

Ashton Glidden

Ms. Barklow

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Monsters & Misfits

The American Gaslight

The year was 2007, in a small neighborhood in the outskirts of New York. Monica, a brown haired woman with brown eyes, came home one day after picking her daughter up from school. Her daughter, Rachel, was a sweet innocent child, looking as if she was little Cindy Lou Who from *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. Little did she know, she was being followed home. Her follower had known her through her husband, Gordon, who was his past psychologist. Michael, the follower who portrayed the image of that of a human version of a pug, had issues deep inside that had stemmed from his ex wife, Martha, a black haired woman with a set of dark brown eyes.

She had cheated on him while they were married and he found out from a text while she was sleeping. Finding this information out he had become very insecure and it mentally scarred him, he barely even trusted Gordon. Because he was mentally scarred he made a lot of very poor decisions, this was the last straw. Monica, after realizing she had been followed home, grabbed their gun and proceeded to protect her daughter and their home. Michael came around the corner and Monica shot him straight in the chest.

Gordon, a light skinned man with the appearance of a scientist, arrived home twenty minutes later to find his wife trying to bag up his body. He decided to help his wife through this trouble and they knew they needed to hide the evidence. They left no trace on the body and were

able to safely dispose of it. One week later, the news displayed an article of the possible murder of Michael on the front cover. They very quickly decided that they must move quickly and quietly out of the area into a new home. Quickly, they decided on Maine. They had found a nice comfortable home in the small town of Bar Harbor.

Little did they know, the town was filled with mentally troubled and disturbed people. Gordon, immediately set back to getting patients to afford their steady mortgage on their new home. Two days later, he was able to finally able to track down his first client.

His first patient was Christian, a short blonde haired man with a pair of near sighted glasses, who ironically happens to be that which his name describes. Christian came to him in the troubles of his family not respecting his faith in religion. Christian, a man of religious thoughts and prayers, would soon become someone much darker than he had ever imagined. Gordon accepted him as a patient and did his job to earn a living, meaning he had to support Christian's feelings and beliefs. By doing so, he boosted Christian's confidence and turned him arrogant and abusive towards his wife and children.

Christian's wife had called Gordon late one night, crying and begging for him to stop seeing Christian, or to help her out and convince Christian that his religion is wrong. Instead she claimed that he needed to believe in treating family fair and lovingly instead of being abusive if they did not comply to his beliefs and rules. She had bruises all over her but did not want the police involved. She loved Christian with all her heart and didn't want anything to happen to him. He was the father of her children and wanted him there to be their father throughout their lives. All she wanted was for him to be a loving father to them and treat them right.

His next patient, Colby, was a drug addict who believed he needed to rely on drugs to make him happy. Colby's family, knowing how addicted he was, knew they had to do something or else would die. So, they called Gordon to try and talk to him about it and convince him out of it. Gordon was a very arrogant individual who thought he was the best at his job, by being so arrogant he believed he could easily do this task.

After two or three of their appointments, he knew he had been too cocky of his own abilities. Colby was too indulged in his drug obsession and happiness they caused him. He heavily relied on the drugs and didn't know that there are other ways to achieve happiness. Gordon struggled working with Colby as a patient. He did not believe in the usage of drugs other than having medical reason to, as in sickness and such.

Another patient to talk about would be Harmony. Harmony struggles with the constant fear of ghosts and ghouls. She has claimed she had seen them since she was a kid and had always tried to scare the other children. She had claimed a ghost was "stalking" her and decided to talk to Gordon about becoming a new patient. After they had set up their first appointment, Harmony was too scared to arrive to the appointment because she feared that the ghost would follow her. She believed her ghost had a name, Elliot. Elliot, she believed was following her after she suffered a miscarriage three years prior.

The last patient to introduce would have to be Elena. Elena was a past Psychologist, who had retired from fear. Her patients had instilled their fears into her mind. She had met Gordon at the grocery store one day and began talking to him about what happened to her. He claimed he had no belief in that happening to him. Gordon, knowing what she went through, offered to help

her. Elena couldn't stress enough to Gordon how her sanity had been broken through the level of psychology she went through with her patients.

After dealing with all of these patients, Gordon realized how right Elena was. Every patient he dealt with was causing him more stress and he was becoming more fearful of events happening to him. He feared that he would become addicted to drugs. He began to fear ghosts and always thought he was being watched or stalked by one. He also began to fear religion, due to Christian's extreme beliefs in Christianity. He began to struggle with each patient and suddenly realized he could not help any of them. Instead, their fears had just intensified inside of his head and gotten stronger. Eventually, he understood what Elena had meant, he knew he could not continue any longer.

After their last few visits, his patients seemed to realize this and were asking him what was wrong. Due to his inability to explain himself, they then explored the idea of new psychologists. They all found new psychologists, who were all seemingly better than Gordon. Gordon had lost all of his patients... all other than Elena. Elena knew this was happening to Gordon and went to talk to him about it. She wanted to help him out of the same fate she was experiencing, but it was too late. He had undergone too much stress in his life so he decided to seek out a new psychologist.

His new psychologist, is a blonde hair, blue-eyed woman named Lexi. She had heard of psychologists going through traumas such as this one and thought she knew just how to help him. She figured that by scaring him with these fears she could erase them by proving they were not truly possible. All she wanted to do was help him and anyone else who needed it. Her heart

was in the right place and so was her mind. But sadly, this technique did not work the way she wanted it to.

She suggested that he go to church on Sundays for a few times to try to release his fear of Christianity and even said she'd go with him to get him past the fear of going. She also told him he needed to take some medicine to get his mind off of all of his stress and prescribed him for treatment. Her last piece of advice was to visit a graveyard. For this last request of hers, she suggested that he go alone to deal with that one.

Gordon took treatment seriously so he tried to do all that she suggested. He wanted to do it all on his own to he attended church on his own. Having never been religious before, he had seen how crazy Christian's beliefs really were, and he feared more for his wife and children. Going to church increased his anxiety and stress so he followed her next step of advice and took the pills she prescribed. But there was a problem, she had spelled gotten her patients mixed up and prescribed him the wrong medicine. The medicine he ended up with was actually to increase anxiety and stress because that was for a patient who had no feelings for people whatsoever and did not care to be alive, so she was trying to give him feeling and a will to live. Her last piece of advice was to visit the graveyard and he did so because of how seriously he takes suggestions.

With his anxiety levels and stress levels peaked, going to the graveyard may have been one of the biggest mistakes of his life. His fears were spiked and he constantly thought he was seeing ghosts and hearing voices inside of his head. Being as alone as he was, someone saw him alone out there so they decided to try to tag along with him so he wouldn't be alone. When they came up to talk to him he thought it was a ghost and it drove him insane. His heartbeat increased severely and then it stopped. He was no longer breathing and he dropped to the ground. 5

minutes later the ambulance arrived just to find out that he was dead. He had suffered a heart attack from stress and anxiety.

The End