

Almost Human.

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I woke up before him feeling slightly randy, but ~~there~~ ^{there} was nothing I could do about it. I blinked as my eyes became ~~immediately~~ ^{immediately} accustomed to the half light. I raised my head and stared at the large expanse of white flesh on the ~~other~~ ^{other} side of the bed. He stirred restlessly and even turned over but I knew he wouldn't wake for at least another hour until that alarm corruption had gone on long enough to interrupt anyone's dreams. I pondered for a moment on whether to take a cat nap or get up and find myself some breakfast. In the end I settled for lying still so as to be sure not to disturb him. That way I felt sure he would end up getting breakfast for me. I began to consider what needed to be done after he had gone off to the office. As long as I was there to greet him when he returned from work it looked a fairly routine day.

A gentle snore came from his side of the bed. ~~My snoring~~ ^{My snoring} never annoyed me. I was able to treat as a ~~cat~~ ^{cat} might treat a ~~cat~~ ^{cat} continual purr. I loved him so much, in fact he was the first man I had ~~loved~~ ^{loved}. ~~As I stared into his handsome face I knew I would be interested in sex.~~ His mother might have considered him handsome but it had not been his looks that had attracted me. I had first come across ~~him~~ ^{him} in the ~~corner~~ ^{corner} of Dave's street. I might call it our local. He used to order a pint of mild and bitter and then take it to a small table in the corner of the room beyond the bar board. Mostly he would sit alone watching parts thrown

and more often landing
towards double top ~~land more often~~ in 2
one or five if on the board at all. I
observed that he never played himself and
wondered if it was because he was fearful
of relinquishing his favorite ~~table~~ ^{seat} or he just
didn't care for the spot.

But things had changed ^{for him} - for the better no doubt was how he saw it -
in the last three weeks as a blind ~~set~~ ^{now a day}
was punched on the stool beside him drinking
double gin and its. I did not know the lady
in question, who went by the name of Madeline.
But took her talk led me to believe it
~~couldn't~~ last as she had higher ambition than
double gin and its. It lasted twenty days ^{because} I
counted every one of them and when she left
that little stool rather abruptly ~~but not~~ ^{he wanted to go but didn't seem}
might quickly took my chance ^{when} ~~when~~ ^{he wanted to go but didn't seem}
when I sat on the stool ~~but~~ ^{he made no}
comment and the only glance he gave me
did not suggest that ~~I should~~ ^{I should} leave. I looked
to see if anyone else had plans to usurp
my position. The man around the dart board
~~did not notice me~~ ^{he did not notice me}, type seven lea, twelve and
a five had bent them occupied ^{the table was}
~~now sitting at a second gin and its~~ ^{now sitting at a second gin and its}
purchased by a stranger who ~~was not~~ ^{was not}
pub house or small ~~showed no signs of doing~~
anything of ~~small or pub house~~ ^{showed no signs of doing}
reputation. I looked up at ~~him~~ ^{him} - I had
known his name for some time, and flushed
my cheeks in a rather exaggerated way.
I felt a little stupid but gentle smile came
over his lips. Neither of us needed to speak
He bent over and touched my fur coat, the only thing my mother
had ever given me.

at the time. We were Goffa Loney and 3rd
seemed unnecessary to explain, ~~we both~~ so
we sat in silence, he occasionally ~~was~~ sipping his
beer.

I'm not quite sure why he allowed
me to accompany him back ~~home~~ to his ~~home~~. I
knew exactly where he lived because I had seen
him several times standing at the bus queue
on Dobson Street in a silent line of expectant
morning passengers, ~~just on the wall once~~
and studied his face ~~as an anonymous~~, almost
common place but he had the warmest eyes
and the kindest smile. My only fear was that
he didn't seem to notice me, his eyes at
night and his thought at day must have
been only for the double gin and ~~tonic~~ blend.

I remembered thinking at the time,
"that the kind of man being Nick to live
with" and as with ~~Clayton~~ ~~there for nothing~~
~~one day for my father~~ ~~there for nothing~~ more.
~~he was nothing more~~

That was ~~just~~ a year ago, and
as if to prove ~~me~~ totally loyal to my mother
I have never returned to that ~~pub~~ since ~~that~~
~~in my~~ had no right to be petty about
the blend and the double gin and its for
his part could not have been more murky than
mine; yet he never commented on it to me
or anyone else who came to the house.

I wanted him for ~~my part~~ but somehow
was never able to tell him ~~that~~ I had been the
youngest of eight and only just survived. I
never knew my father and I arrived home one
night to discover that my mother had run
off with another man. One of my eldest sisters

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told me not to expect her back. I have never
seen her since. It's awful to have to admit,
even if only to oneself, that one mother is
a tramp.

trying to stay one step ahead of
authorities, and began to drift ~~around~~ the
up ~~of the cat and~~ with Derek - if
that was his real name. ~~He~~ had been aboard
a merchant steamer for ~~three~~ years and when
he ~~first met me~~ he promised me the earth. I told
him all I wanted was a warm home,
regular food and perhaps some children. He
kept one of ~~his~~ promises. ~~He~~ I ended
up with turnips which Derek never saw because
he had returned to sea even before I could
tell him I was pregnant. He hadn't needed to
promise me the earth. He was so good looking
I would have been his for a night on the tiles.

I tried to bring up the girls - ~~but~~
Secret like - but the authorities caught up
with me this time and took them away. I
~~was assured they would end up in a good~~
~~home~~ with Roy's looks they were ~~well~~.
I wonder where they are now. God knows where
they've ended up in a good home. At least
they both had Derek's incredible good looks to
~~keep them happy~~ life. Another thing Roy's
~~doesn't~~ know about. Even his indifference makes
me feel guilty, and there seems ~~to be~~ no way
of telling him now. Derek had gone back to sea

After ~~that~~ I only ~~worked~~
almost a year before ending up ~~at the~~
~~getting~~ part time work ~~at the~~. ~~And~~
The pub can't even have me if

And so he had taken me home that night;
and never once ~~tried to kick me out~~
asked me to leave, let alone ~~force me~~
try to kick me out. Fergus the chite
I had lured on my feet-!

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~~dead body~~ ^{mechanical} a robot whose only feeling
was to stop that awful sound. If he
had asked me I could have woken him far
more gently each morning. I was even hit as
realistic ~~as~~ as any man-made machine.


A few seconds later the oval
weight body began to move but not a part
of this world. ~~Half an hour~~ ^{He} would stare at
the clock and declare ~~that~~ as he always
did "Must hurry along or I'll be late for
the office. I suppose some ~~men~~ ^{female}
would have been annoyed by such a
predictable ~~repetitive~~ ^{day in and day out} but not me - it
was all part of the security that made
me feel safe from the intrusion of any other
human beings and the outside world.

Roger disappeared into the
bathroom, and ~~emerged~~ ^{re-emerged} as he always did
fifteen minutes later looking ~~looking~~ ^{only}
slightly better than he had when entered.
I didn't care. I didn't need Gin and I'd
champagne to prove ~~that~~ ^{Chapman was}.

"Get up you lazy object he"
reminded and only smiled when I didn't
stir. ~~I expect you~~ I suppose you expect me
to get you breakfast before I go to work he
added as he disappeared down stairs. I didn't
even bother to reply because I knew he
would already be opening the front door
to collect ~~the~~ ^{my} newspapers, any letters and
our bottle of milk. He would then feed
for the parrot and remove my favorite packet
of breakfast food before emptying it into a
bowl and covering it with milk, leaving

himself enough for two cups of tea.?
I could time almost to the
second when breakfast would be ready for me.
I could hear the kettle boil, a few ~~minutes~~ ^{seconds} later
the milk would be poured and the rapping
of the drawing up of the chair would
mean that I would join him.

I stretched my legs and
decided against waiting until after breakfast.
I felt so happy that I ^{literally} jumped off the bed
and walked towards the open door. I could
hear him drawing up the chair. A few
seconds later I was ~~by his side~~ ^{at his side}. He had
already taken his first mouthful of
comfort but he stopped the moment he
saw me.

God of you to join me he said
looking at me with a grin on his face. I padded
over towards him and looked up expectantly.
He bent down and poured the milk ~~into the~~
~~cup~~ I began to lap up the milk ^{happily}
tail swishing from side to side. 
It's a myth we swish at tails when we're angry.