

1...2...3...Purge

“Hey, Meeki, want to go look for a new job?” said Iv. Both teen girls were bored, walking on the street. Everybody was staring at them.

They seemed like an odd pair, with delicate Meeki’s porcelain skin and her rich blonde hair, with gritty Iv, who had pale daffodil skin and greasy coarse black hair falling in unnaturally straight lines.

Meeki just nodded her dainty head. Iv knew immediately that something was wrong. She could just tell by the expression on Meeki’s face.

“Meeki, what’s troubling you?” Iv asked worriedly. “Do you think something’s wrong?” Meeki hesitated. Then she sighed. “I have a bad feeling about looking for a new job. And,” She threw her hands into the air. “I have NO IDEA what it is!!!”

“Eh! You girls! Lookin’ for some money?” said a voice. Both girls turned their heads. “Yes.” said Iv. “Well, I, ummm...” stuttered Meeki nervously.

Both girls were staring at a filthy man. His beard was gray and scruffy, he had faded clothes, and he was smoking. He looked like a homeless person, living on the streets. He probably was.

“I know a bookstore near by. It pays some good bucks,” continued the man. “Name’s Cick, by the way.” Iv considered this. “But,” she said slowly, “Why aren’t *you* working there, if it pays good money?”

Cick shrugged. “Da filthy dogs refused to let me work dere. Said I would be ‘bad business’, because me bein’ dirty and all. Hersh’s Books dids say, however, they payin’ me 500 bucks fur every 1 person I bring to do da job.”

Meeki gasped. “That much?!?” she exclaimed. Iv, however, was much calmer. “I’m guessing the reason that we’ve never heard of this bookstore is because it’s not popular?”

“Yep-a-doodles,” said Cick, “An’ them hungry for workers.” Iv tried to work out what Cick was thinking, but he was expressionless.

“Lead us to the place.” said Iv.

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“S-So this is the place?” stuttered Meeki nervously. “I remember when we were kids, everyone used to say this place was haunted!” Iv snorted. “Really, Meeki, do you seriously believe a *little kids* horror story?” “W-Well, it could be true!” she said, defending herself. And so on the argument went, until both of them noticed an hour or so later the irritated look on Cick’s face. “Bout’ time we go on into here.” he said impatiently. “Sorry,” both girls muttered. “Les go on in,” said Cick. Meeki and Iv just nodded. The two of them strode into the dusty lobby. *Click!* Meeki’s face turned white. They both turned to briefly see, through the tiny gaps in the old shutters, Cick walking away from the door. They were locked in. “EEEEEEEEEEEEKKK!!!” Meeki shrieked. She rushed to the entrance and banged on the shutters. “Somebody HE-” Before she could continue her screaming, Iv covered Meeki’s mouth with her hand and forced her to duck underneath the window. “Meeki!” she whispered fiercely, annoyed. “Be quiet! If there wasn’t something Cick didn’t want to get out, he wouldn’t have locked the door! And by screaming so much, you could’ve as well be ordering it to kill you!” Meeki considered this. She nodded. Iv cautiously removed her hand from Meeki’s mouth. “First, let’s review what we have.” Iv murmured. She reached into her pockets while Meeki rummaged through her handbag. They came up with a weak flashlight, a Swiss army knife, and a first aid kit. “Not good...” Meeki muttered. Suddenly,

they heard a loud creak. They both froze. “I,” whispered Iv, “am going to turn around and see what is behind us.” Meeki didn’t move. Iv carefully turned around... and saw nothing. She let out a sigh of relief. Iv turned back to Meeki, who was still frozen with fear. “All clear!” *Crrreeaakk!* Iv whipped her head around. Instead of nothing, she saw a stone statue of a 1960’s woman looming over Iv and Meeki in a long sleeved shirt and a pleated skirt about a foot away from her. “Iv?” whispered Meeki. “Remember when Cick said ‘their hungry for workers?’” Iv ignored her. “We’ve got to move,” she said. “Fast.”

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As Meeki and Iv ventured farther into the store, it got more and more cold; to the point of them rubbing their hands together and that they breathed fog. Even bold Iv was scared out of her wits. “Meeki,” said Iv, teeth chattering, “Is it just me, or is there someone—” *Or something*, she thought, “Watching us?” Much too cold to even speak without trying as hard as she could, Meeki just shook her head no. Iv sighed with cold relief. She was beginning to think the frost had reached her brain. “Iv.” whispered Meeki faintly. “Yes?” Iv said, worried for her friend. “We’ve reached a room we could hide in.” she murmured through frozen lips. Iv turned around and saw a door. All the numbness she had felt earlier was gone. “Well, what’re you waiting for? Let’s get in!” she said excitedly. “Ok.” Meeki whispered weakly. As the two of them got into the room as fast as they could, they didn’t notice a face on the wall with glowing white eyes and a horrid smile. It had two childish ponytails at the sides of its head. As they sat on the couch near the bookshelves, they heard knocking on the door. “ There goes a nice long rest,” she said, suddenly grumpy. Iv walked to the door and opened it a crack. “HELP!” shrieked a child’s voice. Iv was so surprised; she jumped back and landed on her butt. The child ran into the room, shut the door, and locked it. Iv and Meeki both stared at her as if she’d grown another head. Once

she'd retrieved her bearings, Meeki was quite curious about the girl. "Why are you here...?" "Ky," the girl finished for her. Now that Iv and Meeki got a good look at her, they saw Ky had two rich brown braids, pale sand skin, pink sweater, and a short, navy blue skirt. "Well, Ky, why are you here?" asked Meeki gently. Ky shivered. "Some dirty man told me he'd give me a lollipop if I went in here, but now I'm stuck!" she said. "But my daddy's going to send people here to find me! I KNOW he will!" Iv stifled a small giggle at Ky's sureness. "Of course he will," Iv said soothingly.

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"Iv?" called Meeki. Iv walked over. "What is it?" she asked. "I think we should move-" "WHAT are you saying? What about Ky?" Iv glanced worriedly across the room to where Ky was sleeping on the couch, safe and sound. Iv had come to like this room. "We've been perfectly safe here, so why can't we camp here?" "Watcha doin?" said Ky. Both Iv and Meeki moved slightly back in surprise. They hadn't noticed she had woken up. "Well, Ky, we were just discussing on whether to move or not. Of course, you have a say in it." Iv added hastily. "I want to move!" said Ky cheerfully. Iv was taken aback. "Why, though? We have safety, shelter..." She trailed off, realizing they were missing one thing. *Ring, ring!* "Oh." said Meeki. None of the girls had seen the telephone on the table in the corner of the room. Iv picked it up. "Hello?" said Iv. "Is this one of you girls on the street?" said a familiar voice. "Cick!" all the girls said at the same time. Except Ky, though, she just said "Dirty man!" "What are you calling us for? You should be counting your money," said Iv crossly. "Trust me, girls, I was forced to do this. Anyway, I have some advice. If you find a child named Ky, whatever you do, DO NOT trust her." said Cick. Iv froze. "Whatever you say, Cick, I'll trust Ky. You won't be able to lie to me again." Cick groaned, but he left the

subject untouched. “Also, there’s food in the closet an-”ZZZZT. “Aw, crap. The connection went down.” said Meeki. “Also, Iv? Can we talk privately?” She looked pointedly at Ky, who was staring into space. “Behind that bookshelf?” Iv nodded, confused. What did she want to talk about? They walked to the corner. “We have to get rid of Ky!” Meeki whispered fiercely. “NO! Cick was probably lying, trying to get us to abandon a poor little kid! You’re too trusting!” Iv muttered strongly. “Shut up! I heard something!” said Meeki. Footsteps. “Hi.” said Ky, appearing next to them. Her body was convulsing, and Ky slowly morphed into two beings. One the creepy shadow, and the other the stone lady. “Goodbye.” they both said, slowly moving towards Iv and Meeki. “You were quite amusing.”

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“MEEKI! Fetch SOMETHING!” Iv shrieked. Meeki frantically searched what they had... And came up with a flashlight. When Iv saw what Meeki had, she screamed “WHATEVER! IT’S BETTER THAN NOTHING! SHINE IT AT ONE OF THEM!” As Meeki quickly shined the light at the stone lady, her granite eyes widened in fear. She made choking sounds as the light touched her, and then she fell to the ground as limp as dead man. At that same moment, the flashlight flickered out. “Find another thing,” said Iv, a little calmer. If shadows could make worried faces, then it would look like the shadow that was in front of the two friends. This time, Meeki found the Swiss army knife. Meeki handed the knife to Iv. “I’ll give you the honor of killing this one,” she said quietly. Iv nodded. She walked up to the shadow with knife in hand. The shadow didn’t move. Iv bended down and stabbed the wood where the shadow was. It shrieked in pain and its face disappeared, leaving a regular person's shadow. Black liquid gushed from the wound. Without a word, both girls left the room, Iv in front and Meeki behind. Iv heard retching sounds behind her. She whirled around to see Meeki spitting blood with a knife sticking out of her stomach. Iv

did lightning fast thinking. *The shadow must not have died completely! It probably picked up the knife and stabbed Meeki as it's last and final sin.* Iv hurriedly reached for Meeki's handbag and pulled out the first aid kit. She found bandages, a can of painkillers, and a small syringe filled with a strong sleeping drug. Iv took out the bandages, rolled up Meeki's shirt until below her chest, and applied the white cotton strips. Then she injected half of the sleeping drug. She forced a painkiller down Meeki's mouth, hauled her up on Iv's shoulder, and silently trudged through the store, out of the entrance, and into the street where the nightmare had started.

Epilogue .

Meeki was treated in the hospital and lived. However, she will have a black scar on the place she was stabbed. Iv tried to bring her store-almost killed-caused by Cick case to the court, but nobody believed her. After all, who would believe a story about a person killing stone lady and creepy stalker shadow? They live and are probably telling their grandchildren about the adventure right now. They made names for them, Stone Lady and Stib, as in for stab, because Stib had stabbed Meeki. The business of Hersh's Books ended and the building was made into a pizzeria. There are rumors between the few people that believed Iv and Meeki's story that new things haunt the once haunted building. Hopefully not.