

## Diana Raab - A Child's Fear

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## A Child's Fear

My fear of the dark began on a winter evening at the age of eight,

when I walked down the creaky wooden stairs of my childhood home headed to the kitchen for an apple.

When I looked to the snow-filled yard, under the full moon, my eyes caught a clown-like figure.

With onyx dots for eyes, a woolen mask was slipped over his face. Behind him, a large shadow on the sparkling snow.

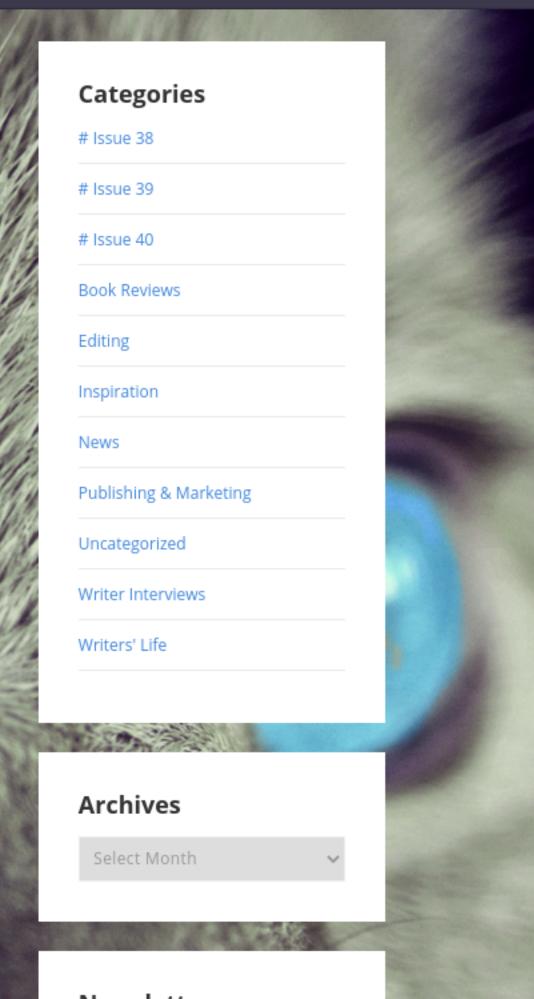
Was he a ghost looking like a joker?

He jumped from side to side and signaled me towards him. I wanted to run away, but still hovered between a child's curiosity and an adult's fear.

My instincts made me run.

I scurried back upstairs, so fast, the railing burning my hand. At the top of the stairs, I peered down the dark stairwell was the swooshing sound the joker or the wind?

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Safe in my room, I landed in the arms of my Tiny Tears doll holding space on my bed.

My doll was the only one I ever trusted. The next day, my therapist tells me I am afraid of my shadow.

## Bio

Diana Raab, PhD, is an award-winning memoirist, poet, blogger, speaker, and author of 10 books and is a contributor to numerous journals and anthologies. Raab's two memoirs are "Regina's Closet: Finding My Grandmother's Secret Journal," and "Healing With Words: A Writer's Cancer Journey."

Her two latest books are, "Writing for Bliss: A Seven-Step Plan for Telling Your Story and Transforming Your Life," and "Writing for Bliss: A Companion Journal."

Visit: www.dianaraab.com.

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