

## **“Glitter and Fang”**

**By Aujin Lee**

Heavy bass boomed from hidden speakers and colorful lights flashed back and forth from the ceiling. Sweaty, costumed bodies swayed in time to the rhythm of the music—dark shadows dancing in the giant mansion.

The great Halloween party was underway. More and more people arrived through the tall front doors, drawn in by the sound and chaos. The DJ sensibly turned a knob, amplifying the volume. The crowd cheered as they filled the floor.

She entered quietly, wearing nothing but a small, halter-top, black dress and matching black kitten heels. While she had a petite frame, her limbs were long and lean. Her arms were covered in flecks of green glitter, which glistened under the flashing lights. Her fingernails were long, black and almond-shaped—they gleamed like tiny knives. She swept her long, black hair carefully behind one ear. While everyone danced around her, she scanned the dark room with her big black eyes.

He stood in the hallway, awkwardly, holding a red SOLO cup. He was tall and fit like an athlete. He had messy brown hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a red and white letterman’s jacket, a white T-shirt, and faded denim jeans. He began to shuffle his feet in scuffed white Nike sneakers, trying to match the beat of the song.

Liking what she saw, she confidently walked toward him until she stood right in front of him. Startled, he looked down at her and stared deeply into her eyes. She gently took him by the hand and led him down the hallway. In a trance, he followed her to a secluded room.

The room was pitch-dark, with moonlight flooding in through one long window. Before he could have a chance to speak, she pushed him down onto the bed and mounted his body. As she leaned into his face to kiss him passionately, she began to transform. Her long arms and legs blended together and combined into one massive coiling serpent-like creature.

He gasped as the slithering snake before him began to wrap itself tightly around his torso. She hissed and snapped at his face. Her big black eyes were now slits. He trembled, paralyzed with fear. As she squeezed him tighter and tighter, she bared her fangs and pierced his neck, sinking them deep into his skin. When she pulled away, venom dripped from her fangs. He went unconscious—his eyes rolling back into his head. His body was soon limp and lifeless.

She began to slowly unroll herself from him. With each pull, she transformed back into her former figure. Her arms and legs eventually unraveled. Dress, heels, nails, hair and green glitter, all returned to her body intact, as if they had never disappeared.

Pleased with her latest victim, she lovingly grazed his pale cheek with her scaly hand before it, too, softened into flesh. He was nothing but a shell now. She leaned over him one last time and whispered something in a language no living human would understand.

She exited the mansion as quietly as she had arrived. A cool autumn breeze blew through the residential neighborhood up in the hills. She walked swiftly down into the city.

She didn’t even look to cross the street—high as she was from the recent murder. The truck driver behind the wheel of the semi didn’t see her either. The truck zoomed down the highway and plowed straight into her.

The truck driver immediately pulled over to the side of the curb. He got out and looked around. He was certain he had hit something, but there was nothing. Shrugging his shoulders and scratching his head, he jumped back into the semi and went on his way.

Night became morning, as rays from the sun drifted up into the sky through hazy clouds. The city was waking up after an eventful evening. People stumbled out of their cars, hungover, and into work.

The road where the truck had hit the serpentine creature lay untouched, until a man began to cross the street. He suddenly bent down and picked up a long piece of translucent snakeskin. Thinking it was cool and hoping to add it to his collection of odd bits and things, he carefully wrapped the snakeskin up and tucked it into his back pocket. He whistled a familiar melody as he continued to cross the street.

In the distance, a loud hiss and a snap could be heard. A shadow ran past a brick building, scattering green glitter on the ground.

Halloween was over.

But she was still hungry.