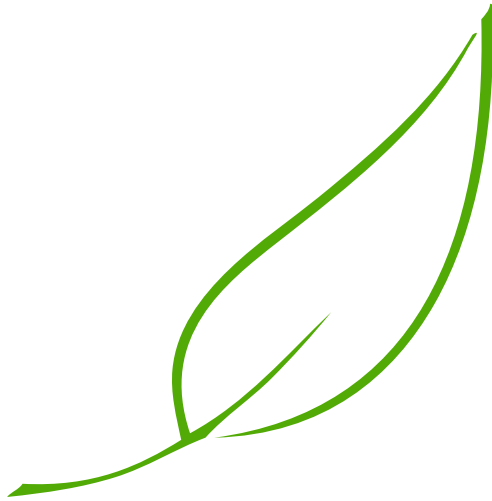


LIGHTS OUT!

by Ken Bradbury



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Okay! Okay, Mom! I'm goin' to bed already!

Geesh. Parents.

Yes' Mom, I'm goin' to bed ... right now. Really.

Huh? My light? Uh ... gosh, I didn't notice that it's still on. Uh ... yeh. I'll get it. Really. Okay! Okay! (*he shuts the door*)

What? Uh ... no Mom, I think my light's off. Oh gee! You mean I shut the door instead? Wow! How'd I make that mistake? Uh ... yeh. I'll ... uh ... I'll turn it off. (*he winces painfully as he reaches out and switches off the light then runs to jump in bed*)

(*a long silence as he lays there wide-eyed ... then softly*)

This is terrible. I hate it. (*he gets out of bed and talks to the audience*) Okay! I'm afraid of the dark, Okay? You wanna make somethin' of it? All right, tell me the truth. I want a show of hands here. How many of you used to take one huge step just as you got outa bed 'cause you were afraid that somethin' was gonna grab you from under the bed? (*holds his hand up*) Come on! Be honest? Let's see your hands! See!

Now tell the truth again. How many of you used to lie in bed and cover up everything except a little hole to breathe out of? Come on! Let's see your hands!

Okay! Then don't be laughin' at me for bein' afraid of the dark. It's not funny! It is *not* funny!

So whatta you got in your closet? Tell the truth. Whatta you think you *might* have in the closet of your bedroom? I'll tell you what I got in mine ... I don't know. I mean, in broad daylight I've got shoes and pants and shirts and a whole bunch of hangers tangled up down at the end, and about two pounds of lint and dust in the bottom ... but at night. At night ... baby, that's a whole different story.

You ever heard of the Lint Monster? Huh? Durin' the day it's just a big ball of lint but once the lights go out, it starts ... movin'! It starts shiftn' around and foamin' at the mouth,



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LIGHTS OUT

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