

### The Friday Man

“Small fish and chips?” I ask my little sister.

With a subtle smile, she nods, addressing the worker.

Ding. Immediately, her eyes bolt towards the door.

“Don’t worry” I say with a sigh, tightly wrapping my arm around her as we watch the customer stroll in.

Following her brief exhale, the door sounds again.

I clench my teeth, ushering my lifeless sister closer. Why is *he* here? Did the initial warning do nothing?

I stare at him. He stares back - at me, then my sister. Up, then of course, down.

Shaking, lowering her blank gaze, she wraps her long cardigan around her; tight. My little sister continues to fidget, adjusting her guise.

I stare again at his smug eyes as he begins to come closer.

“Do I *really* need to repeat myself?” I blurt, tilting my head.

He ignores me.

Then it went dark. Well, for him.

### Introduction

The title I chose was The Friday Man as I felt that title could carry a broad range of stories under various dark themes. In the beginning, I thought I could go with a more gory route as the label ‘The Friday Man’ reminded me of a nickname of perhaps some well-known serial killer. However, I ended up deciding on making the story a little more subtle. As the story is so short (150 words), I found it quite challenging coming up with an interesting narrative I could deliver in so few lines.

### The Plot

My story consists of a short scene between three characters: “The Friday Man” (TFM), the brother and his younger sister. This scene follows on from a past event between TFM and the younger sister where he had harassed her during a time she (and her brother) went to collect the typical Fish and Chip order for her family, like she does every Friday. In this scene, TFM returns and begins to make her uncomfortable, despite her being with her older brother who warned him the previous time. Once TFM approaches, the brother takes action and attacks him, to protect his sister.

### Analysis

In order to get the reader instantly immersed in the scene, I began the story mid-speech. In addition to this, I used a first-person perspective as I felt that it made the story feel a bit more personal (like a diary), so that the reader can feel more, when reading it. As this story is quite relatable to a lot of girls, I felt it was important for the story to feel personal. I chose for the brother to narrate it instead of the girl herself, as I thought it’d bring a new perspective on the issue. Through the use of subtle descriptive language, I tried to show how each character was feeling through their exterior movements, rather than stating emotions. I also felt this made the narration a little more realistic, as the brother could only see how his sister was feeling through her actions, rather than going inside her head. Throughout the story, I also used many short sentences to show the high speed of certain events that occur in the scene. Within the scene, I used repetition of the word “tight” and “wrap” when describing the brother comforting her and when she feels uncomfortable because of the TFM, in order to truly convey the extent of the discomfort the characters felt, despite the efforts they both made to ease the situation. Due to the word-limit, I feel the ending might be a bit abrupt, and think the story could have been improved if there was more back-and-forth between the characters in order to build up to the attack.