

The Haunting

By

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INT. DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

JAMES, 16, a quiet but cool guy, sits in the bleachers with his best friend DREW, 16, the loud class clown.

JAMES

I want to ask Erica out for Halloween tonight.

DREW

Do you think you'll be able to handle a haunted house this year?

JAMES

Yeah, Erica is more important than my fear.

ERICA, 16, sweet and timid girl, walks into the gym with her friends. She smiles and walks towards James and Drew.

DREW

Here she comes.

JAMES

Okay, be cool. Don't make me look stupid.

Erica climbs the bleachers and sits next to James.

ERICA

Hey, guys.

DREW

Oh, Erica! James was just talking about you.

James glares at Drew and cracks a smile at Erica.

ERICA

Oh, really? What about?

Erica blushes and swipes her hair behind her ear.

JAMES

I'd love to tell you more about Halloween, right after Drew leaves.

James gives Drew a look. Drew grabs his stuff and goes down the bleachers.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Erica, would you like to go to Mr. Montclair's haunted house with us tonight?

Erica blushes. James' hands start to get sweaty as he rubs them across his pants.

ERICA

I'd love to, but as long as you plan on ditching Drew.

JAMES

I wouldn't have it any other way.

Erica and James both laugh as they watch Drew trip up the bleachers on the other side of the gym.

EXT. MR. MONTCLAIR'S HAUNTED HOUSE - NIGHT

James, Erica, and Drew all meet up at Mr. Montclair's Haunted House.

DREW

I can't believe you're doing this. We should bring Erica around more often.

JAMES

Let's see how this goes first.

ERICA

You'll be fine.

Erica grabs James' hand as they head towards the door of the house. MR. MONTCLAIR, 45, a real grouch, stands at the door eyeing every kid that enters.

MR. MONTCLAIR

Children.

The kids give Mr. Montclair a fake smile and nod their heads as they walk past him.

DREW

That man has always given me the creeps.

James looks back as they walk into the main room of the house. Mr. Montclair keeps his eyes on him the entire time.

ERICA

Let's not focus on him. I want to go upstairs first.

James suddenly SHUDDERS. He looks at Erica, thinking she felt it too. They hold each other's hands tighter.

DREW

I'll beat you guys to the top.

The kids run to the top of the stairs.

JAMES

Did anybody else feel that?

DREW

Feel what?

ERICA

The chill?

JAMES

I knew I wasn't crazy. You felt it too?

Drew notices another group of their friends.

DREW

Okay, the third wheel is leaving. Bye guys.

Before Erica and James can argue, Drew runs over to the other group of kids.

ERICA

Did you really feel a chill?

JAMES

I did. I could've sworn I saw something run past me too.

ERICA

Now I see why you've always hated these things.

James looks down and shrugs his shoulders. Erica smiles and squeezes his hand.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I'm glad you chose me to come with you.

JAMES

I'm glad you came.

James and Erica start to move towards the first room. Before they enter they notice a little girl going into another room.

ERICA

I thought the haunted house was just for the high school. Wouldn't this be too much for a little girl?

JAMES

I would think so. How did she even get past Mr. Montclair?

ERICA

She has to be lost. Who would bring her here?

JAMES

Hopefully her siblings are around.

James and Erica walk down the hall to the room that the girl ran into. The kids are frozen solid when they enter the room.

The room is empty other than a transparent little girl.

ERICA

Is her mouth sewn shut? What's on her hands?

JAMES

This can't be real.

ERICA

James, look!

JAMES

She's starting to float in the air.

Erica squeezes James' hand and starts to pull him toward the door. James and Erica back out of the room.

ERICA

Run!

James and Erica run back down the hall and down the stairs. They stop right in front of the entrance, but the door has been locked from the outside.

JAMES

Why is the door locked? What's going on?

ERICA

Who was that girl?

The kids try to catch their breath.

JAMES

More like what.

ERICA

(whispers)

Look in the kitchen. What is Mr. Montclair doing?

JAMES

Something doesn't feel right.

ERICA

His shirt is stained in blood.

JAMES

It wasn't like that when we got here.

James and Erica look around for Drew, instead they are greeted by the same little girl.

ERICA

Oh my god!

James reaches out to touch the girl. The lights start to flicker. Erica and James SHUDDER.

JAMES

She's staring to float again. This can't be good.

The little girl points her hands towards where Mr. Montclair was headed.

ERICA

I think she wants us to follow him.

JAMES

I guess we're following the directions of a little ghost girl tonight.

ERICA

Ghost?

James and Erica head toward the same direction that Mr. Montclair was walking. They walk into the kitchen and see a basement door.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Do you think he's down there?

JAMES

I guess we're about to find out.

ERICA

This seems like a bad idea.

JAMES

I'm right here with you, and I won't leave your side.

ERICA

This is crazy, James.

JAMES

I know, but what if that little girl was a real ghost?

ERICA

Well, I don't want to become a ghost with her.

JAMES

We'll be fine. Let's go.

James slowly crack open the basement door. He waits and listens for any sounds.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Turn on your phone's light.

James and Erica step slowly down the basement stairs. With each step they CREAK and their hearts beat faster.

ERICA

This is the craziest thing I've ever done.

JAMES

Me too.

ERICA

I'm just glad it's with you.

James smiles and gives Erica's hand a nice squeeze as they reach the bottom of the stairs.

JAMES

Keep your light low. I'd hate for him to see us before we see him.

ERICA

I hope he isn't down here. I can't take anymore surprises.

James and Erica start to look around the basement.

JAMES

What's with all the tools?

ERICA

Oh my God, James. I think some are covered in blood.

JAMES
How can you tell?

ERICA
I'm a girl. I know what blood looks like.

James walks backwards and almost trips.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Whoa, be careful.

Erica grabs James before he falls.

JAMES
What did I just almost trip over?

ERICA
James!

Erica and James stare at several cloth bags that are drenched in blood. The smell of death hits them hard and almost makes them sick.

JAMES
Start recording on your phone, Erica.

ERICA
What the hell is going on?

JAMES
I think those are dead bodies. We should call the police.

James and Erica head toward the steps and hear foot steps coming down the steps.

ERICA
Oh my God, he's coming.

JAMES
Hide.

James leads Erica behind a table. They hide and watch Mr. Montclair drag another bag down the stairs.

MR. MONTCLAIR
This has been my best year yet. Halloween always brings me the best bodies.

JAMES
(whispers)

I think the haunted house is just a cover up.

ERICA

(whispers)

You think it's just a way to lead kids into his house?

Erica WHIMPERS. James gives her hand a little squeeze and rubs her back. He nods to the stairs and they inch from behind the table.

JAMES

(whispers)

Let's get out of here.

ERICA

(whispers)

Please!

Erica is so shaken that she doesn't see the chair in front of her. In her haste, Erica trips over a chair and her phone goes slides across the room.

JAMES

Oh no!

Mr. Montclair hears the chair move and freezes

MR. MONTCLAIR

Who's there?

James grabs Erica's phone, and points it at Mr. Montclair. He pulls out his phone and dials 911.

JAMES

(whispers)

I want you to go for the stairs. I have a plan.

James grabs a screw from off the floor and throws it at the tiny light above Mr. Montclair's head. The light SHATTERS.

MR. MONTCLAIR

What the hell?

Erica runs for the stairs.

JAMES

Keep going. I'm right behind you.

James tries to run behind Erica but Mr. Montclair grabs his ankle as his foot hits the stairs.

MR. MONTCLAIR

I knew from the moment I saw you that you were going to be a problem, kid.

Mr. Montclair throws his hand in the air as if he is going to hit James. Erica kicks Mr. Montclair in the chin.

ERICA

Get off of him!

Mr. Montclair stumbles back.

MR. MONTCLAIR

You stupid little girl. I'm going to gut you alive!

JAMES

You're not going to do anything but regret this day.

ERICA

Come on, James!

Erica and James sprint up the steps. Once through the door, James slams the door behind them and throws two of Mr. Montclair's kitchen chairs behind the door.

INT. MR. MONTCLAIR'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

JAMES

Did you get all of that operator?

OPERATOR

We have two officers heading your way.
Stay on the line.

Erica stands next to the basement door crying. James grabs her and pulls her in for a hug.

MR. MONTCLAIR

Let me out! Let me out!

Mr. Montclair BANGS on the door.

JAMES

Come on, let's head towards the entrance.

Erica grabs James' hand tight. They reach the entrance and open the door to be greeted by several officers.

JAMES (CONT'D)

He's in the basement.

The officers run toward the kitchen to get Mr. Montclair out of the basement.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Let's get you home Erica.

Erica and James exit the haunted house. Erica gives Mr. Montclair's house another look before looking at James.

ERICA

At least you aren't afraid of haunted houses anymore.

JAMES

Seems as if they should be scared of me.