

Skin Crawler (Excerpt)

written by Hale Walls

EXT. COURT YARD - DAY

Duck and Anna sit together, eating lunch in the court yard.

It's late October, so the leaves have changed to orange or have fallen on the ground. There are a few people walking around or eating outside as well.

DUCK

I can't believe he said that!

ANNA

I can. Mr. Smith is incompetent.

DUCK

It's like he's never read a book in his life!

ANNA

Everyday I wake up, go to class, and am confused by how that man got hired.

DUCK

(Laughs)

Maybe he wasn't. What if he like, showed up one day and pretended he was our teacher.

ANNA

Doubtful, unfortunately.

DUCK

By the way, I think the spray perfume has been working. Thank you for like, buying that.

ANNA

No problem, but it's not a solution, is it.

DUCK

Well, it's been two weeks and I am already nearing the like, end of the bottle. It's not gonna be a great solution for my wallet.

ANNA

Does the thing you see--

DUCK

--The Skin Crawler.

ANNA

Yeah. Does it still show up?

DUCK

...Yeah.

Duck looks disappointed in herself, and Anna stares at her for a bit. She looks down, deep in thought, before looking back up at Duck.

ANNA

I'll be there the next time you bathe.

DUCK

(startled & confused)

What??

ANNA

(intensely)

Tonight. I sleep over, I can come with you. You don't have to be alone.

DUCK

Uh... isn't that, like, going to be, like, awkward?

ANNA

Why would it be awkward? It's not like you'll actually be bathing.

DUCK

...Huh?

INT. DUCK'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Cut to Duck sitting in her bath tub, swim suit on, submerged in water. Anna rests her elbows on the side of the tub.

ANNA

Do you see it yet?

DUCK

(irritated)

...No.

Anna takes a look around the room.

ANNA

I guess that makes sense, I don't see it either.

Duck stares at Anna for a bit.

DUCK

I'm not going to lie, this like, sucks.

ANNA

(surprised)

Oh... um... I'm sorry.

There's silence between them.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Why?

DUCK

I just, I, I hate this. I hate this room. The Skin Crawler, he doesn't just appear here, he appears for me. It's like he only exists to look at me. He knows I'm like, disgusting, and gross, and, and...

Duck goes silent after making eye contact with Anna, who looks confused and puzzled. She then looks down.

DUCK (CONT'D)

Sorry...

There's silence between them.

ANNA

You aren't disgusting.

DUCK

I can't even bathe.

ANNA

But you try.

DUCK

I just feel so ugly and dirty all the time. Like my whole existence has been the ugliest thing to walk this earth.

ANNA

You've always been beautiful to me.

Duck and Anna stare at each other. After a moment Duck starts crying, and Anna holds her hand.

DUCK

I think I want to get out now.

ANNA

Okay.

INT. DUCK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Later that night, Anna and Duck are watching ELEMENT FAIRIES on Duck's lap top before bed. The episode ends, and Duck's mom comes in. Duck closes her laptop and puts it on her night stand.

MOM

Bed time girls.

DUCK

Yeah we know.

MOM

It doesn't hurt to remind you.
Anna, do you need anything before bed?

ANNA

No.

DUCK

Why do I never get this treatment??

MOM

Because Anna's a guest, you're a freeloader I ended up with.

DUCK

Wouldn't have ended up with me if you didn't sleep around so much.

MOM

I love you too. Speaking of which, I have another date with Rick tomorrow, he finally texted back! I'll give you money to get pizza.

DUCK

Oh... that's great.

MOM

Mhm. Have a nice night girls!

ANNA

Goodnight.

DUCK

Night.

Duck's mom leaves, and Duck is visibly more on edge.

ANNA

Your relationship with your mom always confuses me.

DUCK

Yeah. Sometimes I think I'm less like her daughter and more of a like, plant she only waters sometimes.

ANNA

Hm. Who's Rick?

The question puts Duck even more on edge.

DUCK

Oh, uh... he and my mom used to like, date when I was little. They reconnected when we moved here. I kind of hate him with every part of me though.

ANNA

Why?

DUCK

I don't know, I try not to like, think about it. I just know he's the worst. My mom never seemed to understand that though.

ANNA

I think I understand.

DUCK

Yeah?

ANNA

Yeah. I don't think my mom understands me either.

DUCK

Like, how?

ANNA

She just gets mad at me a lot. I don't know why. She says that I embarrass her, or that I am being rude to people when I'm not. It doesn't make sense. Nothing in my house hold makes sense to me. It happens at school too. I think that I must be doing something wrong, but I have no idea what.

DUCK

Well, I would be lying if I said I didn't think you were a little strange when we first met, but honestly you're one of the few people that make sense to me now.
(Pause)

Maybe we are weird, or maybe everyone else is, but either way I'm really glad I met you. For the first time in my life I feel, like, not alone.

ANNA

You make me feel less alone too.

The girls smile at each other, and then Duck pulls out her laptop.

DUCK

One more episode?

The girls get situated and start watching more ELEMENT FAIRIES.