

The Rays of the Moon

On a cold and foggy winter evening in London, the alarm of my psychiatric hospital rang to warn the residents and the police of the escape of a "dangerous psychopath." That's how "normal people" describe me, Nelson Brown the famous scientist of Notting Hill! I see how human beings can be cruel. I certainly took away the life of this little boy last year, but it was for his own good. You have to understand me, he was deaf, which made his life too hard, so I put him out of his misery for the advancement of science!

But let's get back to the point. A few hours after my escape I was discreetly walking down the dark streets of the Greenwich district, searching for the new victim for my next experiment, the one that would make me famous all over the world! I was walking carefully when at the end of a bleak and narrow dead-end street, I saw a small figure sitting on a staircase. I approached slowly, very slowly so as not to frighten her, and how amazed was I when I saw the face of an adorable little girl. She seemed lost and I had to reassure her. So, with my sweetest voice I said to her: "Good evening, little girl, what is your name?" she replied in a weak voice: "Annie, sir."

"Very well Annie, tell me where are you parents?"

Her little protruding eyes got wet when she said: "I don't know sir, I think I got lost."

Everything had been perfect so far, so I replied: "My dear little one everything is going to be fine, I'm going to take you to my house where you will be safe" and then she whispered to me: "I'm afraid, my parents told me this afternoon that a dangerous mad man had escaped from a hospital and they advised me not to speak to strangers. But you seem to be a nice man and I think I can trust you."

"Yes, Annie you have nothing to fear, come with me, I'll take care of you until we find your home" and she said "Ok sir, I trust you so I'm following you."

As everything went as planned, I took her to my place and my evil plan could finally begin.

At that time, I lived in a large and secluded mansion which had been decaying for a few years. The most important room of my mansion was undoubtedly my secret laboratory, located on the top floor. It is in this fabulous place that I had executed all of my previous experiments on my human guinea pigs. Unfortunately, most of them died in horror and distress. And their decomposing corpses were still lying in my dungeon on the 2nd floor.

The little girl and I went through different rooms of the mansion and then we took the stairs, holding her hand firmly to reassure her. When we arrived upstairs, we walked rapidly through my laboratory and she squeezed my hand more and more tightly when I

led her to my attic. I took her slowly up into this gloomy place before violently closing the hatch, leaving her alone in complete darkness. Terrified, she shouted "Sir, Sir I'm stuck and I can't see anything, open up I beg you!" and I said "Your parents defended you to talk to strangers, you should have listened to them! I'm sorry my poor little one but the wicked man you were telling me about has just locked you up in his own attic! And yes, it's true Annie, appearances are sometimes deceiving, you are trapped without any means of escape but as I told you I will take care of you." On these words she sobbed as she understood her desperate situation and I left her quietly to concentrate on my next experiment.

Before my dreary incarceration in the psychiatric hospital, I was already working on my most ambitious project the aim of creating an "immortality serum ". Yes, you heard me right, not being subject to death anymore for those who will be chosen.

So, I finalized this quest for seven days and seven nights to accomplish the greatest scientific feat ever. During this time, I checked Annie's physical and mental state. And it was pretty eerie: her face was wan with vacant eyes, she didn't speak and eat anymore, she was just totally appalled and I had to hurry before she starved to death. So, on the eighth day, on the evening of a full moon that lit up this desolate landscape, I went to look for Annie in the attic to finish what I had started a year ago. As soon as I entered, I saw in her terrified look that she had already understood something would happen. But she was too exhausted to try to escape, so she followed me wisely like on the first day we had met, then I placed her on the dissection table and attached the handles and ankles firmly with leather straps. Everything was ready, I held the syringe filled with serum in my right hand, the moonlight reflected on Annie's frightened face. I gently took her arm and injected the whole dose of the serum. At the time the injection had no adverse or dangerous visual effect on Annie's body. I waited a good ten minutes to be sure of the reliability of the antidote but nothing was happening. I could not believe it, it was the first time in ten years that there had been no problem with my experiments in the fifteen first minutes! Had I really succeeded creating what every man dreamed of? As Annie's condition was still stable, I went downstairs to get something to eat after this long day. I was coming down the stairs when suddenly I heard a wolf howl that chilled my blood echo across the mansion. It didn't make sense, no wolf would lurk around this abandoned place unless it was...No impossible, my mind was no longer clear enough, it had to be a hallucination.

Fear took hold of me. I had to go upstairs to check on Annie's state. When cautiously I entered the room, Annie had disappeared leaving a strange scene behind her: the straps of the table were savagely cut, the cupboards lacerated and the stored products were

broken on the floor. All this damage was certainly caused by claws. I quickly understood that a supernatural event had taken place in this room, the size of the traces left by the claws corresponded to only one creature.

On this night of full moon, it was not an immortal that I had created but one of the most dangerous monsters, a werewolf. I had to get out of this scary place as quickly as possible as I had no idea where Annie was. So, I ran down the stairs to the door and now I was only a few feet away from the front door. It was then that a suspicious noise interrupted me, a grunt coming from the dungeons.

I had to see it with my own eyes. So, I approached step by step without making the slightest noise. A terrible smell of blood and corpses was spreading through the corridor, it was dark but I saw clearly. For the first time in my life, I was terrified and paralysed by fear. This monster had shredded the bodies and was feeding on them. I was about to turn around when it stood up, it was about three metres high with long razor-sharp claws and large blood-stained fangs. Its bright red eyes penetrated my eyes and I could see the deep pain I had inflicted on it.