

Jonny stopped in the customer's lounge, pinching his nose; the fetid smell was getting stronger. He glanced at the ceiling lights; the generator should have kicked on by now. He returned to his office, maneuvering to his desk, and flung the towels earmarked for the women over his shoulder and opened the second drawer. He removed a large boxy flashlight and flipped the switch.

The bulb quickly dimmed to its demise.

He slapped the side of the flashlight in vain. Annoyed, he tossed the light on his desk.

Lightning flashed twice, faintly illuminating a petite figure standing barefoot on the desk.

Startled, he stepped backward, tripping on the rubber floor matt.

Another silent flash; the room was empty.

Jonny stood, shaking his head. What the hell did he see?

The thunderclaps from all three strikes collided together; the glass wall in the office shuddered.

He scoped the office. Where did it go? He moved swiftly to the glass wall, looking for Sandra.

Blackness shrouded the garage.

Jonny awaited the lightning on tenterhooks. He spotted a faint amber glow and assumed Steven was using his lighter but when a second soft amber light followed suit, he knew his assumption was false.

Lightning flashed and the amber lights disappeared, but he spotted Sandra. Darkness returned and the amber lights with it.

Jonny bolted for the door.

Lightning struck, outlining the gaunt frame of a small boy standing in the threshold. The amber glow in the pits of his eyes out lived the flash into the darkness.

A warm whisper slipped into Jonny's ear. "Keep your eyes shut, no matter what." The warmth raised the hackles on his neck.

He whipped around but saw no one. He stormed the doorway. Again, no one.

The soft smacking of bare feet on tile escorted the high-pitched giggles down the hallway.

"Sandra!" He raced down the corridor to the garage and came to an abrupt halt.

The amber lights intensified in the dark void.

Jonny had the distinct feeling they were observing him. He only needed one more flash to reveal their source.

The halogen lights sparked to life, accompanied by the hum of oscillating fans. Cheyenne stared back at Jonny.