

## **A nightmare you most likely won't survive**

I wake up in a dark room, I don't know how I got here. I get up and notice that I don't have my jacket or my bag with me. When I find the door, it's unlocked. I am relieved. I wander through an old house. The halls are long and narrow, the walls are dark red and the ceiling height is unusually high. There are doors but I'm too afraid to open them.

Then I hear a sound behind me. It's like a scream but it sounds not quite right, it doesn't sound human. I start running. Whatever it is, it's following me. I start to think that I can run in these corridors forever, but then I see a big open room in front of me. It is two stories high and you can see down from the second floor. Whatever is behind me, is coming closer when big doors open up. I'm not sure what to think of that but it seems like someone is watching me. However, I don't have the time to stand around. The doors lead outside - the house seems to be built into a forest. It's dark outside, it must be night. I run but the forest is slowing me down, I trip and fall over roots. The thing behind me doesn't seem to have the same issues.

I think it's in the trees now, or maybe there is more than one. They come closer, I can see shadows following me. Then I see one of them. They have some human traits. They walk on two legs but their arms are too long and just seem to hang off their body. Something that's definitely not human is their head: it is shaped weirdly but I can't see much more as they move too fast. I try to run faster but I fall and at that moment I know that it's over. The last thing I see is its face, this time I can see all of it. Then I wake up in a dark room. I am not injured, I am totally fine but my heart is still beating fast.

With horror I realise that it's the same room I walked out. I'm in the same house as before. I start running and behind me are the same noises. Everything is the same: I run outside, they catch me and I wake up in the dark room. I can't believe it. What's going on? It happens again and again. I can't outrun them, so I try other things, I try to hide but they find me, I try different routes but they always catch me. But then I find stairs I run up and I can see down into the big room. The noises still seem to be downstairs. Then I run through the second floor and there is a door leading outside with one difference: outside it's day. I even find my bag and my jacket and my phone is inside my jacket. I'm so happy. I try to call for help but as the phone rings, I hear a deep voice from behind me asking me who I am calling...

(Lea Mandla, EF)