

The Light That Never Goes Out

DEBASISH GIMING 0909



In this peculiar town, a strict and unbreakable rule dictates that nobody is ever allowed to sleep with their lights off. Every window glows through the evening, casting long beams of artificial warmth into the foggy streets outside.



This tradition began twenty years ago after a terrifying night when every single light in the town went out simultaneously. When power was restored by morning, an entire house was found completely empty without a single open door or broken window.



Now, fear keeps everyone compliant as they sleep with every conceivable light blazing bright until dawn. Lamps, bathroom bulbs, hallway sconces, and even outdoor porch lights stay fully illuminated all night long.



My name is Jake, and at fourteen years old, I have lived my entire life by this glowing rule. My mother checks my bedroom twice every single night to ensure every switch remains flipped firmly upward.



Last night, however, my bedside lightbulb finally gave out and shattered into tiny glass pieces. Exhaustion clouded my mind, and thinking that a single night without a bulb wouldn't matter, I foolishly drifted off to sleep in total darkness.



At three o'clock in the morning, a sudden and unnatural chill snapped me wide awake in my bed. A shadowy figure stood right beside my mattress, leaning in close to whisper my name with a voice that sounded chillingly like my own.



It offered a terrifying choice, promising to leave if I turned a light on, or offering to take me away to see the missing family if I kept the darkness. My trembling hand hovered right over the wall switch, suspended between two worlds.



Refusing to give in to the immediate panic, I chose not to flip the switch and let my hand fall slowly back onto the cold sheets. The entity smiled in the shadows, acknowledging my silent decision as the room grew even colder.



Without warning, the floorboards groaned and opened up into a shimmering corridor of endless darkness right beneath my bed. The entity gestured downward, inviting me to step forward and uncover the truth that had haunted the town for two decades.



Taking one final deep breath, I stepped off the edge of the mattress and plunged into the welcoming dark. The town's glowing lights faded far above us as I finally went to find where the others had gone.