

Short Story

by David G.

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Tyler Wood is a normal kid. He's a Brunette, 9 years old, and lives in a rural area. He's home-schooled and doesn't have any friends since the only neighbors live miles away. His father had died in a car crash but he's too young to understand. The only people he speaks to are his mother, and his imaginary friend, Dalton. His mother thinks that Tyler will grow out of the "Imaginary friend" stage but, for now she pretends Dalton is real.

One day Tyler asked his mother "Mommy, can I go to the backyard with Dalton?" "Sure , sweetie." And so, Tyler went outside in the backyard. The backyard was big and had a wood fence around it. The wood planks that made up the fence were old and had holes in them. But, Tyler's mother didn't care enough to buy new planks to replace the old ones. As Tyler was playing Chase with Dalton she was watching Tyler. She saw something strange. She swore it was her imagination but, in one of the holes of the fence-planks she saw an eye, A red eye. And just as she spotted it, it disappeared. "Dalton ,honey, come inside now..." She said, to which he replied, "But, mommy! I just started playing!" "Tyler, Get inside, RIGHT NOW!"

As Tyler walked inside, his mother locked the doors, windows, and anything else that could be used to get inside of the house. She told Tyler "Go to your room, sweetie. And stay there." He began to walk upstairs, to his room when his mother stopped him halfway up stairs. "Tyler..." She says. "Yeah, mommy?" Says Tyler. "What does Dalton look like..?" She asks. "Oh," He answers "He's urn... well, he's tall, he's got big feet, and he dresses up in clown clothes... oh yeah, and he has big, red eyes!"

"Tyler, we need to go to my room and lock the door, NOW." Tyler's mother says. They walk up the stairs, go into his mom's room and Tyler says "But mommy, why?" His mother asks him "Do you believe in Dalton, Tyler?" to which he replies "Yeah... why wouldn't I? I mean, he's in the closet right now, you can go check!" She stops. She panics. At this point, she doesn't know what to think anymore. She can't move, or speak. She's completely immobile. She waits, until Tyler says "Aren't you gonna check, mommy?" "Yeah... sure. ok, I will." She slowly, walks over to the closet door and pulls it open quickly. At first she sees nothing but, clothes and shoes. She turns around, back to Tyler and says "I don't see Dalton, honey... he must have left." But, then, Tyler

says "Good one, Dalton!" And points at the closet. His mother turns back around, and sees a tall man dressed in a clown outfit, with red eyes, just as Tyler had described. She sees him open his mouth and hears a raspy voice say "Nice to meet you, Ms. Wood."

She has no reaction. She can't respond. She's too shocked, and scared to react. Dalton steps out of the closet, and walks towards Tyler and puts his hand on his head, and says "Ms. Wood, I'm sorry to break it to you so suddenly, but, I'll be taking care of Tyler from now on." The only thing Tyler's mother can make out is a "N-NO!" But, it's no use. He's already holding Tyler's hand and taking him outside of the room. She's still immobile and hates herself for not being able to do anything. Just before Tyler and Dalton leave the room Dalton says "I'll take good care of him, Ms. Wood. I promise." And they walk out of the room. A few moments later, she hears the front door open and close. She feels all of her emotions piling up. Hatred, sadness, fear. All of them at once. Her eyes begin to tear up and she sits on her bed and begins to cry. Just a few moments after she she started crying, she heard the front door open again. She saw

Dalton walking upstairs, with something in his hand. A knife. He walked up to her and said "Goodbye, Ms. Wood. I'll try and make this as fast as possible. Thank you for taking care of Tyler for me this whole time. Goodbye." And he stabbed her, walked downstairs, and opened the front door. He looked at Tyler, who was sitting down in the grass and said, "Lefs go Tyler..." "Where to?" Tyler asked. Dalton pointed at a forest nearby and said "There. Let's stay there." And so, they walked into the forest to stay there until they die.

