

# KISMET

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BONUS PROLOGUE

APRIL CANAVAN

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Email: [canavan.april@gmail.com](mailto:canavan.april@gmail.com)  
Cover Artist: Heather Marie Adkins  
[www.cyberwitchpress.com](http://www.cyberwitchpress.com)

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## BONUS PROLOGUE

“911, WHAT IS THE ADDRESS OF THE EMERGENCY?” HE HAD been a dispatcher so long that the words just fell out of his mouth when answering the phone.

A female voice responded, hushed and sounding frightened, “I just... I think I just saw a man go into my neighbor’s house. I live at 288 Tinker Lane.” For some reason that address seemed familiar to him, but he couldn’t quite place his finger on it.

“Okay, ma’am what is the phone number that you’re calling from?” It was early and he didn’t want to take a call from a woman complaining about her neighbor. But it was his job, so he sighed to himself and prepared for the work ahead. While he listened to her answer to the opening questions demanded from protocol, he silently wondered if she was going to be a repeat caller through the morning, or if he’d be able to watch the newest movie he had bought.

“Alright, ma’am. Tell me exactly what happened?” As he heard what she was saying, he made sure that he was typing

everything into the computer as well. He wanted to document all of the details, just in case.

“Well, I had just gotten in bed when I heard something strange. So, I got up and looked out my window and that’s when I saw it.” Her voice was cracking, and he could tell that she had spent years smoking because of how rough it was.

Rolling his eyes above the computer at his partner, Daniel tried to get her to provide the right information. “Ma’am, I need you to tell me what you saw, so that we can get the right kind of help started your way.”

“Well, I saw a man going into my neighbor’s house through the living room window. And that’s strange because I’ve never seen a man there before.” She coughed and then started wheezing, but Daniel was already changing pace, knowing that this wasn’t going to be a ridiculous complaint about her neighbor.

Hearing exactly what he needed to, he glanced up to see his partner already working on calling one of the deputies and getting them to respond to the scene. While he was doing that, Daniel focused all of his attention on the caller, hoping to get any and all information he could. If someone was breaking into her neighbor’s home, they would need to get as much detail as possible, especially if someone was at home when it was happening.

“Ma’am, is there anything else you can tell me? Is your neighbor home, do you know?” He hoped that she had some sort of a description that they could give responders. When she didn’t answer, he prompted her again. “Can you tell me what the man looked like, or did he have any weapons? Anything at all that could help.”

She must not have been paying attention because she started to panic. “Oh! My lord, did you hear that? Someone just screamed! You better hurry.”

A screaming neighbor accelerated things. Someone was in

danger, and they needed to respond accordingly. That amplified the situation, and Daniel needed to keep her as calm as possible. “Just stay calm, ma’am. My partner has already started getting help sent your way. I need to give them any details you can provide. Please.”

“Well, there are two women who live there. They keep to themselves, and one of them works at night. I know because when they moved in, she came over with a basket of goodies to let me know not to worry when someone gets home at four in the morning. She’s such a sweet girl.” There was a sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach as he motioned over to his partner, because Daniel knew why that address seemed familiar.

Placing the caller on mute for a second so that she couldn’t hear what he was saying, he managed, “Send everyone.” And by the look on his partner’s face, he was starting to understand exactly what was going on, and who was involved.

There are a few things that Daniel had learned over the years working in dispatch. The most important being that no situation is clear-cut and concise. He never knew what would happen when he picked up the phone. He never knew how close to home the call would hit. But this call, this call made him feel as though everything in the world was shifting on its axis.

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