

跗蛆

Tarsal Maggot

I hear a tapping on my eardrum—maybe a bug, maybe a crustacean. Its hard feet tap on the floor. Bugs. Crustaceans. 跗蛆. Their hard feet tap on the floor.

The sound taps on my eardrum.

Click, click.

There are more. They are here, tiny sounds scattering in around the room. Their feet, covered with tiny hooks, plunge into the plaster. Scratching the hard surface. Flecks fall from the air.

Click, click, click.

They crawl across the floor. The soft belly, encased in its carapace, dragged along the floor, rubbing against the board with every step it took, and making an irritating noise. The organs of arthropods are covered with black hard hair, and the rotting wood creaks as they walk. Those hair does nothing to stop the sound of the hard shell banging on the ground. 跗

Click. Step closer. Their soft bellies, encased in their carapaces, drag along the floor, rubbing against the board with every step they take. Their organs are covered in hard black hair. With each step, I hear their fuzz shivering in the air.

The rotting wood creaks as they walk. More 跗蛆 squeezing from the cracks.

Click.

Click, click. They are walking Two steps closer.

Click, click, click, click, click, click, click...

No, no, stop!

For a moment, silence ~~took over~~ **conquers** the room, ~~but I knew they were.~~ **But I know they are** still there. Cover my ears, close my eyes. What else can I do?

A ~~shrill, piercing sound squeezed through the eardrums, and they screamed, like fingernails scratching the drums, as hungry mice nibbled at each other. It goes on and on and on. It doesn't~~ **piercing shrill squeezes through my eardrums. The arthropods scream, fingernails scratching. 跗蛆; cannibalistic mice.**

They don't stop.

Too loud. Too loud.

They ~~start moving~~ **move** again. ~~Those enormous creatures jostled around~~ **They jostle,** their carapaces rubbing against each other. The cacophony of voices ~~huddled, mixed, and compressed, jammed~~ **huddles, mixes, compresses. They jam** into my eardrums ~~and crawled.~~ **They crawl** on my brain.

Too much, too much.

I don't know when or why they ~~appear~~ **come**. I just want them to stop ~~and go away forever. Nothing can solve.~~ **I just want them to go away,** these things, these maggots ~~attached to~~ **跗蛆** ~~pockmarked into the bone.~~

I'll make it stop.

The ~~sharp object pierced~~ **sharpness pierces** my temple, and ~~the wrenching pain made me~~ cry out. The creatures ~~erupted~~ **erupt** into sharper screams ~~as if they were cheering—~~ **they cheer at their conquest.**

Soon I shall have my peace.

The white, ~~serene light gradually swallowed my consciousness, but...~~ **No, no! The thin, dense voice appeared** **light swallows me...**

No, no! The voices appear again. They are inside me. I ~~heard~~ **hear** my body ~~being eaten, burning pain sweeping~~ **consumed. Pain burns** through me. I can't move, ~~I had to.~~ **I must** endure, watching the tarsal maggots ~~take over fresh~~ **seize my** flesh and feed ~~on them.~~