

2012 第1回 New Storyteller コンテスト

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To Know is To Die

Y.Rider

There was an ordinary junior high school student whose name was Ken Hongo.



One day he was called on by his science teacher, Mr. Analein, in class. Ken had been thinking that Mr. Analein was very kind to him and gentle.



When Mr. Analein walked up to him, he felt something was wrong with his teacher. He couldn't hear Mr. Analein's breathing. He also noticed Mr. Analein's hand was very cold. It was hard to believe, but maybe he was not human. Maybe he was an alien!!



That night, he called Mr. Analein and asked if he was an alien. Ken expected that his teacher would laugh and say "Of course not." But his teacher said, "Oh, you've discovered my secret. Now, I have to kill you soon. Sorry, but you have only a short time to live." "But..." "No ifs, ands, or buts! I have to obey my planet's law."

Since that day, his worry became bigger and bigger. He was thinking about his teacher's words day in and day out. He was so nervous that he couldn't even talk to his friends.





Now, his friends didn't try to talk to him either, and he became lonelier and lonelier.



When he saw himself in the mirror a week after the day he called Mr. Analein, he noticed that his face had been becoming uglier, more like an alien's. He was in a daze for a while.

He didn't have enough courage to go to school with an alien face. So he sat on the sofa in his home alone all morning. At 1:11 p.m. he was taken by aliens to their space ship.



When he regained consciousness, he was in a center of a bright hall. Many aliens were staring at him. It was so quiet that he could hear his own heartbeat. The next moment, he couldn't hear or see or feel anything. He had been killed.

The Reason

President

My name is Jack. I used to be a famous writer many years ago, but now I am a typical father.

Yesterday my son asked me, “Why did you stop writing?” So I started to answer, “It is a strange story, but it’s true....”



When I was young, I lived in the countryside. I wrote many fantasy stories there.

I was very busy writing stories.



One day, I was writing a mystery story. In the story, a woman named Mary was killed by someone. That was the first time I wrote about murder. I felt a little scared when I was writing the murder scene, but the story was going well. That afternoon, a strange thing happened.

While I was taking a break, the door to my room opened by itself. I thought it was weird, but I didn’t care since I was so tired.





The next day I finished writing the mystery story. I thought the story was nice. While I was reading the story to check for mistakes, the door to my room opened by itself and a cold wind blew into the room.

Suddenly, a tall woman appeared in front of me shouting something. “Why? Why did you kill me in the story?” the woman asked me. I was very surprised because the woman was Mary, one of the characters in the mystery story.



“Mary, you can’t be here. You aren’t a real person,” I answered and closed my eyes in fear.



When I opened my eyes, Mary had already disappeared. Then I threw the pieces of paper with the mystery story away, because I was very scared of the story.



“That’s why I stopped writing,” I told my son. “I can still remember Mary’s angry face,” I said. But you know I used to be a famous fantasy writer. And I think I’m still good at making up stories. The story I told my son yesterday was nice one.

Greed

FAX TANIMOTO

There was a little girl whose name was Rin, and she was a witch. She had tried to tell that to her family, but she couldn't do it. One day she decided to tell them.



“Hey everyone! Listen to me! I’m a witch!” she said. “Are you a witch!?! No way! Ha ha!” everyone said. “Now I will cause a power cut!” she said. Everyone said, “Shut u...Oh!?”

The lights turned off by themselves. “It really happened! It’s scary! Aaaugh!”
“Didn’t you understand? I’m a witch!”



Then her father lighted a candle. “I’m sorry for laughing at you. By the way, will you grant our wishes?” “Umm, OK. We aren’t very rich. So I will make the room gorgeous!”

Suddenly lights turned on, and the room became richer than before. “Wow! That’s wonderful!” Mother said.





Then they said their wishes one after another. “I want brand-name goods!” Sister said. “I want to eat expensive food!” Father said. “I want a new fishing rod!” Brother said. “Now now, I will grant your wishes, but please grant my wish,” Rin said.

“It’s playing with me at the beach...,” she said. “Yes of course,” they replied. Then they went there. But they only cared about their wishes, so they just waited. Rin knew that. “After all, people just care about what they want. I hate people! Now I should go back to the magic world,” she thought.



She made a sand castle “Good bye, family. The sand castle is like me. It will be swallowed by the waves and forgotten. I will also be forgotten like it.”

Rin went back to the magic world. Then the sand castle was swallowed by the waves. About 30 minutes later, Rin’s family noticed Rin was not there. “Where is Rin!?” They looked for her again and again, but they couldn’t find her.

“Oh no! She isn’t here! Our dream can’t come true!” Father and sister and brother cried. “We just cared about what we wanted. Maybe Rin knew that, so she went back to her real home. We are fools.”



“She taught us the law of life,” Mother said. They just looked at the sand castle which was being swallowed.

My crime

Lycoris

“... I won't ever forgive you. I will kill you right now.” “Help!! Help!!” I woke up. It was two o'clock. “Oh, I had a bad dream....” I said to myself. In my dream, a woman who had a bloody knife looked at me and said, “You killed me! I won't ever forgive you. I will kill you right now,” and she tried to kill me. I had often had the dream recently. I wanted to think that it was just a dream. But I couldn't.

I was frightened that the dream would come true....



Five years ago, I lived in an old house with my wife and my little daughter. I worked for a big company, but I was fired. I was very angry with the company and was going crazy. My wife was kind to me, but I thought, “She is laughing at me in her heart. She will leave me soon,” because I couldn't

believe anyone then.

One day, she said to me, “Don't you want to work again? You always stay in your room and watch TV.” Then I was very angry with her and said, “Oh, you look down on me! You don't love me anymore. You hate me!” I was crazy at that time, I think. I took a knife from the kitchen and I killed my wife. My daughter saw that, so she began to cry. She said, “Mom! Mom!” again and again. I thought that she'd go to the police and tell everything. I was afraid. So I killed my daughter too.

I committed a big crime. Luckily, my wife and her family hated each other and hadn't been in contact for a long time, so no one was able to discover the murder. I didn't want to go to prison, so I buried their bodies under a tree in the yard. And I have lived in the house alone until today.





Until recently, I didn't think about the murder. But now, I was thinking of my crime because of the dream. I remembered five years ago clearly. I thought and thought, and then I decided to go to the yard, where my wife and daughter were buried.

It was midnight, so the yard was dark. I had a light in my hand.



Suddenly, I heard a strange noise from the tree. I looked at the tree and almost screamed! My wife and daughter were there. But they didn't have legs. They were ghosts. I couldn't believe it!! I wanted to think it was a dream, but it wasn't. I couldn't say anything. I just stared at them. Then my wife's ghost said, "Long time no see. You didn't remember me for five years." "Well, sorry. I'm... I'm sorry for everything I did," I said to her. I couldn't see her

face, but her voice was soft. "You killed me and my daughter. That is a big crime, you know. But I am not angry with you because you were crazy then. And you are fine now, I think. You are here because you were thinking about your crime, right? I'm glad that you're here now." I was very surprised. I thought she wouldn't forgive me. She continued, "But I also think you must pay for your crime." "Yes, I know. I'll go to police tomorrow," I answered. Then she smiled at me, and she and her daughter disappeared.

So now, I'm in the police station. I told the police everything. The policeman listened to my story silently. When my story was finished, he asked me, "Why did you decide to come to the police station?" And I answered, "Because my wife said so." -The end-



Mike 先生からのコメント

To Know is To Die

This is an exciting science fiction story with a lot of detail. The writer describes Ken Hongo's confused feelings very well. There is also some nice humor, such as the name, "Mr. Analein."

The Reason

This is an excellent mystery/horror story, and the twist at the end is a great surprise. Jack is obviously a quick thinker with an active imagination, and his son must have heard a lot of exciting stories while growing up.

Greed

This story is an interesting mix of many different elements, because it is a family story and a fantasy and it also has an important moral. The witch disappearing like a sand castle is a memorable image.

My crime

The writer of this ghost story does a great job describing the man's feelings, such as his crazy anger at the time of the murder and his guilt five years later. It's a nice surprise that the ghost is not angry at the man.

宮下先生からのコメント

To Know is To Die

見抜く力があつたがゆえに、殺されてしまったケン。一貫してドキドキする緊張感がたまらない作品。文章には巧みに授業で習った単語を入れながら、よいテンポを保った秀作。

The Reason

真実はいかに？人間の杞憂かもしれない本質的な恐れが現実に。プロットがしっかり組まれたお話で、読み手を飽きさせず最後の一語まで楽しめる。

Greed

人間にとって本当に大切なものは何なのか、気づいてからでは遅いという心の重みを問う作品。自分がどうありたいかを改めて考えさせられる。文章の長さを変えることで雰囲気が出ている。

My crime

会話のテンポがよくなじみやすいこの作品は、潜在意識の中にある、後悔の念や人間の貪欲さなどを見抜いたものである。決め台詞もよい。

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