The Darlings

1. The Black Site

Peter Pan who is a woman a writer and lives in a shack with a purple door comes to my dream with some of the Lost Boys who wear plastic flowers because I can see their shadows.

This is not allowed.

I see fire.
I see fire on top of someone.
I see fire on top of someone coming in.
I see Black Magic Fire Music on top of two young men coming in.
I see fire creating monsters
in a black site
where no one ever looks
even though Hieronymus Bosch painted it 500 years ago.

2. Halloween

The Darling's house is over on the left side of a suburban street in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. It looks like the house in Halloween where Jason or Michael kills the teen age couple just as he was about to take off her underpants. Comes in with his machete or his hatchet or his finger knives, real identity hidden behind the blank featureless mask with the white shark eye holes and kills them while the Id monster from the Methodist Church over on Elm Street breathes loudly from the TV.

3. The Abduction

The Darlings don't live here anymore. Wendy was abducted at 4:30 A.M. from the warm summer streets while she was walking home from her Burger King or baby sitting job or maybe she was taking candles to Sunday service?

The two kids who took her look a bit like goatherds with unshaven chins and bad teeth didn't know they were a tornado, a pillar of fire, ecstasy, ecstasis, Pluto --"to seize, to carry away, to abduct" into the Underworld. Death.

Neither wore a Jason or Michael mask or a plastic werewolf face and yet both were monsters shot up with megatons of shadow.

Peter Pan can't find a cure for it and the Lost Boys up on their pulpits claim it doesn't exist. 4. The Monsters

Wendy's nude body was found in a shallow grave in a clearing down at the end of a pulp truck road. There was a bullet in her brain and her lower body was burned. She had been repeatedly raped

the police reported.

They caught the two monsters -they still weren't wearing Jason or Michael or *Scream II* Masks. Shuffling across the court house parking lot in their orange prison suits with cuffs on their ankles and wrists to their arraignments they do not look particularly powerful or immortal but they are. Peter Pan will see to that or Mary Shelley or Agatha Christie or perhaps Stephen Spielberg.

They will rise again and again and again. No prison holds them for long. No electrocution kills them. Capital punishment makes them stronger. Life in prison makes them multiply like Sorcerer's Apprentice's brooms.

They stand at the back of rallies to "Take Back the Night" or vigils to "Stop the Violence" and laugh. Laugh at how all the brilliant people, writers keep their eyes wide shut about the black sites where the rough beasts are created in your local church basements to slouch toward Bethlehems to be born.

As Wendy died in the light of the headlights a goatherd's fingers around her throat the fire, the unbearable fire burning inside her a nun up at St. Scholastica on top of the Duluth hill dreamed she met God in the barn. 5. The Empty House

The house sits empty. John and Michael flew off --John became gay, while Michael spent time in a mental hospital for acute depression. Now he's on anti-depressants plus Prozac, and has joined a fundamentalist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Darling moved from the house long ago. Mr. Darling lobbies the state legislature for new laws against monsters while Mrs. Darling's become a grief counselor.

The house sits empty now and some say it is haunted. A young poet sat in its basement overnight one spring because he thought Wendy was communicating to him but the school psychologist saw the poems he wrote afterward and reported him as morbid a danger to himself and others -now he's on anti-psychotics and in therapy

and eats nothing but Never Food.