

Lights Out on The Sea

I sat one early morning on the sand looking out over Casco Bay waiting for the sunrise. The northeastern sky just off my shoulder seemed to lighten a bit as I noticed a single pinpoint of light speeding along the horizon. I could hear no sound except for the waves crashing toward me, dissipating not far from my feet.

The light moved very fast, too fast for a boat, unless it was less than a half mile from me. Yet the light seemed perfectly man-made, not other-worldly. A few minutes later a similar sight appeared going just as fast, but this time it was two lights, one white and the other green, moving in tandem across the horizon.

As the sun found its way up from wherever it had spent the night, the sky lightened from a dark grey and made the world around me a little brighter. For the first time I noticed seagulls standing like sentinels up and down the beach on either side of me, keeping their distance as they will from humans. More lights transited the horizon now and I could see the birds' heads following the lights as well. Like me, they seemed to find

the lights of interest. Unlike me, they simply accepted them and didn't wonder about their origin.

I suppose the lights could have been ghosts, demons or extra-terrestrials, but I didn't think so. Neither did the birds. The gulls have stood there each morning for eons waiting for a morsel from the immeasurable abundance of the sea. A few goblins would not scare them away.

I was the only one that morning who could be frightened by my thoughts. I alone could conjure ghosts from my past or present or fearsome goblins from the future.

But not the birds. Theirs was a future they could not comprehend and a past they could not remember. And the unknown lights out on the sea did not disturb their sense of the present.

I took a lesson from them. I let my two eyes take control over my mind's eye and just stared out over the water, feeling the sun come up. Feeling the wind touch my face and eyes. Feeling very much in the moment and feeling the burden lift. And the lights out on the sea faded with the presence of the new day.

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