**In my deep sleep….**

**RIYA PAUL (10TH Euro)**

In my deep sleep I heard a loud voice at the door. I crept out of my bed half asleep and opened my door and asked “Who’s out there?” My voice was only answered by silence. Reckoning that I had probably dreamt of the sound’ I crawled back into my bed and lay face first into the comfy bliss of my pillow. My parents were out for the night and I was home alone.

Creak! I heard my door open; I realized that it wasn’t a dream. It was a reality….indeed it was. I sat on my bed motionless, my heart pounding, adrenaline rushed through my body. However it was neither fight nor flight, it was a complete freeze. I was like a rabbit that freezes almost without breathing, in the hope that he is camouflaged and the hunter cannot see him. I did not want to move, but then I realized that I was no rabbit.

I called out again, but received no answer. I timidly, hesitantly , got out of my bed, grabbing the first sharp object I touched. It was my ruler. Not the most terrifying weapon. Maybe if I held it like a sword?

I believed ghosts never existed, but of course, only until this moment. My coward mind shifted its thoughts to ghosts. I let the air out of my lungs. My eyes swept across the house, my ears as alert as a ground hog. I quickly moved forward and hid behind the door that I shut.

This time I did not move my eyes from the peephole. My body was drenched in sweat; my prolonged cowardice was incapacitating me. I stood frozen against the door; my eyes wide open to detect the slightest movement. My head was about to give in, when I saw the naughty troublesome boy from our neighbourhood swiftly knock at the door and run out of sight chuckling quietly. Without wasting a moment I opened the deer and caught him red-handed. He couldn’t help laughing out loud at my frightened expression. My insides brunt up with fury.

The next morning when my mother asked if I had any trouble the previous night, I lied o retain my prestige – “No, not at all!”