

A CTHALL FROM CTHULHU  
(Or 'Guess Who's Coming For Dinner')

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## CHARACTERS

CTHULHU

One of the Great Old Ones, Cthulhu is a gigantic, octopus-headed entity with a heretofore unknown predilection for sappy poetry and romantic evenings.

BINITA

A pleasant Indian woman who is about to find out that her daughter Brittany might be keeping a few secrets from her.

## SETTING

The front porch of a house on Halloween.

*(Cthulhu, a humanoid beast with a tentacled head wanders up to a house. He's got a slip of paper in a hand, which it checks against the address on the house then discards. He is humming 'Love and Marriage' to himself.)*

CTHULHU

Bum ba baah dum, bum ba baah dum, go together like a... Hrmph. Bum ba baah dum, bum ba baah dum, go together like a corpse and...

*(It's reached the door, rang the bell, and the door opens. Binita, a smiling Indian woman, answers. Cthulhu starts up the humming again as she speaks, always stopping to say 'no' where 'carriage' would go, so we're not sure if he's listening to her or just rejecting lyrics.)*

BINITA

Awww. Look Sahv, the Hastings boy is dressed up like a... what are you supposed to be, dear? A squid?

CTHULHU

No.

BINITA

Well, whatever you are, it's very clever. *(She holds out a bowl of candy.)* But I bet you're here for some caaaandyyy....

CTHULHU

No.

BINITA

*(Taken aback...)*

No? Okay, then what can I do for you?

CTHULHU

I'm here for... What rhymes with 'monster'?

BINITA

What?

CTHULHU

Monster. I need a rhyme for monster. I'm stuck. Bombster... First responster... I can't think of anything good.

BINITA

Uh... Lobster?

*(Cthulhu shakes his head angrily.)*

Or maybe 'ensconced her'?

CTHULHU

*(Suddenly optimistic, he liltily tries it to the music of the third line...)*

Til my scaly mandibles ensconced her... *(Suddenly very happy.)* Perfect! Just for that, you can keep your brain.

BINITA

I...

CTHULHU

I'm here for Idh-yaa *(pronounced with lots of guttural sounds)*. Is she ready?

BINITA

What?

CTHULHU

They always keep you waiting. Just tell her Cthulhu's here. And I'm hungry. So hurry.

BINITA

I don't know anyone named *(trying to reproduce the sounds...)* Idh-yaa.

CTHULHU

Oh, please. You can't miss her. Huge pale worm with gnashing— *(He suddenly smacks himself on the head.)* Sorry. Wrong planet. Where am I?

BINITA

Texas.

CTHULHU

Texas? Don't tell me this is the Yig and Yidhra residence. *(Heavy sigh.)* Very well. She's probably going by the name *(lots more guttural sounds...)* Ari'lg.

BINITA

There's nobody here by that name.

CTHULHU

Don't worry about the name. Is there anyone inside that's, say, a huge faceless leviathan with appendages sprouting from her head? No? She may have an egg-shaped body with oozing horns and fish-like fins.

*(Binita shakes her head again in concern and confusion.)*

Alright. Well, who is there?

BINITA

Just me and my husband Sahven and—

CTHULHU

Ahh, Hindu. I understand. You would probably know her as Kali, Destroyer of Worlds. Please tell her that I'm here. Oh, and that I have theater tickets, so she should get a move on. Well, go on.

BINITA

There's no one here like that. Just me, Sahven, and our daughter Brittany.

CTHULHU

No one else?

BINITA

No one.

CTHULHU

What about this Brittany? Could that be her? Is she a pool of oozing pus, or a larva-like monstrosity with segmented talons and flaming nostrils?

BINITA

No.

CTHULHU

Well, can I see her for a moment? I'd hate to have come all this way. And I've composed a very nice little song that—

BINITA

I assure you Brittany is *not* who you're looking for. She's a very ordinary teenage girl.

CTHULHU

Where is she?

BINITA

She's upstairs in her room playing with her cats, Nctosa and Nctolhu.

*(Cthulhy stares at her questioninglly.)*

Well yes, they are funny names for kittens, I know, but children these days are—

CTHULHU

Brittany, you say?

BINITA

Yes.

CTHULHU

Goes by the alias of 'Raging Chaos' on social media?

BINITA

*(A little surprised...)*

Uh, yes. Actually, I think she—

CTHULHU

That's her.

*(He holds out a corsage-like object made of wiggly tentacles, bits of bone, and other horrific constructs.)*

Just give her this corsage and tell her I'll be waiting by the dimensional transport vortex. *(Then as an afterthought...)* Thank you.

*(Cthulhu turns to leave. Lights out.)*