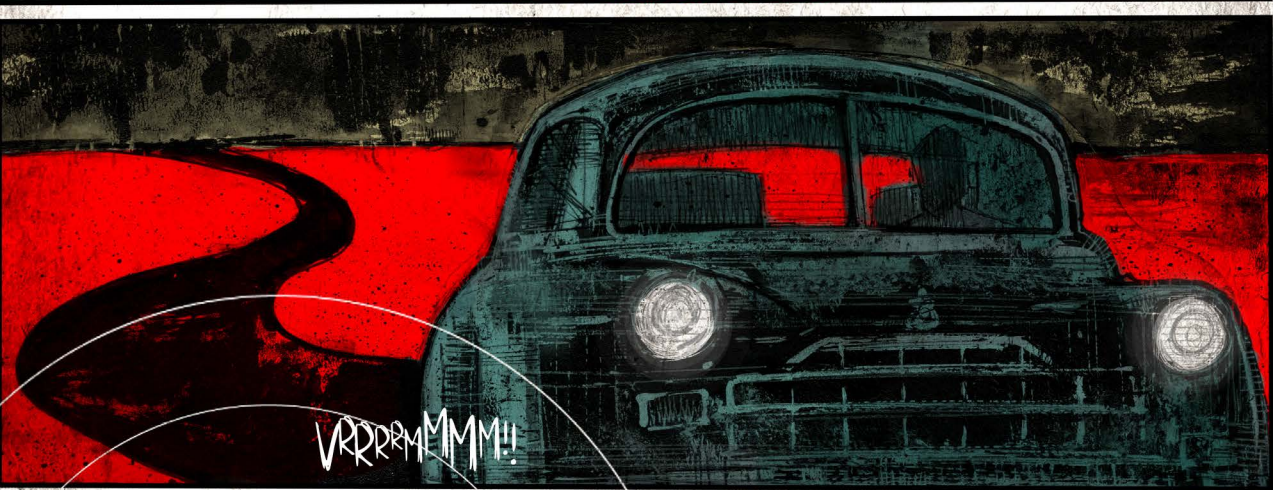
AS WE GAZE INTO THE PAST, WE SEE THE  
PREVIOUS OWNER BEVERLY CASTLE, A RECENTLY  
WIDOWED MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG TWINS.

HER SON, JAKE, AND DAUGHTER  
MYRA, ECHO A QUIET SADNESS AT  
THE LOSS OF THEIR FATHER, AS  
THEY PLAY IN THE SUNSHINE ON  
A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER MORNING.

JAKE, SHARE THE  
BALL WITH YOUR  
SISTER.

BUT  
MOM...!









THE ENTIRE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ARRIVED FOR  
THE FUNERAL.

WHAT'S WORSE...THE DRIVER  
THAT KILLED BEVERLY'S CHILDREN  
WAS NEVER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

WE COMMIT  
JAKE AND MYRA'S BODIES  
TO THE GROUND NEXT TO  
THEIR FATHER, JOHN.

WE ASK, O' LORD,  
THAT YOU REUNITE THEM IN THE  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

THAT POOR SOUL.  
HOW MUCH SUFFERING  
CAN ONE WOMAN  
WITHSTAND?!

LOSING HER  
CHILDREN AFTER  
HER HUSBAND DIED  
IN THAT TRAGIC  
CAR ACCIDENT!

JOHN

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MY ENTIRE LIFE  
IS IN SHAMBLES.  
I CAN'T SLEEP.  
I'VE LOST THE WILL  
TO EAT.

PLEASE  
TAKE AWAY THIS  
EMPTINESS.



HOW CAN I STAY  
HERE ALONE WITH ALL OF  
THESE MEMORIES?

EVEN THESE DOLLS  
REMIND ME OF A CHRISTMAS  
NOT LONG AGO...

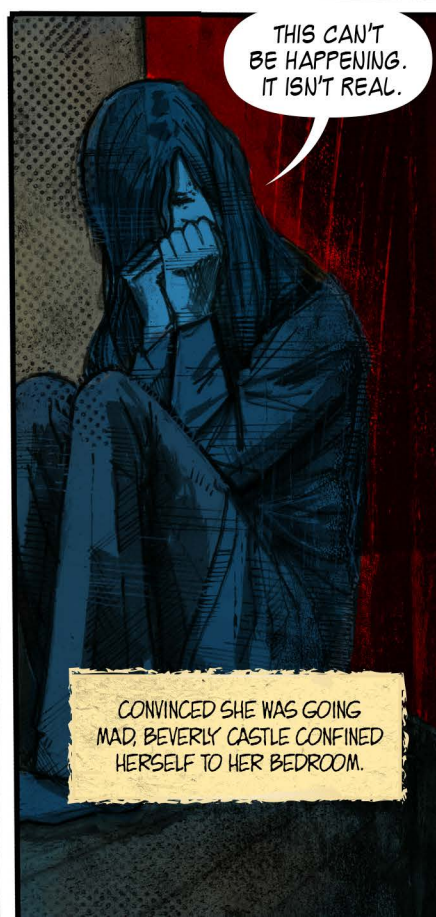


WOW!  
THANK  
YOU!

DON'T  
THANK US! THANK  
SANTA CLAUS!

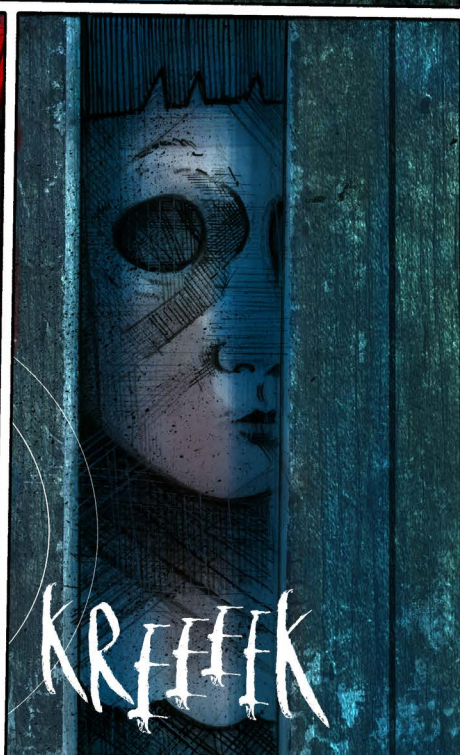
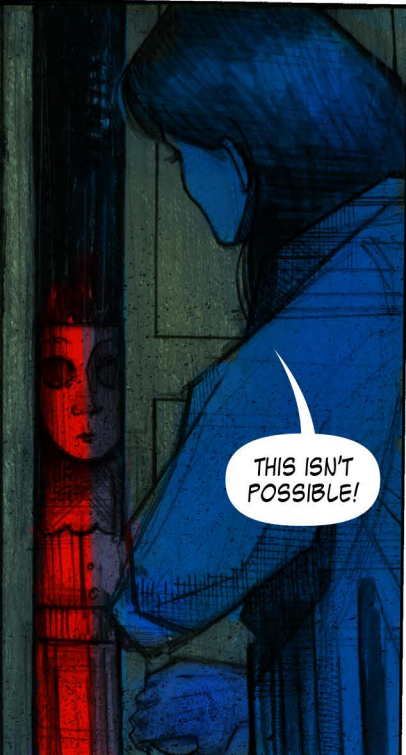
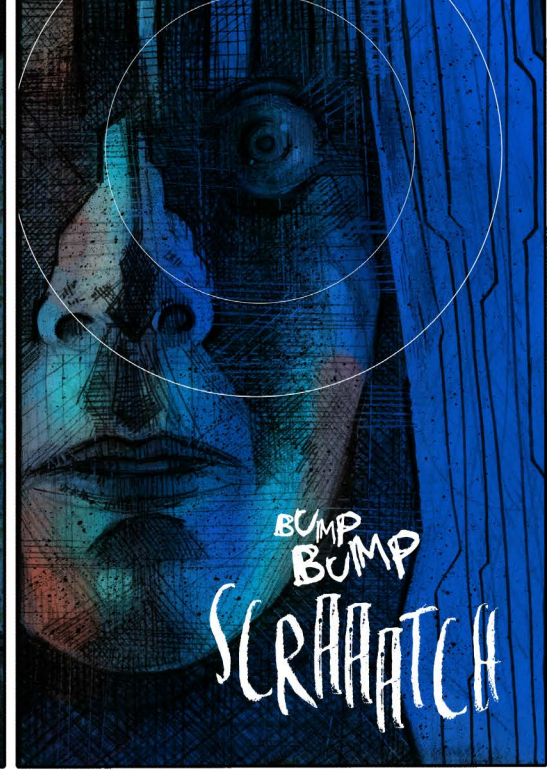
THIS IS THE  
BEST CHRISTMAS  
EVER!



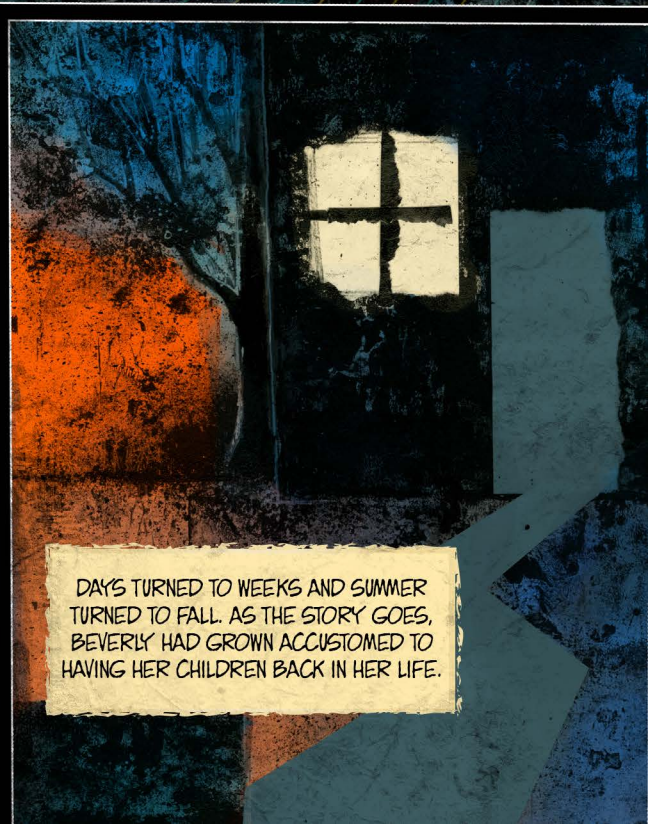
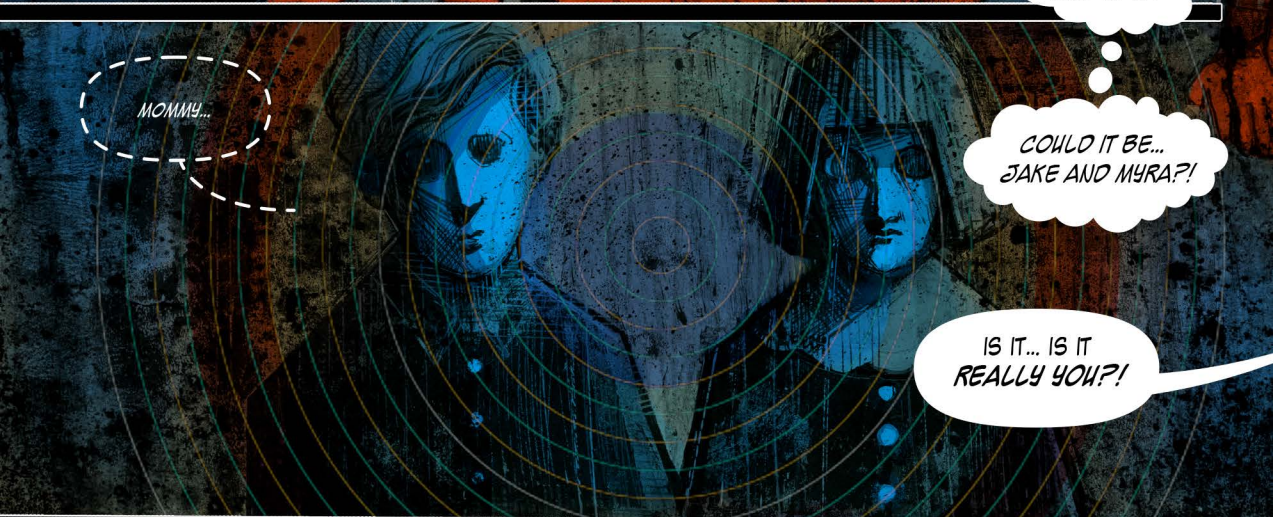


CONVINCED SHE WAS GOING  
MAD, BEVERLY CASTLE CONFINED  
HERSELF TO HER BEDROOM.









DAYS TURNED TO WEEKS AND SUMMER TURNED TO FALL. AS THE STORY GOES, BEVERLY HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO HAVING HER CHILDREN BACK IN HER LIFE.





IT WAS AS IF NOTHING  
HAD CHANGED AT ALL.

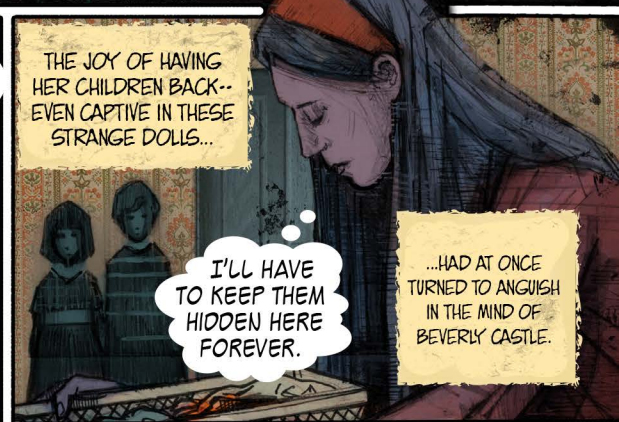


FOR A WHILE.



THEY NEED ME AT  
THEIR SIDE CONSTANTLY.  
THEY WILL NEVER GROW  
UP. NEVER KNOW  
OF LOVE.

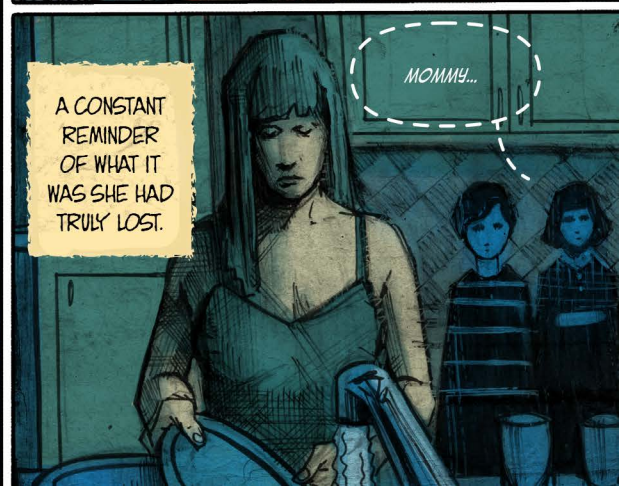
MOMMY...



THE JOY OF HAVING  
HER CHILDREN BACK--  
EVEN CAPTIVE IN THESE  
STRANGE DOLLS...

I'LL HAVE  
TO KEEP THEM  
HIDDEN HERE  
FOREVER.

...HAD AT ONCE  
TURNED TO ANGUISH  
IN THE MIND OF  
BEVERLY CASTLE.



A CONSTANT  
REMINDER  
OF WHAT IT  
WAS SHE HAD  
TRULY LOST.

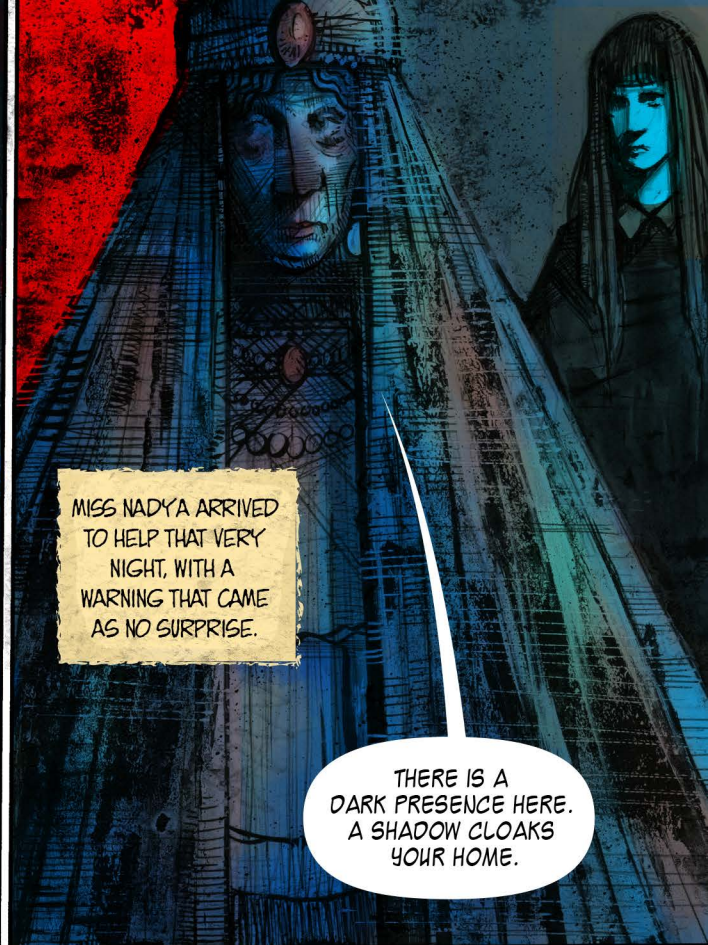
MOMMY...





I'VE CALLED EVERY  
NUMBER IN THE PHONE BOOK,  
SAVE FOR ONE - AN OLD GYPSY  
WOMAN CALLED MISS NADYA.

I'LL PAY  
ANYTHING YOU LIKE...  
PLEASE!



MISS NADYA ARRIVED  
TO HELP THAT VERY  
NIGHT, WITH A  
WARNING THAT CAME  
AS NO SURPRISE.

THERE IS A  
DARK PRESENCE HERE.  
A SHADOW CLOAKS  
YOUR HOME.



STARE INTO  
THE CRYSTAL, CHILD.  
WE MUST COMMUNE WITH  
ANOTHER PLANE.



NO!  
SOMETHING IS  
WRONG, I...



AAAAHHH!

CRAACK!



FORGIVE ME CHILD,  
BUT THERE IS NOTHING  
MORE I CAN DO HERE.  
KEEP YOUR MONEY AND  
LEAVE THIS PLACE!

YOU PROMISED  
YOU WOULD HELP!



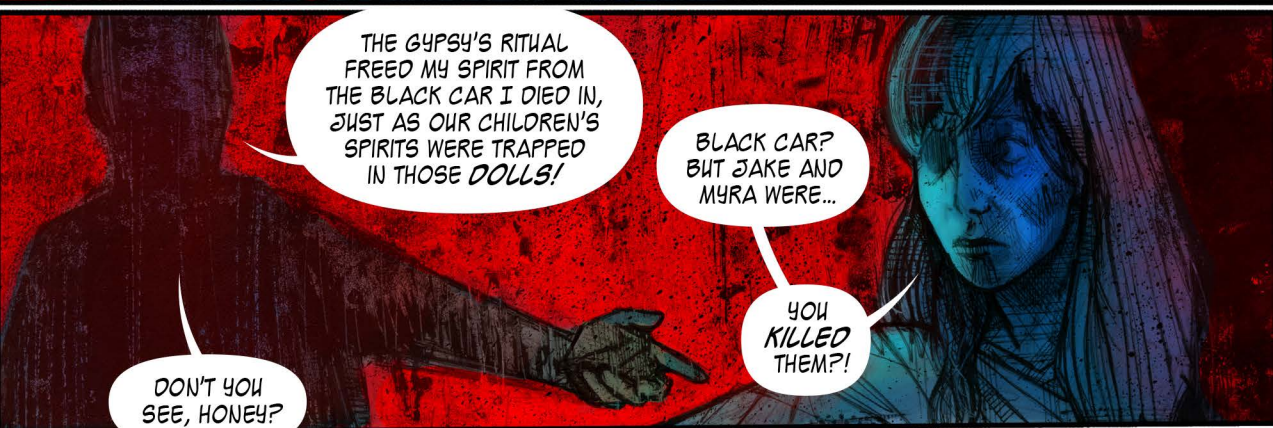


BEVERLY.

THAT  
VOICE...

I'VE MISSED  
YOU TERRIBLY.

JOHN?!



THE GYPSY'S RITUAL  
FREED MY SPIRIT FROM  
THE BLACK CAR I DIED IN,  
JUST AS OUR CHILDREN'S  
SPIRITS WERE TRAPPED  
IN THOSE *DOLLS*!

BLACK CAR?  
BUT JAKE AND  
MYRA WERE...

YOU  
KILLED  
THEM?!

DON'T YOU  
SEE, HONEY?

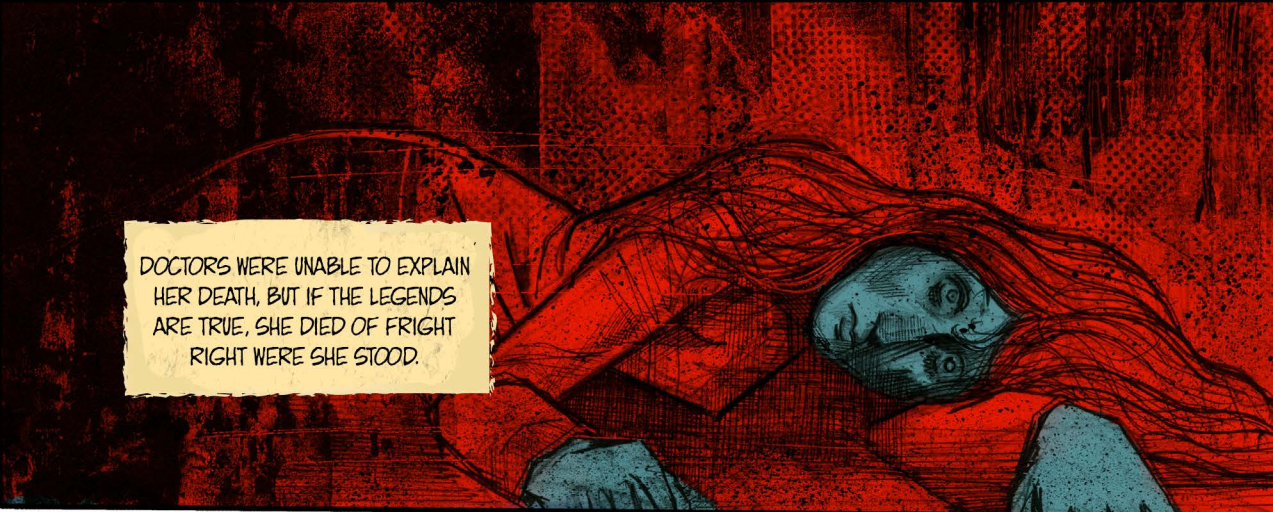


I'M GETTING  
THE FAMILY BACK  
*TOGETHER*  
AGAIN.


THE ONLY ONE  
MISSING IS...

MOMMY...






DOCTORS WERE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN  
HER DEATH, BUT IF THE LEGENDS  
ARE TRUE, SHE DIED OF FRIGHT  
RIGHT WHERE SHE STOOD.




WHATEVER EVIL WURKS IN THAT  
HOUSE CAUSED THE GRASS, THE  
SHRUBS--EVEN THE TREES--  
TO DIE AND NEVER GROW BACK.



PEOPLE STILL TELL TALES OF  
A SPECTRAL BLACK SEDAN WITH  
BLOOD STAINS ON ITS BUMPER  
ROAMING THE STREETS.

SOME HAVE CLAIMED TO SEE A  
GHOSTLY BOUNCING RED BALL  
IN THE FRONT YARD, WHILE  
OTHERS SAY THEY CAN HEAR  
A WOMAN'S SCREAMS COMING  
FROM DEEP WITHIN THE HOME.

MANY HAVE TRIED  
TO SELL THE HOUSE,  
BUT ONCE THE STORY  
GOT OUT, NO ONE DARED  
STEP FOOT INSIDE.



AND YES, ON OCCASION,  
WHEN YOU GAZE UPON THIS  
OLD HOUSE, YOU CAN CATCH  
A GLIMPSE OF SILHOUETTES  
IN THE WINDOWS.

THE DOLLS  
KEEPING AN  
EVER-VIGILANT  
WATCH.

**END**



Also look for

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