

*(excerpt from Disappear Into the Night by Tori Budden)*

KATIE

Would you stay? Please?

IVAN

I don't know. I mean, your mom...

KATIE

I don't think she'll be coming up any time soon.

IVAN

You sure?

KATIE

Yeah, and if anything happens, we'll just keep an ear out for her.

IVAN

Ok. If you say so.

KATIE

You wanna watch *Bamboozled*?

IVAN

Uh, sure. Yeah. If you want to.

KATIE

I do.

IVAN

Where did you find it? I haven't seen that show in forever.

KATIE

They have it online. See?

*They click. The house blushes with light. A very slick, large, cartoonish FOX slies in. He sets up to take a nap. Suddenly, the BARBARIAN slums on stage. Hungry, he looks for something to eat. In his search, he discovers the FOX and snags him up with ease. Slightly panicked, the FOX bargains with the BARBARIAN. He tries to make a point why he shouldn't be eaten, but after a little consideration, the BARBARIAN disagrees and continues to carry the FOX out. The FOX makes a couple more attempts, but after thought, the BARBARIAN disagrees and reattempts to*

*drag him out. Finally, the FOX is able to diffuse a sneaky distraction. The BARBARIAN takes his attention away from the FOX, giving the FOX just enough time to escape. The BARBARIAN notices and tries to go after the FOX. In a hasty plan, the FOX snags a blanket/net and captures the BARBARIAN and ties him up. The BARBARIAN struggles to get out, but the FOX smacks him on the head with an object in the household and knocks him out. Suddenly, DEMONS run in and drag the bagged BARBARIAN out while the FOX takes off his disguise, revealing he's the MAIN DEMON. He climbs up to the bedroom with the ladder and goes over to KATIE. She acknowledges him but remains stiff. IVAN remains frozen.*

DEMON

Katie. What a magnificent time to see you. You're doing well I assume. And I see you've brought a friend. Ivan, yes? So young. So handsome. He seems so familiar but I can't quite put my finger on it. Who could it be? Really, Katie, there's no need to give me a look like that. It's rather rude, really. I'd hoped your mother taught you better. How is your mother anyway? I don't assume you've spoken with her about our little sessions yet. They have been occurring quite often, lately, haven't they? If I didn't know better, I would think you've taken a liking to me again. Wouldn't that be a delightful thought? But the world is a bleak place. There are no champions, Katie. There never have been. There is only survival of the fittest and we all die in the end anyway. There is no escaping it. There is no fantasy world where things are given to you. You have to fight for what you want. And that's precisely why I'm here.

*The MAIN DEMON snags KATIE out of the bed.*

KATIE

IVAN!

*IVAN snaps out of the trance. He fights the MAIN DEMON for KATIE. KATIE is set on the bed (by either of the two). The MAIN DEMON draws a knife. IVAN dodges each blow until he takes possession of the knife. Moment.*

DEMON

Go on. Listen to that desire in your heart.

*Moment. IVAN takes a step back.*

DEMON

I have to say, I'm rather disappointed. You have no thirst. No drive. Weak. That is what you are. You can't even defend a girl from her simple nightmares. It's like you're not even real.

*The MAIN DEMON walks into the knife. He is not afflicted.*

Don't ever let me clean up your messes again. (to Katie)  
It's been a rather lovely visit, Katie. I have enjoyed our time together. But alas, until next time.

*The MAIN DEMON coolly walks away. IVAN tends to KATIE. The ordinary lighting fades back in. KATIE seeps back into her body.*

IVAN

Katie, are you ok?

KATIE

Oh my God. Oh my God.

IVAN

Were you having one of your dreams again?

KATIE

Oh my God. Oh my God..

IVAN

Katie, calm down. It's ok. It's not real, whatever it is.

KATIE

You were there.

IVAN

Me? Where? Your dream?

KATIE

Yeah.

IVAN

What was I doing?

KATIE

You fought off that demon guy.

IVAN

Did I win?

KATIE

Yeah.

IVAN

Cool.

KATIE

No. Not cool. You jumped into my paralysis. That's never happened. That not supposed to happen. What's going on? Oh my God.

*KATIE grabs IVAN's hand and presses into it.*

No, you're real. This is real. Holy shit.

IVAN

Are you ok?

KATIE

No. This has never happened before. But you were there. You were really there. I couldn't have hallucinated that.

IVAN

Woah, calm down. You know that can't happen. People literally jumping in and out of dreams. That's physically impossible.

KATIE

But you did. I don't know how, but you did. I think. You don't remember it?

IVAN

Of course not! I was here the whole time. I didn't see anything. It was probably the meds, Katie. I think you need to talk to your mom about this and-

KATIE

I can't talk to her about this. She won't get it. She doesn't understand any of this.

IVAN

I know that Katie, but she's trying to. She can help.

KATIE

No, she can't. She never has. Oh my God.

IVAN

Take a step out of that world. I think you need to collect your senses and put a pause on this because you're not going to figure anything out until you've calmed down and feel grounded in your body again. Ok?

KATIE

Ok.

IVAN

You ok?

KATIE

Yeah.

*DEBRA knocks on the door and walks into the bedroom.*

DEBRA

Hey, honey. How you doing?

KATIE

(stunted) Hey mom.

DEBRA

You still a little wired from earlier?

KATIE

No, I'm fine.

DEBRA

Ok. Well listen, I wanted to discuss what happened this afternoon. Are you okay to do that now?

KATIE

Um... mom?

DEBRA

Yeah?

KATIE

How are you doing?

DEBRA

I'm upset. Am I upset at you or at the action of this, I don't know yet...

KATIE

Mom...

DEBRA

What is it, honey?

KATIE

There's someone else in the room.

DEBRA

I'm sorry?

KATIE

You can't see him? Ivan?

DEBRA

Ivan?

KATIE

Yes.

DEBRA

Ivan.

KATIE

Yes mom.

DEBRA

(quietly) Oh my God.

KATIE

Mom? (no response) Mom.

DEBRA

Your dinner's ready downstairs.

KATIE

Mom, you can't see him?

DEBRA

You should eat your dinner before it gets cold.

END OF ACT 1.