

Voices

izzy

theres something deep what i calls far-deep what izzy knows she cannot
get to right away i has to go farther
its there its there its there i found it yes izzy find it good
good good girl i am
it looks like doll hair ellens hair from dolls when ellen pulled them
but its slippy izzy almost
lets it go she cant lose it no no nails where is
it izzy let it go back under she need it now i dig
far-deep its okay
theres a box izzy have where i keep everything
ellen had a locket in it in the locket was the doll hair
but now izzy needs the box because i know theres too much there

Ellen

What? I don't know what...oh. Oh.
oh
No, I have no idea. I don't think so. Something could have. Maybe.
not now not now not now
I mean 'maybe.' Anything is possible. 'Screws fall out; the world's an imperfect place!'
It's not really about the screws, it's from a movie. I meant, there's a whole world out
there, so....
Well, I have yet to explore it, and it has yet to explore me, unless that's what did this.

i was so close it had to happen now i was almost there

No, sir, I don't think that it's funny. No, sir, I don't think I'm funny. Yes. No. Maybe.

Not 'maybe'? Oh... 'perhaps'? 'Possibly'? 'Potentially'? 'Perchance'? 'And now for something completely different.' 'Conceivably'!

so close this is me the real me not that freak

All right, I'll stop. I can't promise I won't do it anymore, but...oh, you mean?

not that girl i'm not that girl that broken doll-baby

Okay, yes, I'll try. Okay, I will.

I will!

that you think i am want me to be that is not me IT IS NOT ME

Please don't do that. Please, don't do that!

I said I'd stop! I don't know, I don't!

I AM NOT HER NOT HER SHE IS NOT REAL SHE IS NOT

Stop it! I said I'd...stop it! Leave me alone! You can't...stop stop stop stop leave me alone

REAL I AM REAL I AM ME SHE IS NOT REAL NOT ME

alone I want to stop be alone stop you leave me be alone

have you felt there are times you keep on living?

Margaret

I've tried to help her, I've done my best, but she's just inconsolable, poor little lamb. I've tried but Izzy just cries and cries, and what can I do? The others are no help, and I don't have it in me to watch that wretched face crumple. Sometimes I can take control and keep her hands still, but she fights like a demon mostly, and I come out of it worse off than she

would if I just let her be. At best, she's fretful and sits there, rocking like a lunatic, making noises like some awful creature from the depths of Hell. But when she gets in her moods, she scratches and claws, and then, oh, then she coos and purls like a babe, with the blood all running down her. Oh, what am I to do, she's some sort of mad little thing when she has the chance. She gets out when Ellen is sleeping and that poor girl has enough trouble without Izzy making all that noise. Sometimes I think Ellen knows we're here; she writes about it when someone will give her a pen, how she feels like she's doing things she's already done before – Oh, Izzy, blast it, why can't you just leave well enough alone, there's nothing there, there's nothing there!

Desmond

What happened to your arm?

Did something cut you? Bite you? Scratch you?

Well, either something did or it did not; this is not usually a question of overwhelming complexity.

I am not seeing how that is relevant to what I asked.

Let us focus on the real world, shall we? The one that everyone else seems to inhabit.

Is this situation amusing to you? You have once again caused serious injury to yourself, and now you sit here making jokes.

For the love of God, just answer a question!

Stop! I cannot...get through to you, there's just nothing else for.... Why won't you stop?

How often are you here? How many times have we been here, having this same conversation in this same situation? And nothing ever seems to come of it; you never seem to make an effort towards getting better, you cling to this Morgellon's, this...this *fantasy* disease. You refuse to believe that this is something you have control over! I am afraid...

...that I have no choice anymore.

Please calm down.

Please be still. You know this is not what I want for you.

I am sorry.

I am always sorry.