

## The deadly mummy kids

Once upon a time there was a little boy who was named Alihandro and he was walking in a grave of dead people and one night he was walking with a friend and then his friend suddenly disappeared and Alihandro went searching for his friend and he found his friend and there was a trail of body parts and at the end of them he saw his friend's heart. Alihandro did not know that it was a new day and the day was February 13 and it was Friday and then he heard a chainsaw then Alihandro ran home and saw his family and they were asleep so Alihandro went to sleep. At 3:00am he heard a noise and he went downstairs. He turned on the light and they started to flicker. All of his family's body parts were in piles and he saw a person in a suit with a chainsaw and he ran to the graveyard to bury the bodies the next day. He was burying the bodies when a mummy came out of the ground. The mummy was stinky and it had no eyes or wrapping around it and it started to follow Alihandro. That night the mummy got more mummies to kill Alihandro. But the guy with the chainsaw tried to kill the mummies but there were too many and the chainsaw guy died. The mummies went to Alihandro's house and the mummies were too late because the sun came up and killed all of the mummies except for one and that one had babies and the next night they ate Alihandro up and everybody else alive. All of the other monsters tried to eat the mummies but they got eaten and earth turned into monster's home and then it was called kid mom's earth.

# The End

By Chance VanPelt

4th tsis

# pact's of wild vines

By jasper price

The wood is evil, and intent on death. dried leaves, echo warming, " you need to run. then howling wind, rush fear. area presentence starred, strode. you run to find a tree engulfed all see the dark brown and black abyss. Struggling in muck of marsh. Prowling vines that wreak some before.

Twist and thud, chud of wild vines. wood vowed toil path. You frightening sight that you know so well, sight of the unfamiliar. Every stream was still, rock. No chills, no push wind. There is no escape , closer you to the path, deep you are. Lost you hear woods, vine calls you.

Howl familiar dredd creature. Your dire expression is wood. Stiffness of heart, and blood. My eyes were weary, frozen in place. another form of face pace. Limp couldn't under, unwearly warning.

Then wood spoke to me, saying the pact they made with. Tho anyone who enters won't see again. Vine whispered to my creep me pact that i made. Every sight you ever see, where can't be anymore little girl. Haunt ever they talk. Then the last of me turned to tuff.

Information:

Name: Ada Marie Erickson

Grade: 7th Watson Junior High

Age: 12 years old

## What They Left Behind

No one knew what happened to her, know one could find her. She went missing. But you can stand there alone in silence. You can hear her scream of her being tortured. Something will change very soon.

Loki as she walked alone in the hallway the lights flickered noises that made her jump looking behind her in such a way that she was being watched but when she spinned around all she saw was her cold breath; hearing her heavy breathing. She stood there alone not knowing what would happen, only hearing the buzz of the lights going on and off, not strong enough to stay on.

"Loki? What are you doing there, are you okay?" Anakian questioned.

Loki jumped as she spun around her hair flowing around like a whip. "Y-you scared me." Loki mumbled walking over to him.

"Alright well let's find the group I guess then we can get going it's getting late." Anakian suggested opening the door, suggesting for her to go first.

Loki nodded, walking through the door as they looked for the other two. As they were looking they found rooms they haven't yet found and decided to take a little stroll through. Five minutes go by and they hear faint talking and yelling through a few walls.

"I guess Arya got mad at Kyle again." Loki snickered as they walked through the few doors.

Them walking through the doorway found Arya sitting on top of Kyle about to beat the skittles out of him. Kyle wasn't very much trying to stop her, just sitting there watching her yelling at him.

"Okay that's enough no need for you two going home with bruises or someone with a broken bone we still have a few more travel places we're going to." Anakian said, grabbing Arya by the elbows dragging her away from Kyle.

"Nooooooooooooo you can't, I was about to beat him up. I was so close." Arya winned.

"Oh please your 4'10 and I'm 5'7 you can hardly beat me." Kyle flipped his imaginary hair.

"Really? Then how did she get you pinned down so easily?" Anakian snickered.

Kyle rolled his eyes as he dusted off his pants and hoodie. They were all pretty tired and ready to end the day and head back to the hotel. The group went out to dinner before actually heading to the hotel, each of them having a few drinks and ready to end the day.

"Goodnight!" Loki and Arya said as they left their hotel room as the two boys waved goodbye and went to their own hotel room.

As Loki and Arya were getting ready for the night a thought came to Loki's mind, "Shoot I forgot my camera at the warehouse."

"Oh, well I guess, wait yeah it's fine we can just get it in the morning before we go out to brunch." Arya suggested pulling a hoodie over her head.

Loki nodded, hopping into bed. As all four of them soon had sleep rush upon them.

#### *~In The Morning~*

The ladies woke up first like normal around 8:30 in the morning, giving them plenty of time to get ready before the boys woke up. Usually around 10. The girls showered, changed, and got ready for the day; cleaning their bags out and putting in what they needed.

Loki and Arya walked down three doors till they reached the room both knocking to be met with a very tired Kyle, looking like he had just woken up.

"Rise and shine sleepy head!" Loki exclaimed, pushing past the tall male into the dirty hotel room.

"Anakian! Wake up! No more sleeping in!" Arya shouts, making Anakian jump.

After a few minutes of two guys complaining and whining they finally gave up and got ready. As the two galls waited they were thinking of places they could visit. Two males came into their room, already having their bags on their back.

They took a cab to the best brunch place they found while visiting Dobar ran by a father and daughter business. Serving, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, and dinner at all times. Just what they needed at this time before they got the day started.

"Is it okay if, before we go to the restaurant, we go back to the warehouse? I left my camera there." Loki hesitated.

"Yeah sure we can stop by!" Anakian assured patting Loki on the back.

They got into the cab set in the location to the warehouse. Having the cab sit outside as the three waited while Loki grabbed her camera. Loki easily found it since it was an exhibit it made it easy to find just going to the lost and found.

Grabbing it and dusting it off it changed a little bit, not so much just the slightest shade off. Loki just shrugged it off thinking it was fine. As she walks back she's still having trouble wondering what weird feeling is coming from something that feels different. Different.

Loki hops back in the cab in the back seat, "You're back!" Arya happily says, wrapping her arms around her.

"Yep and I got my camera." Showing it off before putting it back in the case.

They headed off to the brunch place. It was now around 11am, the perfect time for brunch. They got there, it was a classic place with red booths and checkered floors, black counters and dining tables. The waiters and waitresses wore rollerblades or skates, for delivering food. It's food was all about the 80's. Pancakes the size of a balloon, eggs scrambled, fruits, milkshakes always with extra whip cream. It was a family friend place where everyone could get along.

All four friends grabbed a seat taking it in the strawberry smell mixed with cooked bacon, looking at their menus to see what they should get.

"Hia, my name is Kathey and I'll be your waiter for today. How can I get you started this fine evening?" Kathey said she had a white puffy dress with a pink bow tying it all together; a pink brimmed apron, her skates were also pink, just different shades.

"I think I'll have the chocolate chip pancakes with a strawberry milkshake please." Kyle replies smiling while placing down his menu.

"Could I have, small frie of two eggs, sunny side up and two pieces of bacon please." Arya suggested.

"Sure thing honey what would you like for a drink?" the waitress asked.

"Oh could I have a small vanilla milkshake?" Arya replied.

"Yep and what could I get for you two?"

"Oh. Could I have the pancakes with whip cream and strawberries on top, with a caramel milkshake. Please." Loki commented, placing her menu down.

"I'll just have an omelet with bacon and ham with extra cheese please, then could I also have a chocolate milkshake." Anakian asserted.

"Yep! Those will be out in about ten minutes." Kathie cheered skating off, still writing the orders on a notepad.

Five minutes go back and all four milkshakes come. Each placed on the table and already from the first sip they all have whip cream on their noses.

"Oh this would be a super cute picture for the book." Loki says pulling out her camera, this time the camera being a completely different color.

She snapped the picture and immediately she disappeared left with an ear shattering scream. The picture came through the end of the camera and it wasn't what it was supposed to be. A girl on a swing, her neck wrapped in a rope tied to a branch of a tree, you couldn't see her face. The more you looked at the picture it seemed to move. The girl was slowly raising her head until it was fully raised.

She had midnight black hair, skin still full with color but her eyes were completely blacked out with blood over her face, she had a white dress but not the purest it was dirty and ragged covered in dirt and blood. Her neck was in a pool of stained blood from the rope wrapped around her.

A smile formed on her face as she said one sentence, "Come and play with me."

Her voice wasn't something new, it was a voice they all knew. Loki's. Before anything else happened the swing disappeared from under her legs, her being hung from the neck. She wasn't dead, she just kept singing Ring Around A Rosies, fire surrounding her, as blood fell down her dress to her hands.

Loki was missing. They had no clue how she got into the picture, the picture never stopped moving. It was either her on a swing singing her song while fire was around her or she was covered in blood, hanged from a tree.

# They Belong to the Woods Now

By: Luke Thomas

A week after school got out I asked my friends Donald, Izzy, Maryam, and Eve if they wanted to go camping with me, all four of them said yes. We headed out a week later into the woods and started setting up camp. One hour later, after we finished setting up, we headed out into the woods to explore. We saw all sorts of animals, like birds, squirrels and deer. It started getting dark and started raining. We didn't have any waterproof flashlights, so we got lost on our way to find the campsite.

We found an old cabin. It was so old that the paint was peeling off the outside walls of the house. We went inside and saw old cloth, furniture, vines, and holes everywhere, there was even a dead rat in the corner. Later that night they started seeing these old disfigured looking paintings over the walls. The paintings were kinda scary but eventually they all fell asleep.

When they woke up all of their hearts dropped, what they thought were paintings were actually windows. Everyone packed up their stuff and started heading outside, when they went outside there was ash falling from the sky and it was all over the ground. They start slowly walking away from the cabin when they hear a stick break to the right of them and they all look, it was hundreds of thousands of disfigured monster humanoid things that were burned to a crisp and had lots of body parts missing or falling off.

They start running while hearing the things following them, when Eve stopped and turned around, all the monsters had gotten closer. She wanted to test something out, so she turned around and counted to 5. When she turned back around she screamed. Everyone turned around to see what she was doing. Everyone, including me, saw that the monster was 3 inches away from Eve's face. Eve grabbed the monster trying to push it away but

that is when it pounced on her and ripped her vocal cords out with its rotted, crooked teeth. Her screams were muffled by the blood filling in her throat. The monster looked at me with blood dripping from its mouth and it smiled creepily with hunger in his eyes. Then it looked back and started eating her again. All the monsters came up to her, ripped her open and started eating her like a starving child eating meat off a bone. When they were done a ring of fire started forming around Eve's dead body, I could smell the cooking meat of my dead friend. Something emerged from the ground, inside the ring of fire, it was Eve except she was one of the monsters now, the only thing left of her was her blue glasses, melting from her face.

Everyone got scared and started running and Maryam tripped and broke her ankle. We could see the bone break out of the skin and as it did, blood squirted in my face. Me and Donald came to help her up and as soon as they did they started running again. When we found a cave we went inside and popped the bone back into Maryam's leg. As she screamed they were looking for some cloth or vines to cover up Maryam's leg so that it doesn't get infected and to help it from bleeding.

Eventually Izzy finds some old leaves and vines in the back of the cave, she runs up and ties it around Maryom's leg. One month later, Izzy, Maryam, and I were sleeping while Donald kept a lookout. I woke up to the sound of screams. I sat up to see one of the monsters dig it's long, dirty nails into Donald's chest so that they could devour his organs. I saw that Izzy and Maryom were awake and scared. I grab our things while Donald is muttering his last words "RUN!". That's when the ring of fire started forming but I ran with my last two friends before we saw another one of our friends turn into a monster.

As we were running I found another cave except it has a smaller hole, harder for the monsters to get in. Five days later Maryam died from an infection in her leg. It was swollen with puss, maggots, and flies all over it because we did not have the medical care she needed. As me and Izzy cry, thinking that we will never make it out of this terrible underworld. That's

when I had a theory that could save us all. I stood up and started dragging Maryam to the cabin while Izzy went looking for Donald.

As soon as I put her in the cabin I went looking for Eve's evil replica. It had been hours, days but when I heard Izzy scream, I ran to her to see her fighting Donald's replica. I pulled a rope out of my bag and tied it around DJ so that it would be easier to drag him to the cabin. As I was walking to the cabin I saw a blue shimmer, Eve's glasses. I walked up to the glasses just to see that they were moving, they were still on Eve's face. I hand Donald to Izzy so that I can captur Eve.

I pull out another rope from my bag so that I can catch Eve. I wrap it around what's left of her chest and drag it to the cabin. When I walk into the cabin, Izzy is trying to lock Donald in one of the spare rooms. I shove Eve into the bathroom, lock the door and go to help Izzy with Donald.

After Donald is in the room I set up two sleeping bags, inches away from Maryam's disgusting, rotting corpse. When me and Izzy are in the bags I tell her what might happen when we wake up. Then we fall asleep. I wake up to see Maryam standing looking out the window. I wake Izzy up and tell her to go check on Eve. I go to the room that Me and Izzy put Donald in. I open the door to see Donald except he is back to normal. I was so happy that I screamed, it also woke up Donald. Donald said that he had a dream that Eve died, then he did.

I told him it was all true but we are safe now. We walked back to Izzy, she was telling Eve what happened. Donald walked over to Maryam and told her what happened. Maryam got her phone out to see that it had only been 3 minutes. We walk outside and try to get back to the campsite. We get there, pack up stuff and head home. As soon as I got home I turned on the TV but it was static. So I went to the sink to get a glass of water, then I headed outside so I could water my plant and that's when I saw ash falling from the sky.

## Andrew Swift

It was 1898, and everyone loved to play outside in Denver's winter. It was a fresh 62F and low breeze so everyone liked it. But one kid might have liked it too much. Little Jon was only twelve when he did something a 35 year old grown man wouldn't do. He went into the Grimm Shaft. It was abandoned for as long as anyone could remember, and no one ever went in there because of the rumors that it was haunted with the ghosts of former slaves working there. Little Jon didn't give a crap, he loved adventures. So he entered the shafts without fear. This shaft was only 300ft into the hills but nothing changes his thought of it being a normal abandoned shaft. Around 100ft in, he started hearing sounds. It was not something he would normally have heard on a winter day. It was the sound of joyful children playing in a playground. He only thought that it was kids from behind him, but then he saw a playground. The kids were very pale and their eyes were as white as milk. He ran back to the entrance. The mineshaft looked like he was a mile in and he wasn't able to get out. It was this shiny end that would pop up and then disappear.

Something grabbed his arm and he screeched and yelped but no one heard him. It seemed as if he was in an endless void that he could not escape. One ghost then talked to him. "Tell the people what they want to hear."

Many thoughts ran through his mind. "What is it?", "Why should I?" How would I?" He then yelled, "What do they want to hear?!"

They never responded and he never asked again because he couldn't. His mouth was covered by the ghost's hands and he kept on wondering what the people wanted to hear. His memory jumped to the future showing a wrecked city and ghosts enjoying themselves with no humans bothering them. He was scared for his life realizing the one telling the people the ghosts locked up what they wanted to hear was him. He listened carefully, and nothing could've been easier to do except this one sad thing, everyone he loved was locked up about to be killed, and he was very emotional. His future ghost was speaking a language he never heard. "Ew rea reitd fo igwrkno." He thought about everything he knew and rearranged the words to form, "We are tired of working."

He woke up from a random blackout, the world seeming as if it was the beginning of that former day. He went to the mineshaft and asked the ghosts what they wanted and they said the exact same thing, did the exact same thing except how they reacted to him asking the question. He never asked the question. So they continued to play with the playground equipment. He didn't join them, he told them a very complex thing. They came and circled him. He didn't move, shiver, or even react. He just said, "Take a dang rest."

The playground disappeared. Everything turned back to normal. He went on to enjoy his day. (SCROLL DOWN)

OR DID HE????

## **THE FIGURE**

**BY- JENNIFER HOFFMANN**

**12 YEARS OLD GRADE 7**

Everyone has had a moment where they see a figure out of the corner of their eye, or hear a noise with no explanation, that figure at the end of your bed, the monster under your bed, or even the person watching you from outside your window right now. I bet you just looked out your window, right? Or checked under your bed for the so-called monster? You didn't see anything right? Well that's good...**It** doesn't like it when people see **it**. But **It's** always there, watching, learning. That breathing you hear when you are home alone, that's **It**. The feeling of being watched when you close your eyes to sleep? That's also **It**. Waiting for **it's** time to strike. That paranoia you feel as you check around your room? **It** causes that. **It's** always watching, there's no way to escape. You are trapped. It's a scary feeling isn't it? Yes, that's what **It** likes, fear.

### *No Escape*

Jane shot up in her bed panting, looking around her room. Nothing there, right? She didn't see anything, but that doesn't mean nothing there. Things hide in plain sight all the time. She has just awoken from a nightmare, she was being chased around a dark forest by a black figure that looked like her just with red eyes and a wide smile that went to its ears, it had long claws instead of fingers. It was chasing her, trying to get her. Jane knew it was just a dream...but was it just a dream? Yeah, it **had** to have been a dream, right? Jane grabbed her blue blanket from the ground and covered herself up to warm up, unaware **it** was watching her from the end of her bed. To her it was just shadows, but no it was much more. The room was cold, colder than normal. Once she finally warmed up Jane drifted back off to sleep. She was falling, falling through a dark pit, no bottom. She tried to scream but she couldn't. It was like she had no voice, or the emptiness was sucking up all the sound she made before she made it. A soft static sound filled her ears causing a headache. She covered her ears hoping it would block out the static. Then the black pit glitched, now she was in a white room with a sentence written on the wall in a red substance, blood. It said 'It's all in your head'. The only color in the room was Jane's pink nightgown and the blood dripping on the wall. Whose blood was it? She didn't know. Frankly she didn't want to know.

*You already know how this will end...*

That's right! This is all just a dream, a bad dream. Jane walked away from the bloody wall thinking this was all a nightmare and saw the same black figure with the glowing eyes and the smile in the corner. It reached its clawed hand towards Jane and she ran hoping to get away, it followed her saying in a deep raspy voice *"You're trapped"*

Jane ran and ran until she tripped on her dress and fell again. This time when she landed she was in a forest with glowing red eyes watching her. She slowly got up wincing as her leg started throbbing from her fall. There was a thick fog covering the forest. The forest also somehow had a red tint to it. The twisted trees towering over her blocking out the moonlight. The trees look as though they would swallow anything that entered into the forest, bringing them to their demise. *What was this sick game?!* Apparently not. A worn axe came flying from the dark forest and missed Jane's head by mere inches hitting a tree behind her. Jane gasped and started to run again. Jane ran dodging the thorns and bushes scattered around until the static came back and she was in a room that looked like a tv when the screen started to glitch. All four walls of the room looked like tv static almost like she was inside a tv. The words *"Having fun?"* were on the static wall in rainbow colors. No, she was not having fun. She wanted to go home so badly. But wasn't she home? She was dreaming after all. Jane felt warm tears falling down her cold face so she wiped her face with her hand only to see those tears were not tears, it was blood falling from her eye sockets. She gasped and jumped. After she landed she wasn't in the static filled room, she was in a lake with water filling her lungs. There were scraped arms popping out of the grey sand and pulling her deeper into the water while she struggled to swim to the surface. The blood from her eyes, turning the water a pink color. She screamed and screamed while trying to get out, only losing more air. Jane decided to accept her fate as the hands kept pulling her down deeper into the water when she saw it, the same figure outside of the water watching her drown with that eerie smile.

*Don't be scared...*

This has to be some sick joke Jane thought. Maybe she's in a coma? Not likely. Jane kept crying her tears of blood. Jane blinked again and she was awake, in her bed, everything normal. She felt her face, and looked down at her hands, no blood. Everything was fine. Well except for the open window that was once closed. I wonder if Jane sees it standing in her closet? Probably not, no one ever sees it until it's too late. Jane walked to her desk in the corner of her room to write down this crazy dream...dream...was this a dream?

*It's Behind you...*

Jane grabbed a pencil to write down her dream unaware of the figure creeping behind her until it was breathing down her neck. Jane's eyes widened as she felt breathing, she jumped out of her chair and tried to run...it was too late.

*Bye bye....*

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Police arrived at the scene later on in the day, one of the officers working on the case of missing Jane was Dave, he knew what happened as **it** chased him when he was little. He was lucky and had escaped it, only barely, it still haunts him to this day. No other officer would believe him when he said what happened. Dave looked around young Jane's room searching for any clues that might prove **it** wasn't behind this. After 30 minutes he couldn't find anything proving it was just a kidnapping. No evidence of a break in, just that eerie cold breeze coming from nowhere. Dave looked around the room as the closet door creaked open slowly revealing **it**, except this time it was shaped like Dave, it still had the same eyes and smile though. Dave dropped his flashlight and tried to run, feeling the sharp claws of **it** touching his skin, until he was met with the same fate as Jane.

### *What are you afraid of...?*

And so it went, **it** killed more and more of its victims, mostly all lonely people. You might be wondering what happened to poor Jane and Dave, they met a terrible fate, yes they did. **It** got them, I suppose you already know that, now don't you? What is **it**? No one knows what **it** really is, some say it's you but evil, others say it's an entity feeding on the souls of lonely people. No one knows what it does to people, only that when you catch **its** interest no one will see you again. Just don't say **it's** name or it will come for you too.

### *Are you lonely too?*

Did you hear that? That voice? The one that is just there? You can't find where it's coming from? Of course you can't, **it** makes sure you're clueless. Have you ever noticed that feeling of being watched Or the way the music you are listening to glitched? Or seemed more creepy? I wish I could say you're safe...but is anyone? **It** is standing there, observing, it could be outside the window, disappearing everytime you look, it could be beside you, or in the closet across the room. Maybe even creeping up right behind you just like what happened with poor little Jane. What happens when it gets you? No one knows...Did you see that? The shadow that just ran behind you? No? Oh, we'll just pretend I didn't say anything... Do you see it now? But it's right there... Where are you going?

Make sure it doesn't get you, if it does, you're sure to meet a terrible fate, just like Jane and Dave and its many other victims. If you don't believe me, look behind you...

*If you see the smile and eyes run until you can't because if it finds you, you'll surely meet your doom.*

# Hot Chocolate's Eternal Curse

Isabel Cristina Perez Viruet

8th grade, age 13

Once upon a time, there was a creature named Ceeno. Ceeno was a hulking, jealous beast, with rough and leathery skin, long claws, and deep red eyes. He liked to stew in envy for all and any who were happy, drawing contentment only from eating the happy. He lived in the dense forest behind an idyllic town called Serena where all were peaceful and, conveniently for Ceeno, happy.

The content townspeople went about their lives as any normal townsfolk would. There was only one difference between the people of Serena and those of different locations: no one was to go into the woods under ANY circumstances; it was even written into Serena's laws. Not to forage, travel, or play. NO ENTERING THE WOODS.

This was because Ceeno lived in them. As previously mentioned, the only thing Ceeno was fond of was eating people (especially the happy, although Ceeno wasn't picky). The townsfolk were rather fond of remaining un-eaten, so they abided.

Despite the monster living practically in their backyards, the people of Serena had an excellent education system, no poverty, a booming economy, and a surplus of food, given all the time on their hands. And on top of all that, the townspeople were incredible chefs. It was said that a Thanksgiving feast at Serena could make a newcomer faint of delight, being unused to the heavenly smells. Their biggest claim to fame was, however, the art of making hot chocolate. Yes, hot chocolate.

It had been PROVEN that a steaming mug of the stuff COULD make a newcomer faint, unused to the heavenly taste.

The people of Serena might whip the milk into froth until the drink no longer felt liquid and instead felt like a warm cloud had settled onto your tongue.

Or they might add cream to it, furiously beaten and laden with sugar and vanilla.

Maybe they might sprinkle a bit of apple cider into a cup at the beginning of harvest season.

A sprinkle of pumpkin spice in deep fall.

Peppermint sticks, cinnamon, nutmeg. Milk, chocolate, butter. Sugar, vanilla, oh so delicious; they all swirled together in the mugs of the people of Serena.

Crowded together at the hearth in the dead of winter, with bare trees and howling winds, they would gather in their cozy cottages and sip their cocoa, and all would be right.

One evening in early autumn the townsfolk's children were playing a rousing game of tag. Giggling and running, the children got closer and closer to the woods, until they suddenly were.

Ceeno, of course, noticed this. He licked his lips in anticipation, and crept towards the group of giggling children, dagger-like claws scraaaaaaping against the ground.

One of the children looked up and screamed, for Ceeno's red eyes were on him. The children, sensing danger, scattered to the safety of the village, but one of Ceeno's long arms reached out and plucked a small girl named June from the fray.

He unhinged his great jaws and prepared to eat her, to relish the taste of flesh...

The terrified girl begged for mercy.

The monster chuckled and said, "Do you know how long I have been waiting to savor human blood?" He shook his head and raised June to his mouth again, but June was smart. She cried out once more.

"Ceeno!" she said slyly, "There is a better taste in the world than that of human blood. And I alone have the only cup. If you eat me, you will never know the true taste of happiness. If you let me go, then I will bring you all of it. You will not be disappointed, as it is the drink of the gods."

Ceeno didn't care about "the taste of happiness," but he did care that the puny human had argued with him, and despite his wickedness, the creature was curious. Weighing his options, he decided to let little June go.

*There will always be another child to wander into my claws, Ceeno reasoned, but entertainment comes only every few hundred years.*

"Fine." Ceeno told June. "I'll let you go. But if you don't come back in one day's time, I will descend upon your village and destroy all of it."

"But if I come back, will you leave us alone?" June asked with a tremble in her voice.

Ceeno enjoyed her fear, and agreed. He put June down, the child scampered back to Serena, and the monster patiently waited outside the town borders for his drink of the gods.

The drink that June was referring to was, of course, Serena's famous hot chocolate, which Ceeno didn't know. Another thing Ceeno didn't know was that June was a hot-chocolate-making prodigy.

June ran as hard as her little legs could carry her, for she only had a day to make it. She didn't tell the other people of Serena, because she was afraid they'd be angry with her for leaving the town.

June mixed and poured and added ingredients to a big cauldron that would hold her drink of the gods. She looked like a witch brewing a special elixir!

That night, June, exhausted, snuck out of her home with the sweet smelling cauldron, dragged it outside of the town borders and towards the outskirts of the forest. Ceeno was waiting.

She gave the monster the cauldron and despite attempting to appear indifferent, Ceeno gulped down the whole pot!

Now remember, Ceeno hated all things good, and hot chocolate is definitely a good thing. The better a thing was, the more Ceeno hated it.

The hot chocolate that June made that day was creamy and sweet and warm; all the things hot chocolate should be. It was undeniably the best cocoa Serena had ever seen.

Coupled with the naturally hot temperature of the drink, the sensation of good and bad and hot burned Ceeno's tongue. And burned and burned and burned, until there was not much left of Ceeno himself.

With his dying breaths, he cursed June and Serena and good things and above all, hot chocolate. Then he keeled over and died.

However, because of the promise he had made to June, (the one saying that he would leave everyone alone if she came back to the forest with the drink) the curse didn't have much effect. It morphed from a thing born of hate to a minor inconvenience.

He eternally cursed all hot chocolate everywhere to taste bad if it was reheated. Yes, back in those days, if you left hot chocolate outside in the cold then brought it inside and left it over the fire, it would taste just the same. But no more.

Despite the curse, June was hailed as a hero for destroying the evil monster Ceeno.

Nonetheless, even today, my friends, we can feel the effect of Ceeno's curse. Hot chocolate never quite tastes the same reheated to this day.

## Creator Information

Name: Isabella Simmering

Addr

Age/Grade: 12 years / 7th grade

# THE MONSTER BOOK

I don't know how long I've been here. It's dark and cold; the only thing keeping me warm is the thick, shaggy, brown fur that is my cover. I know metal surrounds me, for it's the source of the numbness in my pages; which feel like they are freezing over. The bind around my cover compacts my pages to the point they aren't visible around my shaggy fur. Suddenly I hear clicking outside, I tense; my pages compacting even closer. This makes me seem smaller and more insignificant; something I am not. I have been the subject of secrets that go several thousand generations back. Secrets that have been labeled as legends.

Many ask whether the beings I hold information on actually exist. I could tell you all that in a heartbeat. The exact location of the Loch Ness monster's nest. How bigfoot keeps alluding photographers, and much more. The keepers come every century. They come to copy all the information from the past a hundred years into my pages. In fact my most recent entry has been of the illusive bigfoot themself, along with the Loch Ness Monster.

I have a \*QuinVigintillion years of folklore, fables, and fairytales. They flow from the gorgons, such as Medusa, to the tooth fairy.

All of a sudden I am pulled from my boasting by a clicking from the left side of my metal cage. It's almost as if someone was to crack a combination, but this would be impossible. While time is a fuzzy domain in my prizion, I am fairly sure it has not been a hundred years.

Despite my disbelief however the door opens. After my hidden eyes adjust to the light flowing through the new opening I see a girl, maybe 19. She has brown hair with bright red tips pulled back into a ponytail; if it were to hang

loosely it would probably reach her waist. Her T-shirt is black. A parakeet green hoodie is tied around her waist, and she wears worn jeans. Her sneakers are a mint color and are clearly worn on the bottom; one of them not tied. At first she seems shocked, as if it was a prank that led to finding me. However, her expression quickly changes to concern.

She eventually reaches out to grab me, quickly recoiling after realizing the sharp teeth that line my pages. "That might be a problem." she mutters before reaching towards me more cautiously.

She lifts me grunting in surprise at my weight. She drops me, creating a large amount of dust on the surface. She sits down, taking a break before lifting me again. She seems to be analyzing every detail. Staring at me with wonder, messing with my fur and examining the teeth that pierced her hand just minutes ago.

There are footsteps in the aisle next to ours, and through the slits in the books we see a person walking. The girl gets up, grabs me and starts running.

After we made it to the exit she slowed her pace to a jog, then to a fast walk. She kept muttering "Gotta get there on time." I wondered where there was, but not having a mouth can be annoying at times. Despite my attempts at telepathic communication (like the aliens from page 315 could do) the girl just kept walking. I began feeling weird calling her "the girl" so I decided to name her Anni. I would ask her about it, but it seems telepathy is not something I can do, or I can't do it very well.

We eventually made it to what looked like an abandoned library or bookstore. When we walk in, my first thought is "Dust". There is visible dust on pretty much everything.

While Anni walks through the maze of shelves I zone out. The deeper into the building we went the stronger the feeling of foreshadowing I was feeling grew. I begin to read the labels on the spines of the books. We eventually make it to a group of tables that might have been a study area at one point. At the table sits a young adult, maybe in his late twenties. His hair is long, curly, and had a turquoise tint to his brown hair. His eyes are an aqua-marine and he has almond skin color. He wears a t-shirt like Anni, but his is grey, the hoodie around his waist is an aqua blue, and his jeans are a slate grey.

Anni dropped me on a table getting his attention. "Anni." he greets. So maybe I do have some telepathy skills after all. "You got it." She smiles sarcastically, "Yes Hunter I did get the giant fury book." I'm liking her more and more.

He pulls out a key from his hoodie pocket, completely abandoning the books he was researching. I caught a glimpse of a heading in the book he currently had open, it read "Loch Ness Monster". This could be a problem. If he was researching legends and myths and he has a key to my contents it could spill secrets that go billions of years back.

He grabs me and goes to put the key in the lock on my bind. I begin to squirm and toil, as much as a book can, to get out of Hunter's grasp. My teeth bare and get ready to snap at him once he gets the lock off. He finally manages to get the lock off and starts to undo my bind.

Just then a girl walks in. Hunter sets me down and turns all his attention to the girl. "Jasmine?" He asks coldly. I would describe what she looks like, but sitting on this table I couldn't get a good look at much of anything. Jasmine gulps and says, "It's ready." This seems to cheer him up a bit, saying exparaticly, "Finally! Give me one minute to finish this up. If anything goes wrong you set it off, no one needs to know what's going on here."

"Yes sir." Jasmine responds while leaving.

I begin to feel more anxious as Hunter turns his attention back to me. He finishes undoing my bind and I reach out to bite him. I hit. He recoils, hitting my cover open to page 257, "Aqrabuamelu; Scorpion Man". The hologram of a man with the body of a scorpion. The hologram seems to startle Hunter as he yelps and falls back.

From somewhere within the maze of books I hear Jasmine yell, "Mustard and mayonnaise!"

"Mustard and mayonnaise?" Is the last thing I think before I see flames, bright red flames. There seems to be a fan that is blowing the flames in this direction; however this is not all it's doing. The fan is flipping my pages causing more and more holograms to appear. golems, ogres and cyclops; leprechauns, gnomes, and goblins; fairies, unicorns, and mermaids. All of them, and many more, crowd the room. They all have vocal notes along with written ones. Each

vocal notes talking over each other, and the pages turning so fast it wouldn't matter if anyone was looking at them.

Suddenly a dragon appears overhead spewing more information, gathering more attention. The fan is finally turned off, and I see Anni standing over it. She's wheezing and coughing from the amount of smoke in the air. I hear sirens going off around the building. I begin to worry about what would happen if they get inside and see the realistic holograms running around, displaying their abilities. "It doesn't matter." I think as I feel the heat of the flames approaching. I wonder about all the information I could have gathered if this had happened. When the flames finally reach me I'm thinking about mutant chickens that can speak and read minds. Then it's gone.

The firefighters get into the library and begin to put out the fire. The medics are outside wondering what a bunch of teenagers were doing inside the library in the first place. The firefighters finish putting every last spark out and the police move in. They determine it was a purposeful fire, due to the gasoline they found in the back. They also found a book. Now this would be normal since the building was a library, if it wasn't for the fact that it had fur. When they went to open it (for it had magically closed) they were bewildered at the hologram that appeared, and the information they found.

#### "Oni (Japanese Myth)"

Oni are people who were so truly wicked in their lives that they transformed into demons in hell. Some were even bad enough to be transformed while still alive! These giant, scary monsters with red or blue skin, horns, and tusks are traditionally the servants of hell. They enact violent punishment on evil-doers and will eat just about anything, including humans. While stories and depictions of oni may vary they are always seen as dangerous and powerful villains."

"We need to take this in..."

## *Creator Information*

*Name: Abigail Lampreda*

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Age/Grade: 7th, 12*

## **HOUSE OF HAUNTS**

Jessica Reynolds was a normal 15 year old girl, or so she thought. What she didn't know was that she had the power to see, hear, and communicate with the dead. She can also bring them back to life, if they want to, of course. But little does she know how dangerous this power is, and how many problems it can cause.

~~~~~Present Day~~~~~

"Jessica, sweetheart, it's time to get up, you have school!"  
Jessica rolls out of bed upon hearing her mother's voice.  
She puts on her school uniform and heads downstairs to eat

breakfast. "Goodmorning mom," she says. "Morning honey, did you sleep well?" Jessica nods. "I did, thank you." She eats breakfast and heads out to start walking to school. When she gets to school, her bestie, Rosabelle Sanders, runs over to her. "Hi bestie," Rosabelle squeals. "Hi Rosabelle, how are you?" "Oh I'm just fine, thank you for asking. How about you?" "I'm fine, thank you." They both walk into the school, only to be stopped by the 'queen bee'. "What are you pathetic losers doing back here?" Esmerelda Cheng and her girl group smirk. "Honestly Esmerelda, don't you have better things to be doing other than bothering us," Jessica questions. Esmerelda's eyes widened. "W-what's that?" She points to something behind Jessica. Jessica turned around and standing there was a woman, very beautiful too, with an arrow through her heart. "Hi Jessica." Jessica stumbles back slightly. Just then the bell rings, and Jessica grabs Rosabelle and drags her off to class. When they get to class Jessica apologizes for being late and pulls Rosabelle to their seats. Soon after, Esmerelda and her girl group come in. The teacher, Mr. Colton begins his lesson. "Today, we are going to learn about your hidden powers," he says. The class groans, not very happy with today's lesson. Jessica sighs, and Rosabelle smiles. "Today's lesson sounds fun," Rosabelle whispered. Jessica nodded. "It does,

doesn't it?" The class got up and followed Mr. Colton outside to the courtyard. "Alright class, think long and hard about something you like. Keep your eyes closed tightly. This will awaken your power." Everyone closes their eyes tightly, and, as instructed, thinks about one of their favorite things. A few minutes later Mr. Colton said, "Ok, you can open your eyes now." Everyone opened their eyes and turned to their teacher. Mr. Colton began to call out names and says who got what power. He calls out Jessica's name. "Ah, Ms. Reynolds, very particular. Your power is called Ghost. You can now make the dead become visible to others, bring back ghosts if they want to be brought back, and you can communicate with them too. Only you can hear them though." Jessica thanks her teacher and walks over to Rosabelle. "Hi bestie, what power did you get," asks Rosabelle. "Hi Rosa, I got a power called Ghost. What about you?" "Oh me? I got a power that can summon dragons. Want to pet Callie?" Rosabelle motions to the baby dragon on her shoulder. "Will she bite," questioned Jessica. "Jess, she won't bite, she doesn't have teeth yet," replied Rosabelle. Jessica reaches out to pet the baby dragon, who tried to bite her, but failed due to the lack of teeth. Jessica giggled. "She's adorable." The bell rings, signalling the end of the school day. Jessica said goodbye to her

friend and headed home. Her mother greeted her at the door. "Hi sweetie, how was your day?" "Good, we learned what powers we have." "Oh, what is your power?" "I got one called Ghost." Jessica's mother scowled. "You have a curse, not a power. Your grandmother had the same exact power and got killed because of it. You can't stay here, what would become of me if they found out?" Jessica processed what her mother said. "If who found out?" Her mother shook her head. "Nevermind that, you need to pack a few things. I'll take you to an old house that my great-grandmother owned. It's far away from here and you and I both will be in less danger." Jessica looked down. "If that's what needs to be done, then so be it. I'll go pack my things so we can go." Jessica trudged up the stairs, packed her things, and walked back to her mother. "I'm ready." Her mother ushers her into the car and starts driving. When they reach the house, which is very deep in the woods, Jessica's mom sighs. "Dear lord, this place used to look better." The house had a hole in the roof from a heavy tree branch, several broken windows, and a lot of other problems as well. "I'm supposed to live *here*?" Jessica's mother nods. "Now go, I have to get to work." Jessica gets out, grabs her stuff, and walks to the front door. She tries the handle, which comes off in her hand. She gives the door a shove, and to

her surprise, it opens quite easily. She walks in and looks around. "This might not be so bad," Jessica thought. She goes up the stairs and looks around the dark area. She sighed. "Well, I suppose I should work on this place a bit," she tells herself. Then she hears a voice. "*We can help you as well. We have been wanting something to do for a good millennia.*" She turns around with the candle she had found downstairs. Standing there was an old woman, old man, and a few other people. "Who are you?" Jessica tilts her head to the side. "*I am your mother's great- grandmother, don't you recognize me? This is my husband, and our friends that we knew a long time ago.*" Jessica shakes her head no. "My mother never talked about you. Or any family members to be honest, after my father left." The old woman, or Jessica's great-great- grandmother, nodded, understanding where Jessica was coming from. "*I was there when that happened. You were only a wee little one.*" Jessica shivers slightly as a gust of wind goes through the house. "I accept the help," she said. Soon enough, Jessica had fixed the house and adapted to the cold weather that came with the winter months. Jessica's appearance has changed dramatically. Her hair was a violet color, her skin was as light as Snow White's, and her eyes were a sterling silver. She would cry blood, but there was nothing wrong with her. She

was completely healthy. Over time, she just assumed it was because of her power that had turned her into a killer. She had a thirst for blood and killing. Those were the only things that were on her mind. Many people that traveled into the forest didn't leave alive because of Jessica. Everyone she missed told the town about her, but nobody believed them. There was no such thing as a girl with the Ghost power, right? As time went on, Jessica began to get bored of killing the people that came into the forest, which wasn't many people. One day, 3 men came into the forest, all in dark, hooded cloaks. They come up to the house and knock on the door. **"Jessica Reynolds, you must come with us."**

Jessica looks at them blankly. "Now why would I do that?" **"Your power is valuable and dangerous. We can teach you how to control it."** Jessica holds up a frying pan. Then she takes aim and hits all three men, knocking them out. "I already know how to control it. I need no help." She drags them down to the cellar. She ties them to chairs that are chained to the floor. Then she goes for a walk in the forest surrounding the house, occasionally talking to the deer or birds that came to see her. When she got back, the three men were struggling to get out of their bonds, scared because the ghosts were watching them. *"This is a nice show,"* said Jessica's great-great grandfather. Jessica nods.

"I agree. The bonds are tight. It's going to be a miracle if they get out." Jessica grabs a scythe, one of her favored weapons. "I could kill you three, but you could have valuable information." She pointed the weapon at them threateningly. "But if you try to fight, I will not hesitate to do so." She puts the scythe back. "Don't underestimate me. You've been warned." She walks up the stairs, the ghosts right behind her. *"What are you going to do to them, we can't just leave them down there."* "I'll find something to do with them, but for now they can keep struggling with their bonds." Eventually, Jessica decided killing them would probably be a better option. So she did just that. Their blood splattered all over the walls. And Jessica was never seen again, or the three men she killed.

**"I'M BAAACK!"**



Library, Security Public <spl@wsd3.org>

## skin walker

5 messages

Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 11:31 AM

Phillips, Luke <  
To: Security Public Library <spl@wsd3.org>

It all starts when my mom and my brother and 2 of his friends came over to i was not there but they had to get something from the car and they saw a lady crawling up a pole they were so scared but that was the beginning then while that was happening they saw creature aka a skinwalker they believe and they slept in that car together and peed in bottles and also meanwhile at my moms tent she heard someone walking around her tent it was a scary one my mom and my brother and his friends never came back but brother jordan wanted to but never got to.

# The Horror of Mesa Verde

By: William Huber

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13 years old  
8th grade

On a bright sunny day the Widefield Community Center had decided to take some kids on a small field trip to Mesa Verde National Park. One young boy named Blake Michel, a 15 year old high school student with deep brown eyes, dark scruffy hair, a lean build, had heard a story about Mesa Verde. He told this story to three other kids; Ellie Branson, a little 12 year old middle schooler with blonde hair, green eyes and skin the color of paper, Mike Little a tall lanky 16 year old high schooler with shaved black hair, brown eyes, and a deep brown skin color, and last but not least Hue, Blake's twin brother, an exact copy of Blake. He told them that the Anasazi had been attacked by an evil spirit doing one of their rituals and they had all either ran away or died fighting. Blake claimed that the evil spirit that haunted the Anasazi still roams Mesa Verde waiting for its next meal. Ellie had been terrified of this story, but the other two were unfazed.

When the small group had arrived the sun had begun to set behind the mountains and their tour had begun. The tour guide Ross Kilth was a small man with brown greasy hair, green eyes and skin the color of weak coffee. He guided the group through the mountainous structures in the dark as if he had memorized every path and obstacle. Soon Blake had gotten bored and begged the group to sneak off into one of the kivas nearby just to see what they looked like. After ten minutes of begging they all finally complied and snuck off to a kiva nearby. They dropped down into the small building, it was pitch black so they all pulled out their phones to see. Once they did, they saw a tiny hole in the center called a

sipapu. Ellie crept up to the hole and shinned her flashlight down the hole. She noticed that it was too small for even a rat to live in and had no more concerns of a snake hole. Immediately after she turned to see what the boys were up to, a shadow rose from the hole in swirling blackness. The dark deformed cloud of evil started to separate and unveil some sort of creature. They all turned to see the creature unveil itself to them. The creature had a deep red glow in its eyes, it also was about the size of a professional weight lifter but stockier and more muscular. Hue flashed his light onto the creature revealing its detailed features.

Its flesh was peeling away from its body revealing bones and organs to the children, its skin the color of paste. The creature's head was cracked open showing a bulging brain pulsating in and out of its head. His mouth was filled with bones shoved into its gums for makeshift teeth, and the bones were dribbling with red. The thing's fingers were bent in odd directions and its nails were replaced with bits of sharp clay also dribbling with red. The monstrous being had a bald scalp and no eyes, but they had an eerie vibe to them. The dark being was wearing somewhat of a black poncho with holes and rips in it revealing bones and tissue.

The monstrous creature muttered one word, its name, "Matanto." Matanto then grabbed Ellie by the neck and with a loud crunch, she fell to the ground dead. The rest of the kids ran screaming out of the kiva. Ross came running when he heard the screams and asked why they were yelling. The children explained the thing they saw in the kiva and how it killed Ellie. Then an ear piercing howl was heard from the kiva. Ross said it was just a coyote and their eyes were playing tricks on them. Ross crept up to the Kiva and peered into it. He explained that he saw nothing, not even Ellie. Then a huge stalactite fell almost impaling Ross straight through the gut. He looked up and saw Matanto clinging to the ceiling, ripping and tearing at Ellie's internal organs. Ross stood up and yelled for the kids to run to the bus. The kids sprinted towards the bus as they heard a spine chilling screech behind them. They reached the bus area but the bus was nowhere to be seen. The kids argue amongst themselves on what action they should take, they then decided they should head back and find Ross.

They headed back to the Kiva where they last saw Ross, but found nothing but a few organs and a lake of blood. They decide he must have ran and hid in a house and they needed to find him. The group determined that they needed to head to the largest house they saw. They climbed through a window and turned

on their phone flashlights. Hue went to an upstairs area to search while the rest stayed downstairs. Mike was looking around when he stepped on something and it made a crunching sound. He looked down and saw the torn open rib cage of Ellie. He restrained himself from screaming as loud as he could. Mike looked up to see Ross pinned to the ceiling with his face ripped off and his brain slowly sliding out of his skull. Ross's internal organs hung from pieces of rope. Mike signalled to Blake and showed him what he found. The duo hurried up the stairs to alert Hue that they needed to hide. The two told Hue what they found and that they needed to hide, so the trio all hid in a small divot in the wall.

They saw Matanto crawl up the wall into one of the upstairs windows. It looked around and came closer to the kids. Its breath smelled like rotting flesh and death it then scurried down the stairs to finish off its meal. Hue slumped down on the wall as the other two moved towards the window. Matanto then dove through the wall, Hue was relaxing on crushing Hue and sending his eyeballs and brain into the wall ahead. As blacked looked on he felt only dread and sadness for his brother. Blood then splattered across Blake and Mike and they leaped out the window. Matanto chased them down through the window. As the boys were being chased they saw the bus drive up into the parking lot. They hurried to the bus running harder than they ever had in their life feeling the breath of Matanto on their necks. Only yards away from the bus Mike was grabbed and Blake tripped over him. Blake looked back as he saw Matanto tear open Mike and rip out his intestine. Blood flowed like a river out of him, and organs fell out and all that was left of Mike was his non beating heart. With the intestine in Matanto's mouth he crept closer to Blake. Blake attempted to crawl away to the bus, but Matanto grabbed his legs dragging Blake towards him. Matanto wrapped Mike's intestines around his neck and slowly tied it tighter and tighter. Matanto slowly constricted Blake until he could barely breathe, then lifting Blake into the air he tied it around his neck, and tied the other end of the intestine to one of the dying trees nearby. Matanto crept away back to the Kiva as Blake slowly faded into the darkness. When the sun broke the mountain peaks the bodies were found, and no monster or ghost was suspected but a serial killer. This accusation allowed the Mesa Verde Horror to continue its rain of terror waiting for its next unsuspecting victim.



# Smoke and Mirrors

(Warning Mild Gore)

Cameron Hodge

6th grade

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Maybe book 1 in the Smoke And Mirrors Series

## Chapter 1, Home Alone.

I sit in my bed as the bright cold daylight of winter turns into a dark starry night. My parents and little sister, Lia, have gone out to have dinner. I insisted on not going, I would rather read a good book, I'd said to them. I get up slowly with a long stretch and make my way to the bathroom to wash my face and change my clothes.

I freeze as a cold laughter breaks out from *anywhere*. It doesn't come from downstairs, not from the attic, not even from my room. I tiptoe through the empty hallway and look around. The halls seem to mock me for being so shaken. I scowl, *it's nothing*, I think. As I enter the bathroom I take a long and hard look at myself.

The laugh echoes through the house once again and footsteps speed above me. *Am I going insane?* I glare at the mirror, it could have been a trick of light, but my reflection casts an evil smile with pale eyes. I storm into my room and lay down with a sigh. I close my eyes and pray I'm just not feeling too well and all this nonsense will be over tomorrow.

## Chapter 2, Insanity.

My eyes fly open as I am unable to move even a finger. My chest feels as if someone were sitting on it. My room is dark and quiet. I look in the only direction I can, *up*. A large dark figure clings to my wall with long bony fingers and that same sinister smile with those sinister, pearly white eyes looms over me.

I cannot scream. I squeeze my eyes shut, the only thing I know right at this moment is, *I don't want to look at that thing.*

My heart is pounding as the dark figure jumps down from his spot, stands by my bed and whispers, "Open your eyes." The voice sounds empty, "I won't run away." The figure whispers again and brushes my long hair. *I want you to run away.* I think with a mixture of fear and anger, *Why me?* "What does my expression look like?" The voice says again. "Empty." I say, my eyes still closed tight. "What do I like?" The voice then says, "Family?" I guess my voice was trembling. My skull feels like it's being crushed and I feel like a whole planet has been set on me, I struggle to breath, and a horrible screeching sound surrounds me.

Suddenly I can sit up, and my face is sweaty. My clock says it's 2:40am and I am happy it was a dream. *You know it wasn't*, somewhere deep inside of me says, but I don't want to explore that place inside of me.

My phone buzzes beside me and I grab it with a shaky hand, *!Alert!Dabria Garcia, 16, Black curly hair, Brown eyes missing. Last seen in a small dark green Ford. !Alert!.* I close my eyes as guilt washes over me, I killed her. Pictures of

bloody hands and tears come crashing over me. Then I shake my head, it was her own fault she was dead, on Halloween we went exploring the ditches and something had caught in her chest and her body was burnt, I was technically the murderer because I tried to save her, but in my efforts she died. I close my eyes, *I hate feelings*. My phone begins to buzz again not even 5 minutes after the alert. "Someone calling me, at this hour?" I mutter aloud to myself. 366-666-0933. "Odd." I mutter. "Hello?"

"You've reached Maya." I grumble, the silky voice was sort of familiar.

"Oh, I've got the right person!" The caller squeaks, "I'm Dabria." My phone falls to the hardwood floor with a clatter. Those words made me sick. "You're dead," I snapped, "Who put you up to this prank?"

"No, no." She said, "Try and find me." I open my mouth to say something but supposedly Dabria hangs up. I creep slowly from my room into the dark hallway, only the light of my phone guiding me. Suddenly a horrifying wailing echoes through the hallway. "She's dying, She is burned from the waist up, On her arm, Her ear is burned, Her eyelashes are burned, She can't hold things up." (Comes from the song Hamburger Lady- Throbbing Gristle)

I feel a scream build up in my chest. What looks like the dead body of Dabria walks towards me, wailing those sinister words. *This is just a dream, I'll wake up any second now*. I bolt towards the bathroom and slam the door. I stare into the mirror as the shrill wailing seems to go on forever. I close my eyes then open them as glass shatters. I stare at my disoriented face in the mirror as those same pearly eyes and sinister smile appear again.

## Chapter 3, The... end?

I bolt to my little sister's room, praying that she doesn't know anything is going wrong, and she is still sleeping without a care in the world. I walk into her room to see a little boy with no face sitting on the edge of her bed, leaning over her face. That was the last straw. I begin to cry.

*I am over it. I am tired. Leave my family alone.* The small boy begins to scream and Lia sits up, her normally large brown eyes, pearly white. Once again I retreat to the bathroom and climb into the attic. *Click*, the light doesn't turn on. It is pitch black and I can't even see my hand in front of me. A sick feeling crawls over me, "She's dying, She is burned from the waist up, On her arm, Her ear is burned, Her eyelashes are burned, She can't hold things up." The wailing sounds even louder up here. I crawl behind a few boxes and stay there. Even when I close my eyes I still see the same thing. Darkness.

What else could go wrong? My phone just went missing, my little sister is a demon, Dabria is alive, and demons are out for me. What did I do? Call the number 666? I stiffen as boxes are thrown around. I see nothing. I hear enraged screaming, as a pale ghostly body glaring at me. I bump into the back wall as I cannot see my surroundings and trip on a sharp piece of glass and I begin to scream even louder, in pain, and in fear. My clothes feel damp with blood and my body goes cold. I can't breathe, I want to scream even louder but my throat feels empty. The ghostly light gets closer and closer to me and I close my eyes in fear. I open my mouth to let out a soundless scream but bugs seem to crawl out of it carrying a piece of me with it. I feel a cold air by my ear and a whisper I cannot make out turns into a screech that makes my ears bleed. I choke on my own blood that wells from my throat and close my eyes.

"Well... what a way to die. My job is done here Maya."

The end... for now.

## How I chose the names,

Maya: Means illusion, the ghost in the mirror is trying to kill Maya and it's all kind of an illusion and real world thing going on in this story.

Dabria: Means angel of death, along with all the other demons she was out to get Maya.

Lia: Was just a cute name.

## What happened,

When I was planning this story I thought it would be really cool to have Maya's reflection try hard to replace Maya. The reflections of yourself are people stuck in a parallel universe and they will do everything in their power to replace you. Maya's reflection decided to make Maya go insane with fear and use that to the illusion's own advantage to kill her.

Coming Next In The Smoke And  
Mirrors series (Comes out each contest  
:0)

Smoke And Mirrors, book 2, the search

Maya is nowhere to be found... A cop goes on a search for the lost girl.  
Will he live to tell the tale? Ooooooooooh so spooky \ ( T▽T ) /

# The cursed child

This story takes place in october of 1997, the Black family lived in a small town in England where their house was black, and covered in spider webs. they would constantly get disgusted looks when they went out to get food. The family had 5 members, Violet the mother, Lucius the father, Velma the eldest daughter, Danny the middle child, then the youngest bella.

Bella was different, she had a special gift, she had telekinesis, but a few days later she had lost her family due to a house fire exactly on halloween so as needed she had been brought to a foster home because she had only been 7 years old and she had nobody else to go to, and instantly every kid there was scared of her and that had hurt bella a lot so she had locked herself in her room for a few months until that all changed someone had come to adopt bella but little did they know about bella's gift.

Once the two got home the woman who adopted bella introduced herself "hello my name is trixie and i'll be your new mother" bella reached her hand out to trixie and a demonic smile rose upon bellas face, trixie leads bella up to her new room, it was small, black bella had instantly fell in love with her room she sits on the bed and starts unpacking her stuff and a black notebook falls out of her bag trixie asks "bella whats that note book" bella answers its nothing then trixie tells her that dinner would be done in 10, bella changes and she begins walking down the hall to the stairs when she sees a picture she innocently asks who's that girl in the blue dress?

She says pointing to the painting on the wall then trixie explains that it was her dead sister ellie but bella says that she's seen the girl and that they were friends, bella and trixie go back upstairs to their separate rooms and ellie's voice was heard "ellie" bella asks yes its me bella makes a spot for ellie and they talk for a few hours before bella drifted off to sleep, The morning comes and bella begins walking down the stairs when she hears a voice saying "your daughter has a horrible curse and she may be dangerous" bella and trixie both make eye contact and-

Information:

Name: Margaret Ebert

Age/Grade: 12 years, 7th grade Watson Jr. High

Word count: 1,033

## Defeat of Insanity

By: Margaret Ebert

"Good Morning!" I said walking up to Ada. Today was going to be a good day.

"Good morning!!" Ada said back to me. Ada was my best friend, her and Izzy. We were all insane, but Izzy was the "mom" of the group. She always made sure we were under control and not hurting somebody. I should probably mention, Ada and I have anger issues. I should also mention that if we hurt anybody it is all *jokingly* and we don't mean it. We all had 1st period together, so we walked there together. Most of the people in that class have classes together so we all know each other.

"Good morning class!" our science teacher, Mr. Jones said. "Today we are talking about the Inner planets in our solar system. I will give you a few minutes to do the warm up for today." He walked over to his computer to take attendance. I started to scribble down the in and out questions for today, letting Kimberly copy it because she couldn't see the board.

\* \* \*

After science, most people in that class had math. We all kind of travel together since we have the same class.

"Good morning!" Mr. Wilson said after the bell rang. "Go ahead and get started on the warm up."

We all went quiet, well all except for Liam. Liam is never quiet, all he does is talk. *Sometimes I wish he were dead. Wait! No I don't, what am I thinking!?* Gosh, I hate intrusive thoughts. They don't even make sense. *What if there was another, more evil, side of you and that's where intrusive thoughts come from?* No, that isn't right, *or is it?*

\* \* \*

I walked to my locker, grabbing my drumsticks and mallets. I then proceeded to my next class, which wasn't band, but I like to get my stuff before this class so it's easier. I put my stuff down next to Ada and grabbed my notebook. I sat down.

"Liam was being more annoying than usual," I said, still tired even though I woke up hours ago.

"Yeah," Ada said, trying to not worry about it.

\* \* \*

Today was a Friday so Ada was able to come to my house. We hung out *waiting for the perfect time to strike!* What?!? No! We were just going to a park! When we went to the park, we saw someone we recognised, it was Liam. We said hi and started to hang out. We wanted to go somewhere different and I had a place in mind, an abandoned warehouse. Ada, Liam and I all went. Ada and I got ready. As we walked in, Ada and I pulled out our knives. *Our intrusive thoughts got the better of us.*

The room was filled with blood. Liam's of course, we wouldn't let him hurt us. Ada and I left, leaving Liam's body behind. We went back home and changed. I got onto my computer.

"One down, two to go," I told Izzy, who was on my computer.

"Great,"

"We'll still get our end of the deal, correct?" Ada asked.

"Yeah, yeah whatever, you'll get your money after the job is done." Izzy responded

"Good," I said, "Now if you'll excuse us, we're going to plan how to kill Oliver." I left the call with Izzy.

\* \* \*

The next day came and we were ready. *Ready to kill.* We did our research and found where Oliver lives. We decided to *pay him a little visit.* Ada and I walked over to his house and knocked on his door. Oliver answered.

"Hello?" He said, opening the door.

"Hi!" I said.

"Why are you here?" He asked

"I was wondering if you wanted to go to a warehouse that I found, it's abandoned and scary." I replied.

"Sure!"

We walked to the same warehouse where we killed Liam and pulled out our knives. More blood splattered around the room as we stabbed Oliver. When that was done, we were covered in blood. I started laughing hysterically. Ada then joined in. We couldn't stop. *Our intrusive thoughts took control.*

\* \* \*

It was now time, time for our last *job*. We now had to kill Mia, our last *victim*. She was going to be our favorite. We both hated her guts. We could finally get our *revenge on her*. Our entire lives Mia has been bullying us, tormenting us and now we can get our revenge, finally.

A few hours after killing Oliver, we already planned how to kill Mia. She wouldn't believe us if we told her that we wanted to hang out so we had to come up with something else. Maybe we could tell her there was something in the warehouse? No. I've got it! We could tell her that we saw her missing dog there! Mia lost her dog a few months ago and she has been grieving ever since then. It was the perfect plan!

We walked over to her house and knocked on the door.

"Hello?" I asked, not knowing if she was home. She opened the door.

"Ugh, What do you losers want?" She asked.

"We think we found your dog," Ada responded.

"What?! Really?! Where?!"

"In this old warehouse, we can take you there," I said.

"Please do!" She pleaded. We then took her to her *death bed*.

We got our knives out, getting ready to *kill her, one stab at a time*.

Mia looked around and back at us, "Are you sure this is the right place?"

"Of course!" I said. "Now what are your final words?"

"What?"

"You're going to die,"

"Y-you can't do that!"

"Why not? Nobody would know,"

"Yes they will! They'll find you! A-and put you in prison!"

I laughed, "You really are stupid! They won't know who to find!" I then *stabbed* her, right then and there. I watched the life *drain* from her eyes as I kept *stabbing*. I watched her face turn *pale* as Ada joined in. We started to smile, this was the best moment of our lives! We kept stabbing her for about five minutes. Finally feeling pleased, we backed off, laughing hysterically, menacingly. We stared at our victims, smiling. *We were so pleased with ourselves.*

\*Note\*- Ace uses ze/zem/zyr and they/them/their pronouns, Valentina( who will mostly be referred to as Val) uses any and all pronouns including neopronouns however for simplicity sake i'll mostly be using she/they/he pronouns, and Luke uses they/them/their and he/him/his pronouns.

\*\*If you have any suggestions please leave a comment.

Another highschool day each one was the same as the other; each week the same as the last. Nothing really changed. The only exciting or amusing thing that ever happened was a certain group getting into a new type of trouble almost every other week. Valentina(Val), Ace, and Luke are probably the most troublesome trio in the whole school. They were one of the only reasons Brookfield highschool was even a little interesting. Aside from getting in trouble alot this group of three actually had decent grades and lived normal lives outside of school. However, the normal lives they lived going to Brookfield would soon change. In such a short amount of time a lot of people would never live normal lives again. Everyone involved in the "Dont tell" case is now either dead or still seeking help for what they went through.

\*\*\*

October 25th started off normal getting ready going to school everything was how it always was. Heading to the first class Val was already thinking up plans to entertain them self. However those ideas Val thought of didn't actually take action until a few days later. During lunch Val met up with her friends: Ace and Luke and not so subtly discussed the plan with the two. The group's plan seemed simple and easy with not too harsh of a punishment. The plan was to have Luke hide in the closet in ripped clothing and zombie-ish makeup and act like he had been killed once the teacher opened it luke would catch the teachers attention while ace and val would sneak up from behind and act like murderers ace and val would then chase the teacher out of the room, scaring him the plan was supposed to last all period seems pretty simple to accomplish, right? But of course nothing is as simple as it seems and not everything goes according to plan.....

After a few days had passed it was finally time to put the trio's plan in action. The group waited until passing period to sneak into Mr.O'Malley's classroom, knowing he wouldn't be there to ruin the plan. After they all got into their positions all they had to do was wait. And with the ring of a bell the plan started and ended.

The consequences for this ended up being bigger than expected however it wasn't the worst. They had detention for two weeks but the detention teacher wasn't strict. So it wasn't that bad. Everything in detention was running smoothly up until that night. That night was the one and only reason that detention after school was banned. Everything that happened was so bad that the school district banned anyone from talking about it. On october 31 halloween night what many thought could never happen, happened but it was so much worse than imagined.

\*\*\*

That day started off normal getting ready, going to school, talking with friends, and going to classes. Nothing out of the ordinary happened during the school so what happened that night was unexpected. After school Val, Ace, and Luke all went to detention as they had done for the past few days. However when they arrived something seemed off. It was as if something bad

enough happened where the detention teacher had to leave. Which was odd enough because nothing ever happened that would cause the teacher to be somewhere else. However since nothing really weird happened Val, Luke, and Ace all brushed it off. And because no one was there to monitor them they did whatever; messing around, snooping, and whatever else they thought they could get away with.

While snooping the kids found some things however nothing they found would compare to what they found in the closet next to the teachers desk. The door seemed damaged and had a missing poster of a student who had detention on Val's, Ace's, and Luke's first day of detention; the three had only kinda talked to him before his disappearance. All they knew was that when detention was over he stayed back to help clean up after that they never saw or heard from him again until one day they overheard that he'd never gone home and was pronounced missing.

A rotting smell was coming from the closet. So out of curiosity the trio opened it, not expecting to find what they did. The door seemed easy to open yet when Luke tried to open it the door seemed stuck on something. After trying for a bit Luke finally got it open, with the help of his friends ofcourse. The door creaked open causing a horrid smell to fill the detention room. Inside the cramped closet laid the decomposing body of the missing student with his tongue chopped off and lying on the floor.

Written all over the walls in his blood were the same phrases over and over again. "Don't tell", "Keep the secret", "Shhh", "Stay quiet" those words were written everywhere but the main phrase was "Don't tell" which was written on the victims face. After seeing the body in the closet Val, Luke, and Ace all screamed. Immediately Luke went to call the cops only to find there was no signal. Finding there was no signal he turned to his friends. After finding out by Luke that he had no signal both Val and Ace tried to call the cops on their phones. Proving not successful. With no signal and just having found a dead body the trio ran to the class door leading outside only to find it was locked and they had no way out. With a dead body in the closet, no signal and no way out Val, Ace, and Luke were all freaking out. Already on edge from fright, hearing even the smallest creak of the floor would spook them.

Being as stupid and curious as they were the three decided to explore and find another way out or find some kind of authority figure. The three walked out of the room in a triangle shape formation. When they stepped out they found that all the lights were off except for the one in the detention room. While walking around it became oddly quiet all of sudden. So Val stopped to turn around, finding that Luke had both disappeared.

Luke had lost track of his friends and wandered off trying to find them. While looking for his friends he found an empty room not knowing that's where the police would find him in the morning... After finding the room Luke decided he would camp out there for a bit and see if he could calm down. After just a few minutes Luke had fallen asleep waking up only a bit later tied up and in excruciating pain. After gaining the strength and courage to move his head and look around the room. He saw a tall shadowy figure standing in front of him. Terrified Luke tried to fall back asleep hoping this was just some terribly twisted dream. Unable to, however, he watched as the dark figure slowly walked towards him while pulling out a sharpened knife.

Now face to face with this figure. The figure took off his mask to reveal his face. Shortly after removing his mask the killer began cutting into Luke's throat. Now in even more pain than before Luke tried to fight back and stop what was happening. However before he could do

anything he felt an agonizing pain. The killer had made a deep cut in his throat to perform a laryngectomy this would remove his vocal cords forever. The whole surgery was performed while Luke was awake and semi-conscious. After the surgery the killer gently placed Luke's vocal cords in his hands as he bled out. Luke tried to scream before he died however found himself unable to.

While looking for Luke, Ace disappeared and now all three of them were separated... Ace ended up making a wrong turn while following Val. This led him into the room where Luke's dead body was.

\*\*\*

Now that Val was all alone wandering through a dark school. The killer used a flashlight to lure Val into a room where it'd be hard to find her body. There he tied her up and took out a needle and thread. Val looked at him terrified, only seeing the killer as a shadowy figure. The killer came closer and soon knelt down to start. Once close enough he began to sew Val's mouth closed. With every poke of the needle Val flinched and tried to pull away. By the time the killer was done sewing Val was in tears with blood covering every stitch. She struggled and struggled before their life finally came to an end via gunshot to the head. Once done the killer wrote his famous phrase everywhere. "Don't tell".

In the morning the staff found the bodies and called the police who later found Ace curled up crying in the hallway.

There once was a girl named Kaylie who for her sixteenth birthday got a porcelain doll from her grandma. The doll however had a few cracks on it from shipping. The dolls name was de miedo which in spanish means "scary" but they didn't know that. De miedo wore a silky blue dress with flats and her hair was in double dutch braids. Kaylie always had De Miedo on her dresser but one day she went to hangout with some friends and when she got back it was on her bed and she thought "Oh mom must have moved it for some reason" Later that night she got into bed and a few hours later she felt like she couldn't breathe however it was really dark and she saw a doll like figure on top of her and she started gasping for air and screaming when her mom came in and turned on the light and kaylie was breathing heavily and the doll was on her night stand instead of her dresser. She told her mom the whole story of what she saw and her mom thought the doll part was just her imagination. Kaylie took the doll to goodwill and then headed over to her best friends house and told her the entire story. Later that evening she returned home and she found the doll on her couch and the television was on where there was a video of a girl with black hair in a white dress at a graveyard and her face wasn't showing. She ran out to her car drove to a coffee shop and called her mom asking her if she was trying to joke around with her and she also asked her dad the same question and he also said no so she just stood

at the coffee shop. She went to the bathroom and ran straight out cause when she got in she saw..... De Miedo. She burned the doll in a fire pit and it was now completely demolished but then two weeks later when she was at the mall with her little cousin they went into a doll store and in a box down aisle 7 was that same doll of kaylies with all the same cracks and clothes and makeup style. She asked the clerk where they had gotten it and he said "It's the only one of its kind and I found it in a fire at a beach broken but I got a friend to fix it." she told him the whole story and he said "That's odd I actually have had a few people say they saw the eyes move or it being in a different position." Someone else bought it and in a newspaper kaylie had read it said "43 year old Robert Washington bought a doll for his niece and she called it ugly and she threw it in the trash and as she rode off on her bike she got into a terrible accident" in a picture next to the story there was a picture of the house and kaylie noticed that in the window there was De Miedo and she knew it had something to do with the girl getting in the terrible wreck that she did. To be continued...

Name: Jodeci V. Lammert

Age: 12

Grade: 7

"Mommy! Mommy!" Aki yelled excitedly as she ran up to her mother.

"What is it sweetie?" Aki's mother replied.

"Can I be a ghost for Halloween?!" Aki asked as she giggled.

"I don't see why not." Aki's mother said.

Aki squealed in excitement.

Aki's mother sighed as she returned to the stove, stirring red sauce around a pot.

The aroma of tomato sauce and noodles soon filled the house.

"Dinner's ready everyone!" Aki's mother yelled.

Aki runs to the dinner table almost running over her timid little brother. Aki plops herself on a chair as she looks in awe at the plate of warm noodles with the shiny red paste that had been plopped on top.

"I love spaghetti!" Aki yelled as she began to dig in. Her face immediately covered in the red sauce.

Her mother smiled. "Oh, Ray we still have to figure out what you're gonna be for Halloween!"

Ray didn't answer as he stared at the plate of spaghetti.

"Do you not like the spaghetti?" Aki's mother asked. "Uh-" "Yeah, I thought you liked spaghetti!" Aki interrupted.

"I do!" Ray said quietly, his voice barely able to be heard. "Can I be a ghost too, like Aki?" Ray says as he looks up to face his mother. "Of course, we'll have two cute spirits

wandering the streets!" Their mother says with a smile. Ray smiles shyly. "Yeah! And with our cool costumes will be able to scare the competition away!" Aki says with a determined look on her face. "Oh that's right! The neighborhood competition, I almost forgot!" Aki's mother says. "Will have to make your costumes extra cool then!" Aki's mother says. "Yeah! Like I said!" Aki says, pressing her hands against the table. Ray looked at the clock hanging on their wall. Listening to the ticking noise it made.

After dinner...

Aki's mother pulls out two bed sheets. "Ta-da!" Aki's mother says happily. "Are those our costumes?" Ray asks. "Yep!" Aki's mother says as Aki runs up and grabs her costume. Ray looks at his costume as a smile spreads across his face. They both start working on their costumes. Aki adds some cute stickers to hers while Ray adds some doodles with some crayons. A cheerful era fills the room as everyone is focusing on making their costume. "I'm gonna put this sticker right here, see mommy!" Aki says as she shows her mother her costume. "Both of your costumes look wonderful so far!" Her mother says. "Thanks!" Aki says as she sits back down.

Once they had finished their costumes Aki's mother attached a cute little light up pumpkin to both their costumes. Then they set off to meet the competition! The Candy Hunt was one of the biggest events of the year! At least for the kids anyways. "Alright everyone! As you all know the gist of the Candy Hunt is to collect as much candy as possible before the end of the event!" The staff of the event announced. "You may team up with fellow competitors!" "Also!" "There will be no stealing of the other competitor's candy, we must play fair now!" "You may not go to the same house twice, and when it comes to the "take one" bowls you must only take one!" "Everyone at their mark!" All of the children lined up facing the street. "Make sure to look both ways before crossing!" "Get set!" "Go!" Everyone started running in opposite directions, Aki grabbed Ray's hand as she started running to the nearest house.

"Trick or treat!" Aki said with a big smile as Ray hid behind her. Aki and Ray were now on there fifth house. "At this rate we'll be sure to win!" Aki said, still with the determined look on her face as she dragged Ray to each house. "Yeah!" Ray yelled awkwardly. "This is the best night ever! Nothing could go wrong!" Aki said giggling as she ran down the street with Ray. All of the competitors were having a great time! Really, nothing could go wrong! Soon enough everyone was back at the field where they started. "Good job everyone!" The staff said. "Everyone please take out your candy and start counting!" "If any of you were in a group add the candy each member of your group collected!" "If you have any questions or need help raise your hand!" Everyone started dumping their candy on the moist grass, as it had rained earlier that day.

Once everyone was done counting the staff came over to collect the data and see who had won. "And the winner is.....!" The anticipation was rising, everyone was getting restless waiting for the head of the staff to announce the winner. "Just tell us already!" One of the competitors yelled. "And the winner is....! Haru, Eli, Mei, and Asahi!" Everyone clapped as the winners walked up to get their prize. Each year the prize was different, this year it was a king

sized Twix bar. Each of the members of the group were given their prize. "And that is the official closing of this year's Candy Hu-" Bark! A bark was heard in the background. Everyone fell silent. The neighborhood was never the safest so the kids were taught at an early age what to do in a situation like this. As there were a lot of stray dogs around.

The staff members started collecting the competitors and walking them to their homes. Soon enough a staff member collected Aki and Ray. All of the children were brought home safely. Aki and Ray quietly walked into their house. "Mom?" Aki whispered. Both of them started looking for their mother. "Mom?" Ray whispered, the fear swelling up inside him. Another bark was heard in the distance. Aki and Ray both stopped in their tracks. They looked at the living room window. A tear rolled down Aki's face. They both stared at the window in terror. Their heart's racing, sweat running down their skin.

A tall figure. A disturbingly tall dog-like figure. They both stared. The silhouette staring back at them. Aki wanted to cry but.....couldn't. It felt like both of their hearts stopped. Everything did. Time, breathing. The clock on the wall seemed to be ticking louder and louder. The only thing that could be heard was the ticking of the clock. Their minds were empty, no thoughts raced through their wet, pinkish, blobs of flesh that laid inside their skulls.

Screeeeeeeech! The tall figure was clawing on the window. Leaving long sharp scars on the window. The figure stepped into the dim porch light, revealing itself. The screeching continuing. Blood. Blood was covering almost the entire creature. It's organs falling out to the point where it was a wonder how they were still attached. It had the head of a dog....but....it was upside down. It had very human-like eyes and human-like teeth that seemed to grin at them. It's body was like a dog but it was standing on its hind legs like a human would. It was about seven feet tall. Even though it had the body of a dog it had dark brown human hair on it's head, and its paw was a blood hand that looked like it had been sewn onto the creature.

Both of the kids rightfully screamed as they ran off upstairs. Ray grabbed the family phone that lived on the kitchen counter as they ran up the stairs, tears streaming down their faces. They huddled together in the upstairs bathroom as Ray called 911. They could hear the creature trying to break in downstairs. They were both trying to keep their composure and stay quiet because even though the creature knew they fled upstairs, there was so many rooms that they could've gone in. Ray was whispering to the dispatcher on the other side of the line, trying to explain as best as possible of what was going on.

Aki was wondering where her mother could be. "Maybe she already fled?" Aki thought. "No, she wouldn't leave without us...right?" The fear of their mother leaving them to die only made her want to cry more. None of the dispatchers believed Ray. They thought it was just a prank or some kid getting scared over some Halloween spooks. "Why us?! We're just kids!" Aki thought as her tears started to flood down her face. Crash! They both stopped and listened. It had got in...

The end.

## The Trail

Akayla McKim

13 / 8th Grade

Breaking news in Rockhampton; It's been 24 hours since the missing persons report of 4 girls. The 4 girls have been found. 2 dead and 2 were found alive. We don't know the identities of the girls yet but we do know they're in critical condition.....

My name is Trinity Lee. It was in the middle of autumn. I live in Rockhampton Australia. It's a beautiful place. The birds, the animals, the sound of peace. Life was perfect. Seeing all of the orange and the red leaves during autumn, gave me a feeling of nostalgia from my home back in Canada. We moved because of my mom's tragic death. She had been fighting cancer for 3 years. I was only in High School when she died, I also had no choice to choose where my dad and I moved. She would have wanted to live in Australia though. So my dad wanted to move here in memory of my mothers wishes. When I got to Australia, I went to a New highschool and met 3 girls. Valerie, Nova, and Lolana. Valerie had dark curly brown hair, which was around medium length and she had beautiful greenish blue eyes. Nova had long blond hair with light bluish grey eyes. Lolana had long black hair, just like mine. We always loved braiding our hair the same. They were all sweethearts, and would be at your door in a second if anything was wrong. We met when I was trying to find my way around the new school and they offered to help me. To be honest; we kind of just clicked, like we were meant to be friends. It had been 4 years after we all met, and we were all in college when it all happened.... We all lived together as roommates off campus. My dad was going to be coming here for halloween to spend a little time with me and my friends. Everyday we would go on a daily jog to keep fit. We usually would jog for about 45 minutes. Then we would head back home. Today we decided we should push our limits a little. So we decided we were going to jog for an hour and 20 minutes. Not too much more time. We decided to go a different route to explore a

little. We came across a lake with a forest behind it. "The forest looks beautiful." Valerie exclaimed. "It looks kind of mysterious don't you think?" Lolana voiced her opinion emphatically "I think we should see if there's a trail." Nova then expressed "I don't think this is a good idea. What if we get lost?" "What if an animal attacks us?" "It's Australia for goodness sake!" There could be really dangerous animals!" She was then interrupted by Lolana "We'll be fine, plus we have all gone on many new trails before and nothing has ever happened." Lolana sighed. "Can we please just try it out?" I wanna have some adventure in my boring life." Nova rolled her eyes along with Valerie. "Fine". She exclaimed! "We will go and look for a trail but if there isn't one then we should come back and find a different one that is not in the forest, ok"? I said to stop the argument. Everyone then agreed. I started to remember my dad was coming today for the holidays. "We also have to be back before my dad gets here!" Trinity stated "Chill will be back before you know it". Lola confirmed. I was a little skeptical but agreed with her. We all walked around the lake together and walked into the forest. We didn't see a trail, so we all agreed to only separate for a few minutes apart from each other and look for a trail. We were looking but didn't keep track of time. I should've been paying attention. We split up and were too far apart to even get back to each other. We were lost! I didn't want to believe it. The first time being in a forest, how could we have been so careless! I tried calling out for Nova. "Nova!" ... But there was no response. So I then called out for Val and Lola. "Val!" "Lola!" Still no response. At that very moment I knew; I was alone! It was getting dark. Probably almost night by now. So many trees were overhead that it was hardly even visible to see the light coming through. As I was walking along, I heard a blood curdling scream! It echoed so loudly. It made it sound like a void that never ended. It kept going for miles and miles. I hid behind a tree. Warm tears started streaming down my soft face. I heard leaves crushing behind me. The leaves crunching, sounded like a predator preying upon their next meal. I ran as fast as my legs could carry me. I ran to where I thought it would be safer. I ran into something really hard. "AHHH!" "AHHH!" It was Nova. "Oh god, I was so scared! Who screamed!?" Nova had tears streaming down her face. "Val! She's dead. I couldn't see what killed her. All I saw was a body when I found her!" "We need to stick together and find Lola." I said in a quiet tone that had so much fear behind it an animal could probably sense it from a mile away. We both started running whichever way we thought was where we came from. I could smell a stinky and rotten odor from the Callery Pear trees surrounding us. I ran with Nova. I was afraid that I might be next to face the same horror Val had faced. While we were

running we heard another ear piercing scream that echoed just like Vals. Nova and I started running as fast as we could. As fast as our legs could take us. The sky was becoming clearer as we ran. I heard a third pair of steps on the crunching leaves behind me and I knew then; we were being chased. I could tell Nova knew it from the way her face showed horror. Nova and I ran faster than we thought we could ever run before. All of a sudden, I saw Nova fall to the ground. I then turned my head and saw an arrow in her stomach. I ran towards her begging her to please stay with me! Her lungs started to fail her and fill up with fluid. I cried. I started trying to sooth her, " It's almost Halloween. Remember my dads coming, so he should have already filed a missing person report. When we get out of this my dad will make our favorite dish of his homemade macaroni n' cheese." Tears were still streaming down my face. I still had hope a miracle would happen and someone would find us. Or that this was just a terrible nightmare that wasn't real at all. I heard leaves crunching behind me knowing that it was neither an animal or my friends. I began to lose hope as I heard the crunches getting closer to my shaking body, holding Nova in my arms while she struggled to stay alive. It all happened so quickly. I suddenly felt something in my chest. A heavy feeling washed over me like a hundred weights were on me. My vision went blurry with tears of pain and fear. I felt like I was drowning. Drowning and no one was near to save me. My eyes started to fade into darkness looking into the eyes of Nova, her last breaths mixing with the coldness within the forest's depths. I felt my body getting colder the more the darkness overcame my vision. As I took my last breaths, falling into darkness all I heard was sirens, and leaves crinkling. People talking more distant like I was walking away from someone. I felt something being taken out of my arms. I felt myself being picked up and put on something moving below me. It was so peaceful that I finally stopped fighting to stay alive and I just hoped I would see my mother again.

I felt a relaxing sensation through my body.. Was I dead? I could hear the distant noise of something beeping and began to awaken and realized that I was in the hospital. I turned to my side and saw my dad sitting beside me. Everything that happened started to come back to me in a rush. I remembered Nova and quickly asked him " Where's Nova?!" "Is she here?!" "Is she ok?!" My dad smiled at me and said " She's fine!." "She's in the room next to us. She's still resting." I began to get tears in my eyes and I hugged him like my life depended on it. He held me tight

and told me," the killer has been caught" . I was then overcome with relief but knowing, life would never be the same again.



## Scary Story Contest Submission

3 messages

McCutchen, Lilah

To: spl@wsd3.org

Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 2:23 PM

### When The Night Cries Out By Lilah McCutchen, 6th grade GMS

Many folk in Ireland tell the tale of a tormented spirit, known as a Banshee. She can also be depicted as a dark fairy. When the cries of the Banshee are heard in the night, the family member who heard the cries will soon pass. With that, our story begins.

The evening had come and gone, as if it was never there. The young man sat alone in his window sill. He was writing in his journal, about how he knew Evelyn O'Grady was the woman for him. The young lad, Killian, was in love. "I shall propose in the morning", he promised himself. And so he did. Killian took Evelyn to Lough Neagh, for a lovely picnic. "Evelyn, I would like your hand in marriage." He said as knelt on the ground, staring into her beautiful grey eyes. Evelyn squealed and shouted, "Yes! Killian I have been waiting forever for you to ask!". The two held their wedding in Glenveagh park, among the beautiful sunrise. Evelyn's small silhouette and Killian's tall shadow danced, until the sun rose once more. She smiled, a smile Killian thought was the most beautiful in existence. Soon enough, they had moved into the O'Grady family home. Evelyn's family was rather wealthy and lived in an old rustic mansion. There was plenty of room for them, their future children, her parents, and her seven brothers. However, soon after they had moved in, something strange and eerie began to happen. Killian began to hear a soft squeal, taking place in the night. He assumed it was just the pipes, as the mansion was very old. *Skreeeen*. He often had restless nights due to it. "Evelyn, dear, perhaps we should have these pipes fixed," Killian said. "What's the matter, love?" "They have been keeping me awake with a soft screeching sound. Well, I suppose it's fine for now as it's only a soft noise." Evelyn's face went pale and dark somehow at the same time. "Dear, there's something I should have told you before you married into my family. This mansion, for the longest time, has been inhabited by a Banshee." "A Banshee? Love, you can't seriously still believe all of that childhood mumbo jumbo." "Killian, why do you think I never wanted you to play here when we were kids?" She remarked, knowing she was right. "If you say so, Evelyn." She smiled, knowing that she had won the argument. Evelyn had always been stubborn as a mule, one of her perfect flaws. Evelyn and Killian soon moved out of the house. Killian could no longer stand the noises, and her inconsiderate brothers. However, the problem only progressed. Every night Killian would only hear louder cries. The eeriest part, though, is that he began to see a woman. She had ghostly pale skin, and wore a long tattered grey dress. Her silver hair made her appear older, but her features said otherwise. The woman always had puffy red eyes and turned brows, as though she had been crying for days on end. Her hair blew in the wind, even when there wasn't the slightest breeze.. "I think we should bring the neighbor some cookies. When I see her walk outside, she seems rather distressed." He had only ever seen her walk alone on the sidewalks outside. "Dear, I have no clue who you are talking about. The nearest neighbor is a mile away." These words sent a shiver down Killian's spine, and he became paranoid. He began to sage the house, and put sea salt along the doorways. Killian had always worn his father's cross and he felt even more safe having it with him. However, to no avail. He began to see the woman downstairs when he would peek over the railing. Sometimes she would notice him looking and weep, louder than before. Killian built a cellar to protect himself, but that is where he found his doom. Evelyn went to retrieve him for dinner, and found him unconscious. She then discovered

that he was not breathing. He was dead. The doctors were able to resuscitate him, and he has since lived a happy life. Evelyn and Killian now have four children, the oldest being 5. "Mommy, daddy, what is that loud noise?"...

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This is a student email account monitored by Widefield School District. The contents of this email are governed by state laws and the board policies of the school district.

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Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 2:25 PM

Awesome! Thank you for your submission! We will contact the winners by November 15th. Is this a good email to reach you at?

[Quoted text hidden]

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Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 2:37 PM

Yes, this is the best email to reach me at. Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

Name: Gabrielle Solache

Phone Number:

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

My story started when I won a contest to join the group from TAPS (The Atlantic Paranormal Society) that have a popular TV series called Ghost Hunters. They were revisiting the Cuban Club in Tampa, Florida. I already knew a lot of information about the Cuban Club, like how it was a gathering place for Cuban immigrants, and that it used to have a ballroom, theatre, and a cantina.

I live in Colorado Springs, and I'm 12 years old. After the contest, I traveled all the way to Tampa, Florida to meet the team. I was a huge fan of what they did, debunking so-called hauntings, and entered a contest to join them on another adventure to a haunted place. When I got to Tampa, the team greeted me, and after I got in a van with Kris Williams, one of the investigators and we drove to the Cuban Club.

The TAPS team was revisiting the Cuban Club. The legend was that a little boy was in the cantina that used to be where a swimming pool was, and he would turn flashlights off and on. The reason why there was a contest is because they also decided to bring someone that would be closer to the spirit boy's age with them. That's why I'm here with them. Once we got to the Cuban Club and got inside, we got a tour from a director named Ophelia, and we immediately went to the area where the pool used to be.

After we talked to Ophelia, the team started setting up equipment while I stayed outside so I wouldn't be in the way. The set up was finished just before dark, then we decided to go lights out. This time, the TAPS team was only going to one area. The first team was Jason and Grant, the lead investigators, then Kris, Amy, and I went in. It was extremely dark, and kinda creepy feeling. I followed Kris's flashlight, trying not to trip on anything. Once we got down to the area where the pool used to be, Kris immediately got out a flashlight that you have to twist to get on, set it on the ground, and sat down on the floor with her legs crossed, and me and Amy followed her example. Kris started an EVP session.

"Is anyone here?" Kris asked. No response. I shifted on the floor a little bit, waiting for something to happen. Amy leans over to touch the flashlight, then quickly recoils. "Oh my god, touch this, it's freezing!" She hands the flashlight to me, and it is absolutely ice cold. I pass it to Kris, and she nods her head, saying it is really cold, then puts it back on the floor. My curiosity got the better of me, so I asked, "Is there a little boy here?" I started to get a little embarrassed, then the flashlight turned on. I flinched, and by the sound of it, so did Amy and Kris.

"Did Grant and Jason get anything like this?" Amy whispered to Kris. Kris shook her head. Amy reached over and turned the flashlight back off. I become scared and excited, so I decide to ask another question. "Are you 9?" Nothing happened right away, then the flashlight turned on. I gasped, and slapped a hand to my mouth, making a slight popping noise. Amy and Kris turn to me, slightly annoyed looks on their faces. "Sorry." I say in a barely audible voice. The girls turn back to their original positions. I reach over this time and turn the flashlight off. "Are you glad there's someone here near your age, not afraid of you?" I ask.

After a couple of seconds, the flashlight turned back on. I couldn't help but grin. Kris reached over and turned it off. "Can you make a noise for us?" Amy asked. The flashlight didn't turn on this time. Instead, a sound that sounded like a boy's voice came from far behind us. I whipped my head around to see where that came from, but there was nobody behind us. Kris and Amy were looking around too. "Are any other teams here?" Kris said, speaking into what looked like a walkie-talkie. There was a warbled reply. Kris shakes her head. "No one else is here, or talking loudly outside."

I started to tremble slightly with excitement. This was my first experience with the paranormal, if this was paranormal at all. "I wonder what will happen if only one of us stays." Kris says. I immediately shot up. "I'll stay here!" I say. Kris and Amy exchange hesitant expressions.

"Fine. But you need to make sure the EVP stays running, and you need the K-2 meter with you." Amy explained, and I just nodded my head. After everything became situated, Amy and Kris got up and left me alone in the building. I stayed on the floor, with the flashlight off, and started firing away questions. "Is your name Jimmy?" I asked at one point, and immediately got a 'yes'. I clicked the

flashlight off. "Do you have family here?" I was genuinely curious. The flashlight turned on. I turned it back off.

Then I got an idea for a question. "Is there a non-human entity here?" I really didn't expect it to light up, because there are rarely any non-human entities, but I was wrong; it immediately turned on. My eyes got wide, and I hurriedly turned it back off. "Is everyone here in danger?" I ask. The flashlight turned on. I turned the flashlight back off, starting to become scared. "Is it close by?" The light turned on. I turned the light back off, my hands shaking. That's when I felt something fly past, barely missing my face. I scream, terrified. I grab all the equipment Amy and Kris left me, and bolted for an exit. I didn't make it far at all before I tripped and landed hard on the ground.

I lost the K-2 meter and the flashlight, which was still on and was trying to find everything, but then something that felt like claws clamped painfully onto my ankles, and started to pull me backwards. I tried to kick, but whatever was holding on wasn't going to let go. As I got dragged to the pool area, I noticed there were poles creating a guard rail. Once I was close enough, I went to grab a pole, but got dragged farther away so I couldn't grab on. I became frustrated, and kept trying to fight the... *thing* that was pulling me. Then I saw what was towing me: an enormous black mass that was larger and scarier than anything I'd ever seen.

What really terrified me was that when the mass seemed to turn, I could see what looked like a smoky face. I screamed at the top of my lungs for someone to help, but nobody came. I could feel tears run down my face and pour into my ears, but I didn't care. I just wanted to get out of this place and never come back. I tried to kick my feet again, tried to get it to let go. It didn't loosen its grip at all, and kept hauling me across the floor. I flipped over, and I suddenly remembered that I had salt with me. I read somewhere that salt is a protective agent against ghosts and demons.

Frustrated, I threw salt at the mass that was dragging me. Well, tonight just keeps giving me surprises, because all of a sudden, the mass lets go of me, and starts to what seemed like melting into the ground. I already had a sore throat

from my screaming, and all I could do was move away, throwing more salt. The mass tried to grab me again, but had no success. Instead, it left good sized scratches on my calf.

With a last burst of energy, I threw the rest of the salt, and it sank into the ground, probably going back to wherever it came from. All of a sudden, my vision started to get blurry, and the last thing I saw was Kris running towards me, then the world tilted and goes black.

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The equipment caught everything on tape. I learned later that the other ghosts that were trapped in the Cuban Club were able to find peace and move on.

# Awakened Doll

On a cold fall evening it appeared once again. It only comes once a year so why did it come today? This is freaking me out, was this how I died. My name is Frankie Waltz and recently my family moved to this very strange place called Haunted Heights, Louisville. I've never had any real friends who loved me for me just being me. They all assumed I was weird because I was always living in an old house. This year will be different, this year I will live in a normal house and have a normal life. But this year was different, I keep seeing this doll everywhere I go and it freaks me out. Maybe This girl Vanessa can help me find out how to get rid of this doll for good! Anyways, enough about the doll lets get to the first day of school.

Ah! First day at my new school and I'm about to be late. My alarm was supposed to go off at 6:00 so I can catch the bus at 7. "Frankie sweetie" my dad calls from a distance "You're gonna be late!" he says. "Coming!" as I shout as I come downstairs. I was packing my backpack when I noticed something much different...something was staring at me from a distance. It looked like a doll was looking at me. Now I didn't think that it would be that weird but I needed to leave in order for me to get to the bus. "Don't forget to head to the park after school so you can help me and your dad set up the haunted house." said papa. "yes I know papa I know" I reply as I walk out the door and to my bus stop. As I'm waiting for the bus I see that doll again. It was the same doll I saw when I was getting ready to leave, maybe I was just seeing this because halloween is coming. Eh, that's just a guess. The bus drops us off at the front of the school. Oh boy this is scary my first year at a new school, new friends, how can I do this. "Hey get out of the way loser!" shouted one of the football players. "Oh sorry" I replied. The bell rings and I don't know where any of my classes are. After the first two periods pass by I head to my third period which was a history of halloween. "Hello class today we have a new spooky student please introduce yourself dear" Mr. Skull said. "Um hello everyone my Name is Frankie Waltz I am 16 years old, I have two of the best dads and I just moved here from Franken Valley, Hawaii." I said. "so your parents are gay!" someone yelled from the back. As I start to answer I see that very same doll. This time the doll was in my seat, I thought I was going crazy! "Now now settle down class, Frankie, why don't you go sit next to Cameron," said Mr. Skull. "Sir I'm sorry but I can't, don't you see that doll in my seat?" I said. "Frankie nothing is in your seat now please go sit down so we can continue our lesson?" he said. I sat down in my seat and I heard that doll saying something to me, "Follow me.. to find what happened to your mother~" said the doll. I got confused so I just ignored the doll and started writing down notes. After halloween history I was walking in the courtyard when all of a sudden I'm getting pushed onto the ground. I turn over on my backside and see this girl right on top of me.

"Uh can you get off?" I say. "Oh sorry I was just trying to talk to you about that doll" she gets off and helps me up. Hi my name is Vanessa and you are Frankie Waltz correct? The girl with the doll haunting her?" she said. "Yes I am but how did you know about that doll haunting me? It's not like you have that same thing happening to you!" I say in a snappy tone. Vanessa looks hurt

and says quietly "this is exactly happening to me..."says Vanessa. I walk next to Vanessa and whisper in her ear "come to the park after school and maybe we both can help each other. Vanessa agrees and after school she follows me to the park and not surprisingly she gets scared by the zombie jumping out of the bushes. My dads Micheal and Cody start busting out into laughter and so do I. "Not funny!"says Vanessa. "I mean it kinda is very funny if you're gonna be my friend be ready to be scared" I say still giggling. My dad Michael looks at me and puts his hand on my shoulder and whispers.."be by the haunted house in 5 minutes I need to talk to you about something"he says as he walks towards the Haunted house. Wait, did my dad hear what happened at school about the doll. Oh no I'm gonna be in serious trouble! Now he might think I'm crazy, what is going to happen. I walk over to the haunted house out of nowhere I hear the doll's voice once again saying "my dear you must help me!". I got so scared I almost ran out of the haunted house. My dad made it worse by jumping out of the shadows and scaring the life out of me. "Dad! That wasn't funny..you really scared me"I said. But when I looked it wasn't my dad or papa it was that stupid doll. I blink then next thing I know I'm swinging on the edge of the cliff dangling for my life. "Someone help me! I don't want to die!". I say crying. The doll creeps out of the distance and says "Let me help you little one then you can be with your family once again"she grabs my hand and makes me let go of the cliff "I can have you disappear for good!" she lets go of my arm as I scream for my life. I plummet on the ground..dead and never to be seen again.

Hi my name is Kazia Mitchell I'm in 8th grade at Sproul Jr. High

## Haunted Soul stealer

Long ago a house was built, built for the purpose of living in. The only problem is whoever entered the house was never seen again. Now a group of six friends are going to take on the task of entering and leaving alive.

"I spy with my little eye something long." "Oh, oh, I know, I know, it's the trailer! Is it Scarlet?" "Of course it is Hanna." "Can we play something else, because I Spy is a little kids game." Ashley said while being annoyed. "Sorry we were late!" as two girls ran to them. "Finally the twins are here," said Hanna. "Well we had to babysit our little brother for a little bit. "That's fine Lilly and Rose." said Scarlet. "By the way, where is Ally?" "Oh she went to the bathroom but she will be back soon." Hanna said. "Oh hey Lilly, hi Rose!" as Ally skipped down to them. Once Ally got to the rest of the group they all decided to sit down and play truth or dare. "Umm truth or dare Rose?" said Ashley with a devious smile. "I pick dare." "Okay, then I dare you to stay the night at the haunted house where people enter but never leave again." "I'm not going there!!! It's haunted and I might never come back!" "That's harsh Ashley! She's my twin sister." said Lilly in a worried fashion. "Fine, how about all of us go to make it fair." "Sure, let's do it!" All of the girls said in an excited way.

Now all of them packed for a night at the haunted house. "Umm, this place is creepy," said Scarlet. "It's an ugly brown green color. Who paints a house like that?" Ashley said in a disgusted way. "You're worried about the color Ashley? It is leaning. We should worry about it collapsing while we are in there!" Hanna said in an angry way. In fact the house was leaning. It had spider webs, dust all over the place, and rodents, and to make it worse it was storming outside. "Okay let's go in." Said Lilly bravely.

The girls entered the house and looked for a room to put their things in and to stay the night in. They walked through the house and finally found the grand room. It had marble floors, a high ceiling and many fine little details. "This is the perfect room to stay in, but Ally, maybe we should see if we can leave. Oh and I also forgot about my laundry." "Don't be such a scaredy cat, Scarlet." Said Ally in a scared way. "Ha you are scared Ally, just listen to your voice!" "Fine I am scared I admit it, just don't rub it, okay Scarlet." "Guys, we should get our things ready because I'm tired." "I'm also tired." Ashley said to Rose. The girls put their sleeping bags on the ground and got comfortable. "Lilly, Rose, did you bring the food?" "Um no I thought you did Scarlet." "Don't worry guys I brought the food just call me Hanna the food bringer!" "Seriously Hanna we are not calling you that." "Geez it was just a joke Ashley, you never want to have fun." The girls started eating, then went to sleep for the night.

"Ahhh!!!" Everyone woke up. "Did you guys hear that scream?" "Sure did Ally." said Rose in a scared way. "Guys, you have to come see this!" said Ashley from in the hallway. All the girls ran to the hall and saw Lilly's lifeless body on the ground. "LILLY!!! NO! Lilly please wake up, it's your sister Rose..." "Rose she is gone..." said Scarlet. "Guys we need to look around to find out what happened to Rose's sister" "Ashley has a good point we need to crack this case." Hanna said in a determined voice. "How could have Lilly died? Poison, strangled, heart attack?" said Rose. "Well we heard her scream in pain." "Good point Ally, but she looks like she could still be alive, but it's like she has no soul." said Scarlet.

"Okay guys we need to split up." "But that is how people in horror movies die Hanna!" "But if we split up we can cover more ground and find out more answers," said Hanna. "Fine

Rose, I guess we can do that." Hanna said angrily. The girls decided to split up, Hanna and Ally were together, and Scarlet, Rose and Ashley went the other direction.

"So Ally want to check the basement?" "Wait, what no! That is where people die in horror movies, I don't want to feel like I'm in a horror movie." "Then I will go down and look by myself." "Hanna no don't go down there by yourself... and she's off. Well I better go down with her."

"Why do I have to be in front Rose and Scarlet?" "Well you are brave Ashley." "Ya, what Scarlet said." "Rose, Scarlet stay here, because I saw something." "Ashley, we have to stay together!" "Well, we have to go after Ashley, so let's go Rose." Rose and Scarlet started chasing after Ashley but then they ended up separated, mysteriously, even though they were holding hands. "Rose, Ashley where are you guys! Why did Rose let go of my hand. Oh wait nevermind we never let go but how did we get separated?" "Hanna, I followed you down here, where are you? Hanna? Wait, what's that glow?" "ALLY HELP!" "I'm coming Hanna! I finally found you. Wait Hanna, no it can't be Hanna? No, no, no, this can't be, Hanna has also died..."

"Hey Ashley I found you." Rose said. "Wait, Rose you weren't supposed to follow me, and where is Scarlet?" "Well the thing is, we somehow got separated even though we were holding hands." "Well, we have to go find her, fast before something happens to her. By the way Rose, do you have your watch on you?" "Ya why?" "Well, I want to know what time it is." "Oh okay, hmm this is strange it says it is only 12:06. I wonder why?" "Well, you have to remember this is a haunted house so it might be messing with our brains." "You're probably right Ashley."

Ashley and Rose kept wandering around the house looking in every room looking for Scarlet. "Ashley, Rose, there you are!" "Where is Hanna, Ally?" "I saw Hanna die. I saw an odd glow, then I heard her yell for help, then I saw her dead on the ground, like how we found Lilly." "Wait, I saw a glow go in your direction but we need to find Scarlet fast because she might be dead or dieing right now!" Ashley said in panic. "Okay, if we want to find Scarlet we need to split up. There is no choice at this point. Rose you go to the attic and Ally you stay in the left wing."

The girls split up in their sections of the house looking for Scarlet. Then all of a sudden the house went pitch black and it got silent. In the darkness and silence two screams were heard yelling for help, then the lights went back on. "What happened? Ally Rose, is that you? I'm not scared you know, so come out and tell me you found Scarlet. Guys? This isn't funny anymore." Ashley soon realized the screams she heard were her friends screams and they were all gone.

All of a sudden a strange glow appeared and called to Ashley. "It's that strange glow again. I guess it is my time to die now. I'm ready to just do it already." Then Ashley heard some voices coming from the glow and they were saying, "Ashley, run it will take your soul!" "It will take my soul so it must have taken the others souls. Wait, I remember seeing a spell book in the other room. I need to grab it!" So Ashley ran to get the spell book and luckley she was able to find the room and grab it. "Umm I think page 62, okay yes it is. Now, set it go from the darkest depth and release the souls of the dead!" There was a flash of light and the souls were released, but not in their human forms.

"Ashley thank you for setting us free, we unfortunately died already so we cannot go back to our former bodies." "It's all my fault if I didn't dare you Rose to come here this never would have happened." "No, don't blame yourself, it's all of our faults, but don't worry even though we are dead we will be watching over you." The souls vanished and Ashley was able to leave the haunted house. The haunted house was eventually torn down ,but Ashley never forgot about that day. To this day Ashley still wakes up from nightmares from that night.

# The Realization

By Andrew Watson

"Tony!" my mom called from downstairs, "it's time for dinner!". Me, my brother Zach, and our mom, had recently moved out of our dad's house and into a cabin in a clearing in the forest, after the divorce between our father and mother. He had filed the papers and forced us out, so now our mother and I are working jobs. I deliver food for a popular restaurant a little south of here. My mom works a day job for an insurance company, she doesn't get paid much because she gets the basic info and answers calls then redirects them to the right places. Me and Zach both wanted to stay with both of them so now we are moving between the two houses. We stay with our mom for the first half of the year, and we stay with our dad the second half. Our dad is living in Georgia while we are living in Kansas so we have to go a long distance to get between the two.

We were having our favorite meal tonight so I dashed down the stairs, my mom said "Oh there you are! we were about to eat without you"

"Sorry mom, I was working on something," I said.

"Ok well go get your food and we'll start to eat." mother said.

While I was getting my food on the kitchen counter I looked out the window above the sink and I saw a fox sitting about 30 feet away from the window staring at me. When I looked at me it stood, coked it's head and then yawned. I looked back to my food to finish serving myself my peas, and when I looked back again the fox was gone.

I leaned in closer to the window to get a better view but the fox was nowhere to be found, it was as if it had evaporated. I sat down and asked "mom, are there any foxes here?"

She answered "No dear, there have never been foxes since the hunters hunted them extinget here. Why do you ask?"

"No reason" I answered "just curious".

After dinner I went outside to look where the fox went, Zach tagged along.

"Did you see a fox?" zach asked

"Yes, that is why i am out here" i answered

When we got near the forest I saw the fox again. It, again, stood turned around and strode off. I called Zach and we both wandered off to see what the fox was up to. We were walking through the forest in the direction of the fox when we saw an old man with a cane leaning on a tree.

"So there you two are" the man said "i've been waiting for you".

"Who are you?" I asked

"Oh, just a traveller"

"What are you doing here"

"Oh just looking for someone"

And then the fox strode out from behind the tree.

"Oh! There the fox is" said Zach as he reached out to touch it.

"I wouldn't advise you do that" the traveler said "he can be shy and might bite"

Zach pulled his hand away. "How do you know?"

"Oh, you'll learn in time"

Suddenly the forest got very dark as if the sun had dimmed and we heard a growling coming from the darkness.

"Follow me. And keep up!"

We started running through the forest and then we saw it. We looked behind us and saw wolves, lots of them, some of them were jumping from tree to tree and some of them were running on the ground. We started throwing things at them and that slowed them down. When we got far enough away that we couldn't see them the man stopped, we stopped too. A teenage boy walked out from behind the tree, we both jumped.

"Follow mageth, he will guide you to safety" the man said

"But why? Why are we here? Why are we running? Why are those wolves after us?" we asked

"Those aren't regular wolves. They're being controlled by people. Bad people. People who want to capture and kill you." the man answered

Zach's eyes went big "what about mom?"

The man said "your mother is safe now you and I must go, I will make sure you get to safety."

The man took off in the wolves' direction and we started running after Mageth with buckets of questions. After a few minutes the darkness started to fade and it became lighter.

"Stop" mageth ordered

We stopped

"We can rest here," Mageth said. We all sat down leaning on a tree.

"What are those wolves?" i asked

"Those creatures aren't wolves, they're spirits, there the evil spirits of Morlu." he answer

I asked "who's morlu?"

"Morlu is a person who has been corrupted by evil, he kills for fun

"Goodnight mom!" Said Clarisa. "Night Clare." Yelled her mom from the living room. Clarisa hated going to sleep with the dolls in her room because every night she would have the same dream over and over again. The nightmare that she had was that the dolls came to life and attacked her and then went to attack her parents. She would wake up in a sweat every night, but tonight was different....She didn't have the dream or wake up in a sweat. Her friends the next day were confused too because Clarisa would talk to them and it was like they don't remember her. Everyone was like that that day. Once she got home she went to her room to braid her sister's hair like usual but her sister wasn't there and none of her family was home. When she was in her room she noticed that all the dolls were gone and that they might have left on their own until she walked into her sister's room and there they were. \*CREAK\* "H-hello? W-who's t-there?" She said into the hallway. \*CREAK\* She jumped back and decided to check the closet. When she grabbed the handle to open it, the front door opened and her family walked in. "Sweetie, are you home? We are back." Zoe(Mom) Said. "Oh hi mom!!!" Yelled Clarisa running down the stairs to hug her mom. "Sorry we didn't text you we were going to but forgot. Are you doing alright?" Zoe said. "Yeah I'm fine." Clarisa said. "Night baby. We are tired so there is no movie tonight." Said Zoe kissing Clarisa on the head. "Love you mom and it's okay I understand." Clarisa said. "Love you too baby. Thank you." Said Zoe. Zoe headed upstairs with Jake(father). "Night sissy." Said Chloe(sister). "Night Chlo" Clarisa said while walking upstairs behind her sister into her room. Clarisa fell asleep and soon she heard this weird sound of people talking but her family were out cold. "DDSEFVBRGBRVVVV" Said ???. Clarisa couldn't understand the words but she knew it wasn't good so she hid under her pillows and blankets. She peaked her eyes out and saw that her worst nightmare was now her worst reality. She almost screamed but held it in so they didn't see her. The words soon came clear to her ears "You get the scissors and I'll get the knife. Everyone is going to regret leaving us in the dark or being afraid. We will give them something to be afraid of." Said ??? A crowd of dolls started chanting "ISSY ISSY ISSY ISSY!!!" Clare wondered if Issy was the girl that said all of that. "Why are you eavesdropping and staring? Didn't your mom teach you better?" Said Issy. "I'm sorry, I was just wondering how I can help." She said lying to the dolls so they don't hurt her. "You can show us the knives and scissors and we will leave your family alone." Said Issy. Clarisa nodded and showed them to all the knives and scissors then headed upstairs. "Thank you young one." Said Issy. "No problem, a

deal is a deal." Said Clarisa. Soon Clarisa started to notice that she wasn't so afraid of the dolls anymore. She got more dolls and helped them every Halloween like the ones last year. Her family was left unharmed, except for the fact that they lost a bunch of knives and scissors.

THE END

Sophia Franks