

The Masked Ball

Greg Boyd

Someone in red heels and nails dances past, giggling through the snout of a pig. A wolf bows and whispers in her ear, offers a white-gloved hand. Glasses, nose, and moustache forgets to laugh when he spills a drink on his tight pants. Sequins and cat whiskers wishes she had taken dance lessons and lost weight. The band affects a pirate crew with eye patches. Children peek down from the stairs, mice in white pyjamas, up past their bedtime. Their parents, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, aren't speaking.

Out back a plump Wonder Woman skinny dips in the swimming pool. Frankenstein strips and joins her, uncovering a monstrous secret. A bald Superman passes out by the bushes. Batman and Robin lock themselves in the bathroom. Dracula waits his turn.

Somewhere in the black tub of lights below the hills of Hollywood, the Keystone Cops are cruising.