## 13 imaginary friends

## by James Knight

- 1. He had thirteen imaginary friends. They knew him better than his mother did.
- 2. His imaginary friends were all born of a cat on the night of a blood moon.
- 3. His imaginary friends had grey skin and red eyes, giving them the appearance of dead people. Their cheeks flushed silver when they blushed.
- 4. His imaginary friends had held a grudge against him for thirty years. They never forgave him for neglecting them by playing with other children.
- 5. His imaginary friends regularly gathered in the folds of his curtains, whispering about him.
- 6. While he slept, his imaginary friends opened the curtains, turned on the lights and displayed him in the window like a mannequin.
- 7. His imaginary friends were stage managers, orchestrating the bleak theatre of his life.
  - 8. Having sex was difficult with his imaginary friends present.
- 9. Whenever he saw them on the station platform or in a coffee shop, his imaginary friends would look right through him, as if he didn't exist.
- 10. Once, his imaginary friends killed a pigeon and left it on his doorstep. It was intended as an ambiguously threatening message.
- 11. His imaginary friends maintained their sangfroid by using his fridge as their chillout zone.
- 12. His imaginary friends were more real than his house, his car, his job, his girlfriend, his parents, his past, his desires, his life.
- 13. Whenever his imaginary friends felt tired they folded themselves in half and slept under the rug in his living room.