

## **The Moonstone Piece** **by Marc Avecilla**

My wife and I found a grand piano on the shores of Moonstone Beach during one of our vacations. "Why would someone leave a piano here?" Katie asked herself. "People who don't know where the dump is." I chuckled. She played a few notes. "It's very pretty." Katie pushed a key and black ooze came through the edges. "What is this?" I looked and saw her fingertips stained. "Must be tar." She rubbed her fingers. "It's not coming off" I chuckled, "It'll slowly come off." We started to head back to our hotel and I noticed that her skin turned a little pale. I mentioned it to her but she said that it was cold so I suggested going to one of the coffee bars at the town.

When we walked in a girl asked us for our orders. When we ordered and waited for the coffees the girl looked at Katie's hands. "What happened?" "I got some tar on my hands when my husband and I found a piano on the beach. I played a key and it just came out." she then scratched her finger with her thumb. "A-a piano?" the girl looked at us wide eyed. "Yeah, weird isn't it."

I could tell the girl had a nervous look and when our coffees were done she shooed us out. When we left I looked back to see them closing the store but that wasn't the only one. Throughout the day every store we went to closed. They would look at her hands scared and kick us out. To make it weirder the tar on Katie's hand slowly grew bigger, she was still pale, and her personality became more hostile. "We need to go to the hospital." I suggested. "No! I'm fine! Do you want to ruin this vacation for me?" She yelled when we were at our hotel room.

That night, I heard her get up and leave the hotel room. I followed her and found her walking outside. Just as I thought, I found her sitting on that same piano.

I hid behind a rock and heard my wife begin to play a tune that I never heard before. Every note sent chills down my spine. The pace went faster every time the water drew closer. She was practically playing the piano and that's when it came out. A being that had multiple arms, a head with tentacles waving like hair, and a face that had nothing but a fleshy hole shining a color that I never saw before.

Katie stopped playing, stood from her seat and looked at it. The creature grabbed her and shined the light on her. The light began to shoot from my wife's mouth and eyes. I could tell it was sucking the life out of her. I stood there powerless, not able to do anything.

The light faded from her eyes and mouth. She let out a horrifying scream until her bones snapped in unison. The creature crushed her body. It dropped her into the water and walked back in. After a few minutes I ran over to see Katie crushed and deformed body floating in water. I fell onto my knees and held her broken body in my arms. Her skin now was completely covered in the tar. All I could do was cry. One moment I was with my wife walking on the shore and now I'm holding her body that barely looks like her.

I looked up. There wasn't a piano.