

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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FUGUE

[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.

AMY

One foot pressing against the floor.

GLADYCE

Rocking.

LIZZY

Rocking.

AMY

But before he started watching—

GLADYCE

I found out later before he started watching—

AMY

He dug lots of little holes.

LIZZY

Holes and holes and holes!

GLADYCE

He dug hundreds of holes.

AMY

Under the house.

GLADYCE

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

LIZZY

Around the roots of my daddy's pecan tree!

AMY

And in these holes—

GLADYCE

One little piece at a time—

AMY

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?

HARRY

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. HARRY

While she was at work? AMY

That's right. HARRY

You called my mom? LIZZY

I found her number in the phone book. HARRY

Okay. LIZZY

He took my hand. AMY

He was wearing gloves. GLADYCE

He had on funny gloves. LIZZY

They were made of rubber. GLADYCE

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

Up here— GLADYCE

From up here— AMY

You see a lot from this view. GLADYCE

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!

HARRY
This is my house.

AMY
You live really close to me.

HARRY
Let's go inside.

AMY
My tummy twisted.

GLADYCE
Intuition.

LIZZY
You said the kitties were in the garage.

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

AMY
Intuition.

LIZZY
I'm scared.

GLADYCE
Stomach twisting.

AMY
I think I should go home.

HARRY
Help me bury her.

LIZZY
No! I wanna go home.

HARRY
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.

AMY

I was blinded.

GLADYCE

I can't see!

LIZZY

I turned—

AMY

He held me tight.

LIZZY

He slapped me across the face.

GLADYCE

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

AMY

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

GLADYCE

Look at the chain dance!

LIZZY

Too late.

AMY

I was too late.

GLADYCE

He pushed me down.

LIZZY

I don't want to see them!

AMY

Mommy!

LIZZY

Mama!

GLADYCE

He pushed me into the wall.

AMY

I want my—

LIZZY

He hit me again.

GLADYCE

I couldn't move.

AMY

Stop! Please!

LIZZY

I saw a flash.

GLADYCE

Something flashed.

AMY

I saw silver.

LIZZY

Oh my God!

GLADYCE

Please God!

AMY

A knife.

GLADYCE

A blade.

AMY

What are you doing?

LIZZY

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

	HARRY
Yes.	
	AMY
I was so small.	
	GLADYCE
I never realized how little I was.	
	LIZZY
Look. A little girl. It's me.	
	AMY
It is you.	
	GLADYCE
I'm Gladyce. This is Amy.	
	LIZZY
My name is Lizzy.	
	AMY
Hold my hand.	
	LIZZY
Why is he kissing me?	
	AMY
I think he's saying goodbye.	
	GLADYCE
He kissed my nose.	
	AMY
My lips.	
	LIZZY
What will he do with me?	
	GLADYCE
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.	AMY
In little holes?	LIZZY
In little holes.	AMY
In damned little holes!	GLADYCE
Then he will forget.	AMY
He will forget.	GLADYCE
His memory is broken?	LIZZY
He'll look out his window.	AMY
He'll forget and look out his window.	GLADYCE
Out his window...	LIZZY
Again.	AMY

END