

# Diana Raab – A Child’s Fear

April 3, 2021 | By [Sam](#) | # [Issue 40](#)

## 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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[# Issue 40](#)

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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](http://www.dianaraab.com).

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