

2019

## Something in the Ceiling

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### Recommended Citation

Franklin, Anna E., "Something in the Ceiling" (2019). *Knight Terror*. 11.  
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/horrorshort/11>

## Something in the Ceiling

Mia jogs up the sidewalk into the entrance of the library while pulling her hair into a tight ponytail. The library doors swipe open as the sun sets over the reflection pond.

*Okay, I'm reading three more chapters and then I'll go home.*

The front desk is empty with computers still on and documents open. She ignores the lack of welcome and heads straight back to the chair in the corner. She sits down and starts to pull out her computer and notebook. She looks up from her backpack and glances around. The entire floor is empty.

*Is the library closed? What time is it? Where is everyone?*

Mia looks over to the bookcases and notices books on the ground scattered and overturned. Notebooks, pencils, and computers seem to be left unoccupied and carelessly on the floor. She starts to pack up her computer when she hears a creaking coming from the floor above her.

*Where is everyone?*

She stands up to leave and the lights flicker. She quickens her pace. The lights then shut off completely and she can feel the emptiness of the room. The darkness hangs around her. She starts running.

The creaking starts again and she pauses midstep.

*Something is here.*

Dust starts to fall from the ceiling and the sound travels closer to the middle of the room right above where she is standing.

*It's in the ceiling.*

Mia spots the sliding doors of the library waiting for her at the entrance and holds her breath. The creature has stopped moving.

Mia tightens her grip on her backpack as she bolts. The creature starts climbing through the ceiling and the tiles shake under its weight. The drywall breaks under the creature and it crashes to the ground and spots Mia running towards the exit. It lets out a bloodcurdling screech as she covers her ears and freezes in her spot. She turns back to see it standing in the middle of the library. It's back is heaving with its breath and its scales tremble. It starts crawling as she tries to put one foot in front of the other to make it out of the library alive. She steps onto the doormat and waits for the them to open. She pounds her foot impatiently.

*The powers out.*

She screams out in frustration and swings around to look for any sort of exit. She becomes increasingly desperate as the creature crawls closer and closer. She can finally see the entire creature. It's eyes are black slits on the side of its head. Tufts of fur line its stomach and a long tail slides back and forth across the floor. It's jaw opens to show rows of teeth that goes deep into the pit of its mouth.

The creature stands on its hind legs a foot away from Mia. She can feel her legs shaking and her breath catches in her throat. A growl emits from its mouth as the creature lunges at her throat.