

Night slowly spread its dark shroud over the last remains of sunlight still clinging to the horizon, ushering in a period of quiet and introspective. A sigh heaved itself from my chest, and I curled up upon my bedding. I stared over to the wall blankly, mesmerized by its pulsing and breathing, and wondered what a restful sleep was like. Many thoughts passed through my brain, through one side and out the other. I cannot recall them even now. My usual nocturnal lifestyle had become one of torment and fear. But as long as there was no light, everything should behave.

My empty gaze towards the wall had been broken as I noticed my paw slowly burning in invisible flames. My fur singed first, though the odor of fire never reached my nose. The smoldering continued as I stared in horror, jerking up off my bed and watching my raw skin melt, giving way to a char. Ashes flaked off and disintegrated in the air, the char spreading down my arm. Wisps of black smoke rolled off my body. I winced in fear, yet I felt no pain. Opening my eyes, there was nothing abnormal. I calmed from my reeling and simply looked around in the dark.

Something darker than what the night could provide skittered quickly across my floor, very near to my bedding. It made no noise. Another one crawled across my bed and over my legs, creating what appeared to be electricity as it traveled. I couldn't handle it, I leapt up and lit the room. Everything reverted to normal. Shadows jumped and breathed with the walls, but I could handle that. The comfort of the darkness had failed me.

I returned to my bed and laid, face down. At least nothing could come across my vision here. A raspy voice rang out in the silence, "What do you think you're doing?!" My head lifted automatically, but there was no one around. A whitish face crept up on my peripheral vision, though as I turned to look, I saw nothing. Panic settled in.

I pulled my blanketing over my head and slammed my eyes shut. Underneath my skin, bugs crawled and wormed their way around. Tears formed in my eyes.

Why should anyone be cursed with such a disease?