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Silence in the Library

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“Silence in the Library”

The library’s dimly lit halls seemed to force shadows against the walls and displayed an array of colorless books that lined the shelves. I walked towards the myriad of bookshelves in hopes that their numbers and subjects would jump out at me and point me in the right direction. I looked up the textbook titles on my phone and sighed as I thought about the possibility that the library didn’t have what I needed. As I ventured further down the empty hall, I looked up half expecting a fluorescent bulb to pierce my eyes, but instead the light felt hazy and soft. I looked further down the hall and saw pitch blackness. Staring for a while, I decided to ignore my uneasy feeling and look elsewhere. As I was turning to leave, my phone began to buzz. I looked down only to see a call from my mom. Suddenly my thumbs hovered over the keyboard as a harsh sound vibrated throughout the bookshelves. It sounded as though someone uttered, *shhhhhhhhh.* The hair on my neck began to stand up, and goosebumps appeared on my arms as I stood frozen. I slowly turned my back and looked into the pitch-black hall. *Nothing.* I looked at my phone for some kind of distraction, and as I continued walking past a shelf of books I heard a thud. I stopped dead in my tracks and looked at the row of books nearby. A small red book laid open on the ground.

“Hello?” I called out in hopes someone would appear or that this was some dumb prank. Still there was no one. Despite my unease, I decided to walk over to the book and place it back on the shelf. Once again, my imagination was flying. I picked up the book and realized it was a novel by Ray Bradbury. The title read *Something Wicked This Way Comes.* I rolled my eyes at my own wandering thoughts and realized there was nothing ominous about it. As I hastily put the book back on the shelf, my phone began to ring again, and an unknown caller glowed ominously on my phone. Just as confusion began to set in, I felt a hot breath creep on my neck. I looked out in front of me and saw pitch blackness. Too fearful to turn around I stood frozen. Just as I felt the presence of something behind me begin to disappear, the hot breath returned.

*Silence in the library* it hissed, and suddenly I felt two claws dig into my shoulders and pull me into the unforeseen abyss.