

LILITH

BY ALFONZO SOLOMON KAHLIL

909.273.1861

alfonzokahlil@gmail.com

alfonzokahlil.com

Insta: alfonzokahlil

LILITH: THE PARALYZED
RAMIEL: THE PARALYZED

the dead of night. a dark room. silence. RAMIEL rests, but unfruitfully. tossing. turning. seeking but not finding. a presence is felt. RAMIEL'S closet door slips open with intention. LILITH, a soft terror, pours from it. daemon of sleep. RAMIEL shoots up and stares transfixed at LILITH, unable to move. LILITH speaks as she is summoned from the dark.

LILITH

What is the night but a placeholder for the restless? The interim between the Day and the Body. You wish for a quiet mind. You wish for a peaceful morning. But there is just your body, waiting for the pin to drop. For the bomb to explode. For the heart to pound. For the blood to boil. For the temper to erupt. For the thought to erode. For the dam to burst. For the clock to tick. For the call. For the lover. For the water that relieves.

Do you feel it? The terror you call sweat?

RAMIEL

Let me go.

LILITH

Let me in.

RAMIEL

You can't have my body.

LILITH

Then give me your soul.

RAMIEL

You can't have me.

LILITH

I don't want you. Just all that is yours.

RAMIEL

This isn't real.

LILITH

Then try to wake up.

RAMIEL struggles to move

RAMIEL

Paralysis?

LILITH
Foreplay. The calm before the chaos.

RAMIEL
You're a Demon.

LILITH
I'm Lilith.

RAMIEL
I'm familiar with Demons.

LILITH
Are you, Ramiel?

RAMIEL
You know me?

LILITH
I get closer every night.

RAMIEL
Get away.

LILITH steps closer

LILITH
That's not how intimacy works.

RAMIEL
You call this intimacy?

LILITH
Intimacy is proximity. Violence can be intimate.

LILITH stands over RAMIEL

LILITH
Fear can be intimate too. See how close we are?

face to face

LILITH
That's what I call a *bond*.

RAMIEL
I'm sorry.

LILITH
I'm not.

RAMIEL
For how lonely you are.

LILITH
Excuse me?

RAMIEL
You reek of loneliness.

LILITH steps back

LILITH
We all get lonely.

RAMIEL
We don't all get company.

LILITH
The dark keeps me company.

RAMIEL
And here you are in *my* company.

LILITH
I'm here to eat your soul.

RAMIEL
I can't move.

LILITH
So you can't get away.

RAMIEL
So I can't *reject* you.

LILITH
You cannot refuse the dark.

RAMIEL
Every night you're here. Every night you leave. But every day *I'm*
alive.

LILITH
For now.

RAMIEL
You could've been ate my soul.

LILITH
You're not seasoned enough.

RAMIEL
What do you want from me?

LILITH
To savor your trepidation.

RAMIEL
There is no Fear in my body.

LILITH
I know.

RAMIEL
Then why are you here?

LILITH
To know more.

RAMIEL
I need more.

LILITH
Do you know what it feels like to be trapped inside your own vessel?

RAMIEL
By a Demon like you?

LILITH
By a Demon like Fear! By a Demon like Anxiety! By a Demon like your own Mind. I've gorged more fear laced souls than you can count! I witnessed men regress to babes in my presence! I mutated their cries to deaf prayers! I've feasted on dread for a millennia and I will be satiated for another! And another! And another. And another. I know all the Horrors the night can conjure because I am the Conjured and the Conjurer. But Peace is a foreign taste. Calm is a neglectful palette. So why does your soul resist the song of the night? Why is a

sleep paralysis demon *paralyzed* by her own emotions? I *need* to understand why you, curious human, can sleep at night, and I can't.

RAMIEL

Real Horror comes from within, not the night. Not you. I met all my Demons in the daylight; and saw how small their frames really were. There's a reason why you came for me during my sleep. I'm quite frightful when I'm awake.

LILITH

I do not fear you.

RAMIEL

Are you sure?

RAMIEL rises from the bed

LILITH

Stay away.

RAMIEL steps closer

LILITH backs closer to the closet

RAMIEL

That's not how intimacy works.

LILITH

I'll kill you.

RAMIEL

Death can be intimate.

LILITH

Don't come any closer.

another step

RAPHIEL

I've died more times than you can count. Spiritually, emotionally, mentally, you name it.

LILITH

I don't want to be known. Not by you.

another step

RAPHIEL

Understanding is intimacy too, Lilith. If you want to kill all your demons, then you must give them *compassion*.

LILITH
NO.

RAPHIEL
You must give them *mercy*.

the edge of the closet.

LILITH
Don't make me go back.

RAMIEL
You must give them light.

LILITH
Don't make me feel small again.

a choice.

RAMIEL
I won't. I'm sorry, Lilith. When I healed, I should've brought you with me. I won't do that again. I promise.

*another step. RAMIEL and LILITH fall into the closet together. all is
silence once more. only the dark remains.*