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IT'S ONLY 8 DAYS UNTIL Halloween

## The Tapping in the Living Room

M. Stevens

The newest episode of Criminal Minds played quietly in the background as Lola nodded off to sleep. She nuzzled into the quilt she had cocooned herself in, and laid down on the couch in her sorority's living room. It was the end of the school year, but Lola and two other sisters wouldn't move out for another week yet. The sudden noise of footsteps coming down the stairs woke Lola from her light sleep. She assumed it was one of the other girls still in the house. The house was old, and the stairs were loud.

"Who's there?" Lola called out. No one answered. The house was completely dark except for the soft glow of the television. Even though the doors were locked and the girls were the only ones home, it was still creepy.

They're probably just messing with me. Lola thought. She huffed, and unwound herself from the quilt. Her socked feet padded along the floor as she rounded the corner to see which one of her housemates was playing this stupid joke on her. It was probably Kyla. She was always messing around with the other sisters. It wouldn't be Sherry, she was too sweet to even think about scaring anyone.

As Lola rounded the corner to the stairs, she peered into the darkness. She thought she saw a shadow, but only for a moment. Neither Kyla nor Sherry were



there. Lola felt a small pit open up in her stomach, but quickly chased the feeling away.

"It's nothing, Lola. You're just imagining things." She said to herself. She ran her fingers through her hair and decided it was probably time for her to get some actual sleep. Lola turned to go back to the living room and shut off the T.V. A few steps in, she froze. Someone was tapping on the wall of the living room. She couldn't see anyone, as she was still behind the corner, but she could hear it. In a weird way, Lola could feel it. Her heartbeat quickened as ice ran through her veins.

Tap. Tap. Tap-tap. Tap.







M. Stevens

Lola's trance was broken by a scream from the second floor. She turned and charged up the stairs. Sherry's door swung open and she ran into the long, narrow hallway. "What's going on?" Lola yelled, panicking now. Before Sherry could answer, banging came from the bedroom at the end of the hall. Kyla was pounding on the door and screaming for help.

Lola ran to the door and tried to open it.

"It's locked!" She screamed.

"Move!" Sherry instructed. She started throwing her body against the door, trying to knock it inwards.

"It won't move!" Sherry and Lola were both crying now, while Kyla continued to scream. "What do we-" Lola started, but was cut off. The screaming had stopped, and the door swung open into the room. The girls stared silently as Kyla's dead body fell into the hallway. Lola heard the footsteps again, except this time they were coming up the stairs. She heard the

sound from the living room, too. Sherry and Lola hugged each other tightly as the footsteps continued upwards, and the sound from the living room grew louder.

Tap. Tap. Tap-tap. Tap.

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