

"A Midnight Dreary" Preview Page #2

Narrator: Before I knew it, the entire evening had gotten away from me. And now that I was awake, there was little chance of actually going to bed any time soon. As I dug into the snacks, I rationalized to myself, "Too late to study now. I think I've got a pretty good handle on the topic of fighting fear, anyway." And since snack foods are made more for light entertainment than serious study, the only thing I could do was scan the TV for something good to watch.

(Actions: He stuffs some cheese puffs in his mouth and crunches them loudly, savoring them. He picks up the TV remote, and checks his watch. He then points the remote at an imaginary TV in front of him, which he clicks on and "watches" by looking intently toward the audience. As the channels change on the soundtrack, he, finally he settles on one as the soundtrack plays. Opening the sheet on the back of the sofa, he throws it over his legs. Derek leans back and opens the can of soda. He has the cheese puffs in one hand the soda in the other, smiling with satisfaction as he watches TV. The soundtrack continues with scary music and dialog. As the TV sound gets to him, Derek's expression registers fear.)

Movie voice #1: They're coming to get you, Barbara! Look! There comes one of them now!

Movie Voice #2: "It has been established that persons who have recently died are returning to life, and committing acts of violence."

Movie Voice #3: "Are they slow moving, Chief?"

Movie Voice #4: "Yeah, they're dead... they're all messed up."

(Actions: Derek's face twitches and one eye widens. He continues to eat as he watches but less rapidly. As the screams and effects reach a crescendo on the TV, Derek grabs the remote and switches it off.)

Narrator: Well, alone in the house at a few minutes to twelve on a stormy night, the last thing I needed was a movie that would put my nerves on edge. And there was no way I could sleep after that.

(Actions during the next part of the narrative: He walks over to the radio, turns it on and tunes it to a station that he likes. He sits back down on the sofa and leans back, his head thrown back and eyes closed as he listens to the song that is playing.)

Narrator: So, hoping for a little relaxing music, I turned on the radio and leaned back to enjoy the soothing sounds of instrumental music on my favorite station.

Radio Announcer: In the weather forecast for the vicinity of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, there is a severe thunderstorm warning in effect until 2 AM. This may be accompanied by dangerous lightning and high winds, so please be prepared for temporary power outages, and you are advised to stay indoors.

(Actions: He lifts the soda can to his lips to take a drink.)

Radio Announcer: In other news, the Sheriff's Department has informed us of the escape earlier tonight of the notorious mass murderer Horace "The Breather" Morris.

(Actions: Derek spews out the mouthful of soda as he hears this!)