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Are You Planning to Take Part in the Dark?

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RICH IVES

**ARE YOU PLANNING TO TAKE PART
IN THE DARK?**

Instead of smiling, she placed her fingers in his mouth.

Instead of removing her skirt, she cupped her hand and lowered it, stepping forward.

Instead of keeping a safe distance, they wore hats. They ate licorice. They chaffed.

Instead of a dead person, a large cow, which is so much bigger.

One fly.

I can see the danger in it. I can see the fear.

Slick with violence like a sweaty young boy.

A coffee cup engulfed in her swollen hands.

Well, then, could we enter?

As if the room had swallowed a cloud.