

SKRIKER. Or how you make poisons?

LILY. What?

SKRIKER.

You people are killing me, do you know that? I am sick, I am a sick woman. Keep your secrets, I'll find out some other way, I don't need to know these things, there are plenty of other things to know. Just so long as you know I'm dying, I hope that satisfies you to know I'm in pain.

LILY.

Are you ill? Can I help? / Can I get something?

SKRIKER.

No no no, forget it. Really.

LILY.

You're in pain?

SKRIKER.

Not at all, no, I'm just fine, forget it. I don't have much aptitude for science. I guess you don't either. No big deal. We can just watch what comes over.

*Pause.*

LILY.

You feel all right?

SKRIKER.

You are a sweet girl. You are just such a sweet girl.

*Pause.*

Running away from home is a great start. I did it myself. It can get to be a habit. You keeping the baby?

LILY.

Yes of course.

SKRIKER.

Because I'm looking for one, no I'm kidding. Look at it floating in the dark with its pretty empty head upside down, not knowing what's waiting for it. It's been so busy doubling doubling and now it's just hovering nicely decorating itself with hair and toenails. But once it's born it starts again, double double, but this time the mind, think of the energy in that. Maybe I could be the godmother.

LILY.

You're staying in London?

SKRIKER.

Do you have friends in London?

LILY.

No but -

SKRIKER.

You now have one friend in London. And I have one friend in London -

LILY.

Yes yes I do want to be friends. I just -

*Pause.*

SKRIKER.

Anyone would think you were frightened of me. I'm frightened of you.

LILY.

You're the one Josie said.

SKRIKER.

But I want to be friends.

LILY.

Why am I frightening?

SKRIKER.

Lily, I'll level with you, ok? You ready for this? I am an ancient fairy, I am hundreds of years old as you people would work it out, I have been around through all the stuff you would call history, that's cavaliers and roundheads, Henry the eighth, 1066 and before that, back when the Saxons feasted, the Danes invaded, the Celts hunted, you know about any of this stuff? Alfred and the cakes, Arthur and the table, long before that, long before England was an idea, a country of snow and wolves where trees sang and birds talked and people knew we mattered, I don't to be honest remember such a time but I like to think it was so, it should have been, I need to think it, don't contradict me please. That's what I am, one of many, not a major spirit but a spirit.

LILY.

And why are you here?

SKRIKER.

I am here to do good. I am good. You look as if you doubt that.

LILY.

No, of course not.

SKRIKER.

I am a good fairy.

LILY.

You do good magic?

SKRIKER.

That's exactly what I do.

LILY.

And you'll do it for me?

SKRIKER.

Where do you think your money comes from?

LILY.

I'm not ungrateful.

SKRIKER.

You're the one I've chosen out of everyone in the world.