

The Man Over There

by

Sam Britt

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

EMILY, 16, hops off of the public bus. The city glows in the night, neon signs everywhere. Emily wears a hoodie over her school uniform. She has headphones in while talking a call from her friend who we can't hear.

EMILY (INTO PHONE)
Yeah, I know. Just stop saying
that.

The bus leaves. Emily begins walking with the crowd along the city sidewalk. Dozens of people surround and envelope Emily.

EMILY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Listen, listen. I'm on my way
home. I know, yeah.

The crowd gets to a street corner. They all stop as cars whiz past. Emily continues to talk on the phone.

EMILY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Say that again. Yeah sorry. Oh no,
she did not. Today? Really?

She stands with the crowd as they wait for the light to change.

EMILY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Oh, come on. I never said that.
Really. Just ask Lily tomorrow.
Just ask her.

The light changes. The crowd begins to move. Emily stops. She pulls out her earphones.

EMILY
What the fuck?

She pulls her phone out of her hoodie. The dreaded no battery sign pops up on her screen.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Shit.

She shoves the phone back into her pocket. The light has changed again, Emily let's out an annoyed GRUNT. She isn't in a crowd anymore, she is alone on the corner.

Out of boredom she begins to take in her surroundings. She looks at the towering buildings, the night sky, and then behind her. About 30 yards away stands a man completely shrouded in shadow, SHADOW-MAN, who just standing.

Emily gives him a quick look. Kind of stares for an extra second before turning around. She tries to slow her breathing in order to calm herself down.

The light changes.

Emily hurries across the street.

As she walks along she occasionally gives a quick look over her shoulder. The man hasn't moved, he is just standing as the distance grows greater and greater.

Nothing to worry about.

EXT. SAL'S PIZZERIA - NIGHT

Emily turns a corner and walks up to her favorite hole in the wall, Sal's Pizza. She looks up at the sign hanging over the dingy restaurant. An Italian man winking down at her.

INT. SAL'S PIZZERIA - NIGHT

Emily get's in line to order. She is standing behind a larger old man. He looks Emily and down, smiling to himself, before returning to staring at the menu.

Emily turns around to look out of the window. She watches people walk by the store. Some peering in, other's hustling down the street.

Then she sees him.

The Shadow-Man.

He is once again lurking across the street. It is impossible to make out any detail of his face. It is like he is made of darkness.

Emily stares in shock for a second. She isn't really sure what to do.

PIZZA MAN (O.S)

Hey, you just going to stand there
and look pretty?

Emily turns back around. A slovenly fat Italian man wearing an apron smiles at her.

EMILY

Oh, uh, actually I'm not really
hungry. Sorry.

Emily turns around quickly but bumps into another man standing behind her in line.

PIZZA MAN
Is everything ok miss?

Emily doesn't answer. She just hustles out of the store back onto the city street.

EXT. CITY BLOCK - NIGHT

Emily pants as she speed walks down the street. The Shadow-Man doesn't move, but every time she takes her eyes off of him he seemingly gets closer.

She tries her hardest not to look back. Finally she sees somebody else, a BUSINESSMAN. The man is on the phone while waiting at the curb.

Emily sprints over to him and grabs his arm.

BUSINESSMAN
Hey!

EMILY
Please. I need help. I think a man is following me. Please.

BUSINESSMAN
What man?

EMILY
There, down at the corner. He's just, standing there. Look.

The businessman's eyes peer down the street. The Shadow-Man is fully lit under a street light at the corner. He still hasn't moved.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Please. He is stalking me.

BUSINESSMAN
Don't flatter yourself kid.

EMILY
What? No, sir please. Just let me use your phone, just for a-

The businessman wrestles his arm back from Emily.

BUSINESSMAN
Get off of me.

EMILY
Please I just need help.

BUSINESSMAN
Get away from me.

The businessman hustles down the street away from Emily.

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)
Crazy bitch.

Emily starts running again, taking a quick right down a side street.

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Emily continues to sprint. Her breathing is rapid, her sneakers smack against the pavement. Her eyes are watering. Just up ahead she sees a cop car pulling onto the road.

Emily just between two parked cars and runs into the middle of the street waving her arms.

The cruiser quickly stops. The driver door swings open and an older COP steps out.

COP
What is going on young lady?

EMILY
Please. A man is following me. I think he wants to hurt me. He won't leave me alone.

COP
Calm down. Let's not get hysterical.

He tries to put his arm around Emily. She steps back.

EMILY
Please just help me.

COP
Ok. Ok. What does this man look like?

EMILY
I can't, I don't know. He is pretty tall.

COP
Missy I am going to need more of description than tall?

EMILY
I don't know, I couldn't really
see-

Emily turns back around. The Shadow-Man is standing only 20 yards away. He is also in the middle of the street, fully illuminated and visible. Emily let's out a SCREAM.

EMILY (CONT'D)
He is right there. Please he is
right there.

COP
What?

EMILY
He is standing right behind me.
Please help me oh my god please.

The cop looks down the street. He begins walking toward the Shadow-Man. He ends up walking right past the Shadow-Man, like he isn't even there.

COP
Miss, there isn't anybody here.

Emily stares in horror. The Shadow-Man just looms, unperturbed by the cop standing only a couple feet behind him.

Emily sprints right past the police cruiser. The cop yells after her.

COP (CONT'D)
Miss, where are you going!? Miss!?

EXT. EMILY'S STREET - NIGHT

Emily can see her apartment in the distance. She runs towards it and frantically climbs the stairs to her front door. It is locked.

She reaches into her hoodie and pulls out a key ring. She fumbles with them as she tries to find her house key.

Then she feels it. A hand massaging her shoulder. A black hand squeezing the skin near her neck.

She hears a voice, but it isn't just one voice, it is 2-3 male voices melded together. It sounds they are right next to her ear.

SHADOW-MAN
Come on/Please/You are so
tense/loosen up.

Emily's body goes rigid. The hand now caresses her flowing brown hair. She hears noses, smelling, inhaling her scent.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)
Your smell/it's
wonderful/delightful.

Now a hand travels down her back. It's light touch sliding down Emily's small frame.

The hands converge on her lower back. Emily is frozen. They suddenly grab around her waist. She feels the fingers press into her hips.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)
Just let me/Please/let it
happen/squeeze right past/little
lady.

Emily swings her fist around. In between her fingers are the house keys. She fully suspects to cut through the man's face.

But he isn't there.

He is across the street. Just standing. She hears his voices call to her.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)
Baby/miss/I just/need/I
want/need/you. You/I/deserve/will
have/you.

Emily turns back toward the door. Shadow-Man is there, his body inches from hers, blocking the door. His hand reaches out for hers. She recoils and jumps down the stairs.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)
Please/nobody has/will/even know.

EMILY
Get away!

She runs down the street. With every turn the Shadow-Man stands before her. She keeps twisting and turning but every time he is right there, a few feet away.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Emily finally turns down a back alley. The end of the alley is closed off by a chain link fence. She backs up to it, cornered. At the entrance of the alley is the Shadow-Man.

Emily is now sobbing. She pleads with the Shadow-Man.

EMILY

Please, god, no. Please somebody.

SHADOW-MAN

No/Yes/No/I'll do/whatever/ I want.

The Shadow-Man appears over Emily. His hands grab each of her arms by the wrist. He forces her down onto her back. A third hand comes down and covers her mouth.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)

I/we/you/I/ want this. Just/let it.

Emily's screams are muffled by the black hand. Tears stream from her eyes. She can now see the Shadow-Man's eyes. They are human, bloodshot male eyes.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)

It will/over/be over/soon.
Just/let/accept/let it/happen.

Emily thrashes her body. She tries to shake him off of her. His body completely covers hers. She is too weak.

WOMAN (O.S)

Hey!

Emily's eyes turn back toward the entrance of the alley. A WOMAN, 50, stands there.

WOMAN

Get the fuck off of her!

The Shadow-Man doesn't move. He still has Emily pinned down beneath him. His eyes still stare down on her.

The woman takes a couple steps towards them.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I said get the fuck off of her!
Now!

The Shadow-Man's eyes now turn towards her. He slowly gets up. Once his hands release Emily scurries away from the Shadow-Man, gasping for air.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Now get the fuck out of here!

SHADOW-MAN
Or what/what if/no.

WOMAN
Now!

SHADOW-MAN
She's/mine. She is/mine/now.

WOMAN
No! No she isn't!

SHADOW-MAN
She/is/she/will/I/WANT/I/NEED!

The Shadow-Man's voice is beginning to morph. The male voices are begin to mix into each other. They sound more animalistic.

SHADOW-MAN (CONT'D)
NOBODY/NO/BODY/BODY/CAN
STOP/WILL/STOP
ME/I/DO/CAN/ANYTHING.

WOMAN
No! No you cannot! Now leave! Go!

All of the lights go out. The alley is plunged in to pitch darkness. Only for a second.

The lights spring back on. The Shadow-Man is gone. Emily is curled up against the brick wall. She is rocking herself.

The woman runs over and wraps Emily up in a hug.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
You are ok. Shhh. Shhh. It's ok.
You are safe. Shhh.

Emily sobs. Her arms return the embrace. She looks up to the woman.

EMILY
You could see him.

The woman doesn't answer. She just looks at Emily, a tinge of pity in her eyes. She squeezes Emily against her body.

EXT. PLANET FITNESS - NIGHT

The next night. KELLY, 20, exits the Planet Fitness in her workout attire. She takes a swig of her water bottle as she walks down the street toward the corner.

She gets there just as the light changes. She stops. Her eyes begin to wander around her surroundings. Kelly turns around back towards the Planet Fitness. Just outside the doors to the gym she sees him.

The Shadow-Man.

THE END