

## Skeleton Key (Preview)

by Laurie Frisbey



### Folds of Darkness

Excerpt:

Still-life, snapshots,  
Stop-motion in strobe lights,  
Blinding flickers of composure  
illuminated through chaos.  
You can't see what I hide  
in the folds of darkness  
inside my heart  
when the flash goes off  
and the shutter closes.

### Driving a Stick

Excerpt:

"Ya ready fah me?" Gary, a beer in hand and one tucked in the crook of his arm, smirked as he patted his ass and chest pockets with his free hand to make sure he had his wallet and cigarettes. Lilah rolled her eyes and turned the key as he jogged around to the passenger side too eagerly for her liking. He slid in, cracked the beer open, and started smacking the bottom of a pack of Marlboros. This is what she had to look forward to over the summer. Driving lessons with Gary.

### The Red Tumbler

Excerpt:

Rising to a squat, I reached for the cup and immediately came to two realizations. I had no depth perception in near darkness and I learned why those tall plastic fucking cups are called tumblers.

My hand knocked up against the damn thing and in my unsuccessful attempt to catch it--or juggle it--it flew right over the other side of the nightstand.

The clatter as it bounced off the wall and the floor a few times, then rolled over to the bedroom door, sliced the silence like the knife Nate's wife would most definitely plunge into my heart when she found me here.