FUGUE

by LAURA ELIZABETH MILLER

CHARACTERS
AMY - An eight year old girl
GLADYCE - A ten year old girl
LIZZIE - A seven year old girl
HARRY - A man

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[As the lights rise AMY can be seen twirling slowly, enjoying the swish of her skirt. LIZZY plays with a doll and GLADYCE reads a book. HARRY watches.]

AMY
When I was eight, I was murdered.

LIZZY
I was only seven.

GLADYCE
I was ten and should have known better.

AMY
I was wearing my favorite blue dress.

LIZZY
And playing with Disco Barbie!

GLADYCE
I was reading Nancy Drew.

AMY
I didn’t know it then.

GLADYCE
I later found out—

AMY
He was watching me from his window.

GLADYCE
For days he watched me from his window.

AMY
Sitting in his yellow chair.

LIZZY
He sat in an old yellow chair. And he had a kitty on his knee.
One foot pressing against the floor.

Rocking.

Rocking.

But before he started watching—

I found out later before he started watching—

He dug lots of little holes.

Holes and holes and holes!

He dug hundreds of holes.

Under the house.

In Mrs. Stuart’s flowerbed where he saw his cat take a shit.

Around the roots of my daddy’s pecan tree!

And in these holes—

One little piece at a time—

He buried me.
LIZZY
And me.

AMY
First my hands.

GLADYCE
Then my neck. I didn’t know you could separate the head from the neck and the neck from the shoulders.

AMY
But you can.

GLADYCE
He buried me and forgot.

AMY
He buried me and forgot.

LIZZY
And me.

AMY
But first—

[The girls scatter to their original positions. One girl twirling. One girl playing with her doll. The other reading.]

HARRY
Hello, Amy.

AMY
Hello.

HARRY
Hello, Lizzy.

LIZZY
Hi.

HARRY
I’m Harry. Isn’t your name Gladyce? I’m a friend of your mom’s.
I’ve never seen you before.

GLADYCE

I’m an old friend.

HARRY

What’s her name then?

GLADYCE

Julie.

HARRY

Well, bye now.

AMY

Where are you going Amy?

HARRY

I wasn’t going to say anymore.

AMY

I was going to run.

GLADYCE

But then Harry said—

LIZZY

I have some kittens. I found them. They’re in a box in my garage. Would you like to see them? You can take one home if you want to.

HARRY

Kitties?

LIZZY

That’s right.

HARRY

Really?

LIZZY

I found some kittens. They’re in my garage. There’s four of them. Would you like to see them?
AMY
What color are they?

HARRY
One is white. Another is an orange tabby. My favorite is the black one. Do you want me to show you?

GLADYCE
I don’t think my mom would like me talking to you. I need to go home.

AMY
I should have gone home.

LIZZY
I didn’t think of going home.

HARRY
She said it would be okay if you came over. I could show you my parakeet.

GLADYCE
When did you talk to her?

HARRY
I called her this afternoon. She said you could come over and see my pets because you love animals. You love animals, don’t you?

AMY
Yes! I sure do! I have a dog. His name is Chew Toy!

HARRY
I know. He’s a big black dog.

LIZZY
He’s a lab! You’ve seen him? Out your window?

HARRY
I sure have.

GLADYCE
I don’t have a dog. And I thought you had a cat. Not a bird.

AMY
When did you call my mom?
Today.

While she was at work?

That’s right.

You called my mom?

I found her number in the phone book.

Okay.

He took my hand.

He was wearing gloves.

He had on funny gloves.

They were made of rubber.

But they weren’t yellow like mommy’s. They were black.

Up here—

From up here—

You see a lot from this view.
AMY
You see a lot that you can’t see when you’re below.

GLADYCE
He was smiling.

AMY
And I don’t know why, but—

GLADYCE
I felt a little sick inside.

LIZZY
Let’s go see the kitties, can we?

HARRY
Of course. Here. Hold my hand.

LIZZY
Why are you wearing gloves?

GLADYCE
It wasn’t cold.

AMY
It was warm.

HARRY
Because my hands get cold.

LIZZY
Oh.

AMY
But somehow kitties made up for everything.

GLADYCE
Kitties made me curious.

LIZZY
Kitties!
AMY
I thought, maybe, just for a second…

GLADYCE
I thought I would leave, after a minute.

LIZZY
I wanted to go. He had kitties.

GLADYCE
Why do you have dirt on your knees?

HARRY
I’ve been working in my garden.

LIZZY
Your knees are really dirty.

HARRY
I’ve been digging.

AMY
What for?

HARRY
It’s like a little grave.

LIZZY
Did something die?

HARRY
Yes.

GLADYCE
I should have run. I might—

AMY
If only I had run—

GLADYCE
Instead—
LIZZY
A kitty?

HARRY
I think it was sick. Do you still want to see the others?

GLADYCE
Are they sick too?

AMY
The cats are sick?

HARRY
No. I don’t think so.

GLADYCE
Why was I so concerned about cats?

AMY
Well, okay. I want to see them.

GLADYCE
Never mind. I don’t want to see them.

AMY
We walked on the sidewalk together. He held my hand and gave me a piece of candy.

LIZZY
He gave me candy and we were friends.

GLADYCE
I tried to walk away but—

AMY
He started squeezing my hand.

LIZZY
He petted the top of my head like this!

GLADYCE
Let me go!
This is my house.

You live really close to me.

Let’s go inside.

My tummy twisted.

Intuition.

You said the kitties were in the garage.

I made a little coffin for the one that died. It’s in my kitchen.

Intuition.

I’m scared.

Stomach twisting.

I think I should go home.

Help me bury her.

No! I wanna go home.

Alright. I’ll bury her later. Let’s go to the garage.
AMY
It was a girl?

HARRY
Yes. A little girl. Are you sure you don’t want to see her?

LIZZY
I’m sure.

AMY
He grabbed my hand.

GLADYCE
He dragged me around the corner.

AMY
I tried to walk faster to keep up.

LIZZY
Wait for me.

HARRY
Here, you go in first. I’ll turn on the light.

LIZZY
I’m scared of the dark.

AMY
Where are they?

HARRY
In the corner. Can’t you hear them crying?

AMY
There was nothing.

GLADYCE
Just my heart pounding in my ears.

LIZZY
Kitty? Kitty?
A light snapped on.

I was blinded.

I can’t see!

I turned—

He held me tight.

He slapped me across the face.

The brass chain from the light bulb danced above his head.

Look at the chain dance!

Too late.

I was too late.

He pushed me down.

I don’t want to see them!

Mommy!
Mama!  

He pushed me into the wall.  

I want my—  

He hit me again.  

I couldn’t move.  

Stop! Please!  

I saw a flash.  

Something flashed.  

I saw silver.  

Oh my God!  

Please God!  

A knife.  

A blade.  

What are you doing?
I’m dying.  

GLADYCE

I’m dying.  

AMY

Close your eyes.  

HARRY

Why?  

LIZZY

So it won’t hurt.  

HARRY

And it was over.  

AMY

It came so quick.  

GLADYCE

He kissed me.  

AMY

Then he put the knife here.  

GLADYCE

Here.  

AMY

Here.  

LIZZY

I was gone.  

AMY

Gone.  

GLADYCE

Gone?  

LIZZY
Yes.

I was so small.

I never realized how little I was.

Look. A little girl. It’s me.

It is you.

I’m Gladyce. This is Amy.

My name is Lizzy.

Hold my hand.

Why is he kissing me?

I think he’s saying goodbye.

He kissed my nose.

My lips.

What will he do with me?

He buried my knees next to my mother’s front step. He did it in the middle of the night.
He’ll put you away.

In little holes?

In little holes.

In damned little holes!

Then he will forget.

He will forget.

His memory is broken?

He’ll look out his window.

He’ll forget and look out his window.

Out his window…

Again.

END