

A girl wakes before dawn to a quiet house, shrouded in darkness.

A crowbar is hidden under her bed, the physical symbol of her anxiety.

She washes her face in cold water to make her alert and ready.

The cold water makes her feel present in the moment.

She is haunted by the past while simultaneously worried about the future.

A chair is propped up against her door; she is not allowed to have a lock.

She moves through the house wordlessly so she will not disturb others.

Her emotions are most raw in the morning, unable to control her reactions.

She finally makes it to the car and drives to school in silence.

School is not far away and she has no reason to be there early.

She parks and turns off the engine, but does not go inside.

The air is brisk, but she does not mind...

It feels safer to sleep in the car.