

Lucy

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A DELIGHTFUL QUARANTINE

~~friends and neighbors did not fare as well. (We hear a BELL.)~~
It we'll have to save their stories for next week. Have a good week, people. (LUCY gathers her notes together and starts to move away from the podium. SHE pulls herself back.) Class dismissed. (SHE starts to move away from the podium, then again pulls herself back.) Don't you all have some place you need to be? (The answer we assume is a sea of shaking heads.) Are you actually asking me to stand in front of you and read from my just completed *A Delightful Quarantine: Three Days in the Lives of the Captured Citizenry of Willspier, Pennsylvania?* (SHE holds up a very thick typescript manuscript.) Well, you flatter me. You do. (Eagerly, SHE licks her finger and opens to the first page of her manuscript. SHE begins to read:) "Call me Ishmael." (SHE gets the giggles.) I've always wanted to do that. (SHE puts on her "serious" face.) "It happened on a Saturday afternoon. By 2:12 p.m. every home in the subdivision was sealed off. It happened quickly and without incident. Within moments things were set into motion. That is, those things that had not already been set into motion. These were things that had nothing to do with beings from outer space.

(LIGHTS dim over LUCY and come up over what will henceforth be known as House "A." It belongs to 50-year-old BARBARA MIDDLE-BROOK. BARBARA stands looking out of an implied window. Her two 32-year-old fraternal twin daughters, PAULA MIDDLEBROOK CLOBB and KITTY CIVETTE peer out from behind her.)

BARBARA. They said not to worry, so I suppose we shouldn't worry.

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LUCY. Mao Mao, Puffin, Donny McGill, Puss 'n Pumps, Snickersnack, Patty Paws, Big Tom, Little Tom, Tavis Saint Jacques, Pinkie McWinkle, Thimble-Nose, Fuzz-Ball, Grimalka, and Debbie Reynolds. *(Beat)* I don't believe that Judeen named the strays. Anyway. Down the street from Judeen Dempsey and all of her feline friends lived the Robbins family: Roy and Bethany and their eleven-year old daughter Diandra. Roy wasn't home at the time of the quarantine. He was over at the Wigglin's house two blocks away looking for his daughter Diandra. At the same time the Wigglin's thought their daughter Jennifer was visiting with her friend Diandra. And so Clark was dispatched by his wife Shirley to the Robbins's house. As it turned out the girls were at neither house.

~~(LIGHTS come up simultaneously on both the Robbins' house – occupied by BETHANY ROBBINS and CLARK WIGGLIN and the Wigglin's house – occupied by SHIRLEY WIGGLIN and ROY ROBBINS. Both COUPLES stand in almost the same spots and in almost identical body positions in their respective front rooms. Both of the WOMEN are on the phone.)~~

BETHANY *(Into phone.)* They never showed up here, Shirley. Are you sure they aren't hiding over there somewhere? Maybe they're playing a prank.

SHIRLEY. *(Into phone.)* Jennifer knows better than to play a prank like that.