

I had a writing teacher named Bill Tester who told me to write about my deepest, darkest fears. He said, “The big bad thing that keeps you up at night, that’s what you should write about.” This is when my writing started to get better (finally, after years of trying), when I started listening to his advice.

A family of four was murdered a few years ago in the town where I live. It seemed that everyone in town knew the family or was connected to them in some way. I didn’t know them, but like everyone else in town, I was deeply affected by their story.

During that time, the big bad thing that had been keeping me up at night was the fear of motherhood. The fear that I would lose myself—my time and identity—to a baby. These two events became the seed of “The Dearborns.”

A few months after I finished this story, I got pregnant.

—*Colleen Curran*

