

The Late Night Meeting  
By  
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The streets were abuzz with the sounds of the city. There were: the annoying hum of the streetlights, a buzzing from an old store sign, and distant rumble of cars driving in the distance. The street itself was deserted, with the cars parked along the side like derelicts. Off in a nearby ally-way a stray cat was pining its love tune for any feline who wanted to hear, only to be broken by another cat attacking it over something.

Standing halfway down the road was a small building, only two stories high, made out of nineteen fifties plastic and aluminum outer décor. Most of the buildings windows were dark except for one window off to the right of the building, which cast its florescent glow down on the darkened street below like a lighthouse beacon.

Two people were walking down the sidewalk toward the building. Both of them were talking in a heated conversation. "I told you didn't needed to come, Bill." The female replied sarcastically.

Pleading his case, "You know I love you, Sarah, and I want to be part of your life!" He said looking at the building. Sarah stopped right at the front door and turned around to face Bill.

"I love you too, but this is something I don't think you should see!" She said trying to make Bill see her way. Bill, being thick headed, totally missed what she meant. Reaching out to lovingly hold her shoulders, "I thought we wouldn't keep anything from each other?" He asked questionably.

"I know, but this is something I don't think you're ready to see yet." Sarah replied looking up into Bill's eyes.

Bill looked down at her, "I doubt anything you're hiding could shock me!" He said.

Rolling her eyes, "I really doubt that honey, if you are so mind-set on seeing this meeting then let's go, but I must warn you about something," She said holding Bill's right hand with both of her hands.

"Yes?" He replied interested.

"Despite what you are going to see, I still love you ok." Sarah said in earnest. He nodding his head in understanding and she led him up to the glass front door.

The interior of the building was made up of many poster boards screwed upon the industrial green-and-white

walls. It looked like they had taken a step back into the fifties with the décor.

Quickly, Sarah walked over to a bulletin board proclaiming all the meetings and events that were going on in the building. Sarah moved her finger down the board until she found the meeting she was looking for.

When Sarah started to walk away, Bill stole a glance at the name she had put her finger on: "How to control your own urges, room 15." Bill just shrugged as he started up the stairs off to the right of the main entryway to catch up to Sarah

"How to control your urges?" Bill questioned Sarah, "That doesn't sound too bad." He said disbelieving.

"Uh huh." Sarah muttered as she arrived at the top of the stairs. Taking a look around she found a sign pointing down a hallway toward the room she was looking for. Walking briskly down the hallway, they arrived outside the door to the room. A sign had been posted proclaiming: "W.W.S. Meeting: How to control your own urges."

"Are you ready?" Sarah asked with a concerned look on her face before turning the doorknob.

Bill, missing the point, replied: "What? Oh, sure, I'm ready."

Sarah shrugged and opened the door exposing the meeting room. As they walked into the room, Bill saw that the chairs had been moved about the room in a big circle, so everyone could face each other. Sitting in the chairs around the room were all sorts of people. Some were scrawny looking bookworms, others were large athletic types who looked like they could bench press Bill with ease. Scrawled again on the black board at the head of the room was this meetings title: "Controlling one's urges."

When a man in a gray suit saw Sarah and Bill come walking in, he stood up and walked over to greet them. When he got a look at Bill he peered at Sarah questioningly, "Why is he here?" The man in gray asked

"He's my boyfriend, he wanted to come." She replied hesitantly.

"Are you sure you want to be here?" The man in gray asked Bill directly.

Bill looked perplexed; he couldn't understand why everyone was asking him that. "I don't see the problem with this, besides I would like to be involved in Sarah's life." He tried to assure the man in gray. He didn't look assured!

"I don't know if you want to stay around for this meeting." The man in gray said again. Sarah looked at Bill

one more time. Respectfully, she held his hands. "Really Bill, I don't think you should be here. I'll tell you about what went on later ok." She said trying to lead him out of the meeting.

Bill still wasn't dissuaded. "I don't really see the problem, so let's get on with it." He said trying to put them at ease, not that they were before, or after!

Shrugging his head in capitulation, the man in gray led them to a couple of chairs off to the side.

Closing the door behind him, the man in gray walked to a corner where he pulled a podium to the front of the room and raised his hands for everyone to be quiet. "Thank you all for coming tonight." He said surveying the people at the meeting. "Tonight we're going to talk about controlling your own urges" He said leaning against the podium. "Would anyone like to open up and comment briefly on the subject?" He said looking around the room.

Bill turned to look at Sarah staring at the man in gray. Briefly she stole a glance at him and smiled. A man sitting off in the far corner raised his arm. Then the man in gray acknowledged him.

Taking off his glasses, the man in the corner stood up. "Well, there was this one time when I was hunting for something to eat. Well, I saw these large burgers and without thinking I ate them all!" He replied as a tear rolled down his cheek.

The man in gray nodded in understanding. "I hear you, John. Anyone else have some sort of urge they would like to talk about?" He said looking around.

A lady stood up, "Well I was sleeping a couple of nights ago when I had to get out of the house. I don't know why but I started walking and kept walking around, soon I arrived at the park." To Bill's surprise, no one seemed afraid that she had been in harm's way walking by herself at night.

"Yep that's another urge right there." The gray suited man replied. "Now what we are going to talk about is how to control those urges when they happen." He said launching into a long discussion on how to control the urges.

All this sounded mundane to Bill. He didn't understand why Sarah and the man in gray didn't want him here. Looking around the room showed him all sorts of people who suffered from one problem or another. Quietly Bill wondered what sort of problem Sarah suffered from?

Looking at his watch told him that it was ten past eleven. Yawning, Bill looked out of the window in boredom.

He saw that the moon looked bright up in the sky, almost as bright as the sun!

As the gray suited man droned on about a current theory, Bill noticed something wrong about the situation! At first it also just looked like some of the men at the meeting needed a good shave, but as he looked around, it looked like the women needed it too! Slowly hair grew over everyone's bare skin. When Bill looked at Sarah he also saw that the hair was growing on her cheeks too! But as he looked closer he saw that it wasn't hair, but fur!

With horror, Bill watched one man's face start to push out with his nose joining his upper lip. Soon Bill could tell that the man's face was growing a muzzle and even from the distance he was sitting at, Bill could see white canine teeth growing in the muzzle. Looking around confirmed that everyone else, including Sarah was changing like the man!

Looking up, Bill saw that the man in the gray suit was also changing. But even as he was changing, the man in the gray suit continued to talk like nothing was happening.

A woman sitting off to Bill right, lifted her hands to her changing face to scratch an itch, Bill could see that her hands were also changing as her nails pushed out into large claws. Another man sitting ahead of him stood up briefly to pull something out of his back that turned out to be a tail!

Bill looked over at Sarah, who by now didn't look anything like she did a short while ago! Her face now looked more like a wolf's head, with her changed wolves ears poking out of her long brown hair! Looking behind her confirmed that she also had a tail like the man in front of Bill.

Everyone was changing except him!

Finally Sarah looked over at Bill's surprised face. "I told you, you shouldn't have come here!" She said with a grin on her canine face.

"Oh my god what's going on here!" Bill said quickly standing up with fear. The man in gray looked over at Bill, "Don't worry we're not going to hurt you." He said as everyone turned around to face Bill. Everyone was changed! They all have wolf faces and were exposing their long white teeth in wolfish grins.

Sarah laid a changed hand on Bills shoulder forcing him with inhuman strength, back down into his chair. "I'll explain everything later, you're disturbing the meeting!"