

# Ghost Story

By Kristen Doherty

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# CHARACTERS

## CAMP LEADER

Harli

## CAMPERS

Bailey

India

Baxter

Ali

Spencer

Taylor

Tanayah

Damian

Demi

Kelsey

Chloe

## GHOST/NAUGHTY KIDS

Daniel

Jess

Maximus

*\*The playwright permits the merging or splitting of characters to suit your numbers as well as localising language/terminology to suit your site. Happy to send a Word Doc version of the script on request.*

*SFX – The crackling of a fire. Forest sounds.*

*Setting: Night time - A campsite. Deck chairs/benches/logs sit empty around a campfire in a semi circle.*

*Harli enters and blows a whistle.*

Harli (calls out) Ok campers gather around.

*A group of student campers emerge in their PJ's and sleeping bags, unhappy about being woken up.*

Jess What's going on?

Bailey This sucks!

India Why are we out here? It's late, it's freezing.

Taylor This is stupid.

Harli Take a seat around the fire.

*The Campers begrudgingly take a place around the campfire.*

Ali This is like some sort of torture.

Tanayah It's so cold out here.

India Can anyone get the fire going better?

Chloe You were a Girl Scout; didn't you learn that?

India I was five.

Demi I was asleep. And warm.

Kelsey I was having the best dream... Zac Effron was in it.

Girls Again?

Kelsey Yes. It was really good. He was about to ask me to marry him.

Girls Again?

Baxter I'd rather be in my tent. You know it's true, you get the best night's sleep in the Strindberg Sleeper Deluxe. It's amazing.

All We know.

Bailey Too right! Mine is awesome. You guys are missing out.

All We know.

Baxter You really should invest in one.

Ali Will you guys stop bragging about your stupid sleeping bags?

Baxter They're the best!

Tanayah We are seriously sick of hearing about your dumb Strindberg's.

Baxter Jealous?

Bailey Yeah you are.

Ali                                Yeah maybe... Mine sucks.

*Baily and Baxter laugh.*

Ali                                I think my brother left food in it when he used it last. It reeks.

Jess                                Ewh. That's gross.

Demi                               Ugh. Don't want to hear it.

Chloe                              I've got to share a tent with you.

Ali                                Well, I've got to sleep in it!

Jess                                You need a new one.

Baxter                             Can I recommend the Strindberg?

Taylor                             Are you sure it was your brother, not some creature that crawled in and died and is rotting away?

Ali                                Argh! I'm definitely not sleeping in it now.

Damian                            You sure it was food?

Baxter                             Yeah! Are you sure it's not some sort of body stuff?

Ali                                Body stuff?

Chloe                              Please stop.

Jess                                Oh I feel sick now.

Spencer                            What is body stuff?

Baxter                             You know like toe jam, or like other gross stuff that like sheds, you know?

Girls                                Ewh!

India                                Sheds?

Chloe                              I said stop! You're making me feel sick.

Damian                            Awesome!

Kelsey                            That is seriously disgusting.

India                                I think I'm gonna vomit.

Spencer                            You are rank mate.

Ali                                I am definitely not sleeping in it now. I'd rather freeze.

Baxter/Bailey                    Shoulda' got a Strindberg.

All                                 Shut up!

Spencer                            Seriously if I hear Strindberg one more time...

Baxter                             But they're the best...

Bailey                             Yeah they are.

*Everyone throws something at them.*

Harli Ok, ok quiet everyone. I've brought you out here for a reason.

Demi What? So you can make us freeze to death?

Harli No, because you are camping.

Bailey Yeah and...

Harli And what normally happens when people go camping?

India Um, they get dirty.

Demi That's for sure. My nails will never be the same.

Taylor Go fishing? Or hunting.

Jess They freeze to death.

Tanayah Cook marshmallows. Did anyone bring any?

Damian I wish.

Harli No.

Spencer I did! (*he stuffs his face with them*) Mmm delicious.

Damian Give me some.

Spencer No way.

Kelsey Hey you're supposed to cook them.

Chloe You're supposed to share them.

Spencer (*continues to shove them in his mouth*) They're terrible... You wouldn't like them. (*smiles through the marshmallows*)

Ali Ewh!

Harli Can I continue? Come on... Camping? What else do you do?

India Not get any sleep, that's for sure.

Chloe Get cold.

Bailey Get a cold. (*sneezes*)

Kelsey Get bored. (*she gets her phone out*) I can't believe there's no coverage here. I'm going to lose my streaks.

Chloe I know, right.

Harli Come on guys... Answer the question.

Demi Um, sit around the camp fire?

Harli Yes! And what does one do around a campfire.

Demi Cook stuff?

Harli Yes, what else.

Taylor Burn stuff.

Damian Um... tell stories.

Harli Yes! What sort of stories?

Kelsey Um, scary stories.

Baxter, Ali, India Oooohhh

Harli Yes! Ghost stories.

Bailey Bugger off. We're too old for ghost stories.

Jess I hate ghost stories.

Spencer Yeah they're crap (*goes to get up*)

Chloe Scared, are you?

Spencer No! As if.

Bailey Yeah you are!

Spencer I'm so not.

Taylor Well sit down then.

Tanayah Yeah sit down.

Spencer Fine. (*he sits*)

Harli Just listen

Taylor I won't sleep now.

Ali Neither.

Spencer So who's the scared one now?

Taylor Whatever

*Tanayah clucks like a chicken.*

Taylor I will seriously punch you in the face.

All Shhhhhh

Harli Ok. This is actually a true story.

Demi Sure it is.

India They always are.

Harli About a group of kids that went camping here... Just like we are. On a moonlit night, just like tonight. But they were only boys.

Chloe Ooh boys.

Kelsey I don't mind this story so much. I wish there were some decent boys on this trip.

Spencer Hey! I'm decent.

Kelsey Keep telling yourself that.

India/ Tanayah (*big teasing reaction*) Ohhh!

Chloe Ooh burn.

Harli Be nice girls! Let's get on with the story. So! They went camping, just like we are, one hundred years ago, on this very night.

Baxter Of course it was. (*sneezes gullible*)

Demi (*sarcastic*) What a co-incidence.

Harli They were from the local boy's school.

Baxter There was never a boy's school around here.

Taylor Yeah there was. A long time ago....My dad told me about it. It shut down cause there was some sort of tragedy.

Damian Cool.

Baxter As if!

Taylor No, it's true.

Spencer I've heard about it too.

India So have I. It's a pretty famous story actually.

Chloe What happened to them?

Taylor The students went camping and never came back.

Chloe What?

Kelsey They disappeared.

Chloe Oh a bit like 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'.

India What do you mean?

Chloe You know... Picnic at Hanging Rock? It's legendary.

Ali I've heard about that.

Damian Yeah me too... It's an urban legend.

India Wasn't it some creepy movie in the 70s? My mum loved it.

Chloe It was a book first.

Ali I think it was based on a true story.

Demi What happened in it?

India Yeah what happened?

Chloe Oh some school girls at the start of the last century went on a picnic at a place somewhere called Hanging Rock and disappeared.

Demi So the same sort of thing really.

Kelsey Except our story had boys.

India/Chloe Yeah, boys.

Kelsey They never came back. Disappeared. Probably fell off the cliff or something. But they never found the bodies.

Tanayah                   Who's bodies?

Kelsey                    The boys.

India                      That's really creepy.

Damian                   It's pretty cool to think that this was the last place they were ever seen.

Taylor                    You reckon?

Demi                      I really don't like this story.

Taylor                    I don't like any story. We are way too old for this rubbish.

Damian                   Yeah and I don't believe it.

Kelsey                    It's true! They disappeared and no one ever found out what happened to them.

Harli                      Until now.

Damian                    *(dramatic)* Dun Dun Dunnnn.

All                        Damian!

Damian                    Sorry.

Ali                        Can I go back to my tent now? Please?

Jess                      I need to go to the bathroom. Come find me if I'm gone to long... You know just in case a ghost gets me. *(laughs)*

Chloe                     Do you want me to come with you?

Jess                      Nahh... I don't believe in ghosts.

*She exits*

India                      She's braver than me.

Tanayah                   Yeah, you wouldn't catch me going into those woods alone... who knows who... or what could be there.

India                      Stop! I want to sleep tonight.

Bailey                    Ok, get on with it.

Demi                      Or don't.

Harli                      Shhh... On this very night, a hundred years ago, a class of students were on a school camp. When one student became ill, the teacher had to take him back to town by horse, leaving the others with promises he would return before it got dark. He didn't. They did their best to set up their tents in the clearing over there.

*The group crane their necks to see.*

Ali                        *(nervous)* Over where?

Harli                      Over there... Well so the legend says.



*SFX A noise.*

*While everyone is distracted with the noise Damian and Bailey sneak around behind the group.*

Demi                      What was that?

Taylor                     A ghost?

Demi                      Shut up.

*Damian and Bailey jump out and yell Rah! Everyone screams.*

Ali                         Stop it!

Demi                      You suck!

Chloe                     You actually scared me.

*Damian and Bailey laugh and high 5 before returning to their seats.*

India                      Keep going. I want to hear this now.

Harli                     And just like tonight it was a full moon.

India                      Oh, it is a full moon.

Tanayah                 All the looonies will be out.

Chloe                     They already are.

Baxter                    Speak for yourself.

Taylor                    Shhhhhh.

Ali                        What happened?

India                     Yeah tell the story.

Harli                     Ok, so the boys were getting scared. Their teacher didn't come back and it was really, really dark.

Demi                      I thought it was a full moon?

Taylor                    Good point.

Baxter                    It probably got cloudy.

Ali                        That happens.

*SFX - A noise is heard off. Some people get nervous.*

Kelsey                    What was that?

Ali                        Who's over there?

Demi                      Who's not here?

Chloe                     We're all here. Eleven of us?

Ali                        We have fourteen in our PE class.

*Damian starts counting.*

Tanayah                 Maximus and Daniel were suspended, remember?

Spencer                    Yeah... and Jess went to to find a toilet... She's been gone a while now.

India                        I hope she's ok.

Demi                        Baxter. He's not here. Typical.

Baxter                      I'm right across to you. *(a beat)* Hey! What do you mean typical?

*SFX - Noise again. A few of the others scream.*

Ali                          What is that? *(slowly stands)*

*A few figures emerge from the darkness. Too shadowy to see if they're real.*

Damian                     What?

Ali                          That!

Chloe                        What are you talking about?

India                        There's someone standing there.

Ali                          Yes! There is.

Bailey                      What? I can't see anyone.

Kelsey                      Where!?

India                        There! There! Can't you see them?

Taylor                      Them? What do you mean them?

Ali                          There's more than one.

Kelsey                      Stop it! You're freaking me out.

Damian                     There's nothing there.

Bailey                      *(calls out)* Hello.

Taylor                      Don't!

Baxter                      Don't be stupid. What if it's a... a thing.

Tanayah                    A thing? What's a thing?

Taylor                      I can't see anyone....

Ali                          Are you kidding? They're right there.

India                        How can you not see them? There?

Taylor                      Oh my God. I can actually see them now.

Tanayah                    You're lying.

Damian                     I can't see anything.

Taylor                      There! There. Right there... Can't you guys see them?

Spencer                    Stop mucking around.

Chloe                        No he's right. I can see someone too. In the shadows... Sort of hunched over.

Kelsey Don't! You're creeping me out.  
Demi You guys are so lame. There is no one there. We are kilometers away from anywhere. I didn't hear a car... Did you? We are all here. Aren't we? Eleven?

*SFX - Another noise.*

Bailey *(gasp)* I can see them too.  
Kelsey Oh God... So can I.  
Tanayah Where?  
Bailey Over there.  
Demi Go over then.  
Bailey What? No way.  
Demi Scared?  
Tanayah Yeah you are.  
Bailey You go then.  
Demi As if! *(sits down)* You go!  
Bailey Not likely!  
Tanayah *(calls out)* Hello... Is it you? Boys? Have you come back?  
Damian What are you doing?  
Demi Stop it!  
Tanayah What if they want our help.  
Ali Our help? What do you mean our help?  
Harli What can we do?  
Kelsey You're telling this story.  
Harli This isn't part of the story.

*Long horrified pause as realisation hits, the campers cling to each other.*

*SFX – Spooky music rises.*

*Jess, Daniel and Maximus stand in the shadows.*

Jess *(whispering)* Help me... Help me...  
India We have to do something... Can't you hear them?  
Ali *(horrified)* No.  
Taylor They're asking for help.  
Tanayah I can't hear anything.  
India They're saying "Help me!"  
Baxter *(cries)* Stop it!

*AFX - Blackout. - All Scream*

Tanayah            What happened?  
Chloe                Why is it so dark all of a sudden?  
Kelsey                The moon must have gone behind a cloud.  
Spencer              Just like that night.  
India                 Don't say that.  
Spencer              (*panicked*) It's true. It's exactly the same.  
India                 Stop it. You're panicking.  
Damian                What is that?  
Demi                 What? Over there?  
Ali                    It's them. The school boys. The ghosts.  
Tanayah              (*stands*) I can see them now.  
Daniel                Leave now.  
Jess                  Never come back.  
Maximus              Get out!  
Daniel                Get out!  
Jess                  Before it's too late.  
Daniel                Too late.  
Maximus              Too late.  
Jess                  Save yourselves.  
Daniel                Save yourselves.  
Jess                  Or you'll end up like us....  
Daniel                Listen.  
Jess                  Listen.  
Maximus              Listen.  
Taylor                I told you they were real.  
Ali                    I believe you.  
Daniel                Run away  
Maximus              Stay away  
Jess                  Never return.  
Daniel                Don't take anything! Just run... RUN  
Jess                  Leave your chips, chocolate and anything else delicious. Whooo...  
Maximus              (*out of character*) Jess! Shut up!  
Jess                  You shut up!

Daniel                      Shut up both of you! You're ruining it.

Spencer                     What!?

Baxter                      Hang on a second. Jess?

Damian                     He said Jess.

Jess                         *(failed attempt)* Whoo...hooo

Ali                          That's no ghost!

Chloe                      I can't believe this.

Bailey                     Hey! Come out of there.

*Naughty kids jump out of the shadows. All overlap the following. Exasperated, relieved, angry, upset, laughing etc.*

Jess/Max/Daniel         Bahahaha pranked you!

Tanayah                  I knew it was fake.

India                       Sure you did.

Bailey                     I seriously hate you.

Chloe                      I believed you.

Kelsey                     How could you?

Tanayah                  You are going to regret this.

Taylor                     Why, why, why?

Ali                         That was mean. Really mean.

Damian                    I'm never going to trust you again.

Taylor                     I thought I was gonna have a heart attack

Chloe                      That's crap. I thought you were real.

Demi                       OMG! I thought you were the boys!

Taylor                     You scared the beejees out of me.

Tanayah                  I thought you weren't scared?

Taylor                     Whatever!

Harli                       Your teachers and going to be so mad!

Spencer                   You guys suck.

Maximus                  It was pretty funny though wasn't it?

Demi                       Yeah.. maybe.

Chloe                      Mate. You got us good.

*They calm down a bit.*

Baxter                     *(in the silence)* I think I pee'd in my Stringberg.

All                         Ewhhhh.

Baxter (crying) It was really expensive.  
Bailey Awh man, it sucks to be you right now.  
Harli How did you even get here?  
Jess They snuck in the luggage compartment on the bus. We had this whole thing planned.  
Daniel I don't know how you kept a straight face Jess. Brilliant.  
Ali You idiots! You could have suffocated.  
Chloe We really thought you were ghosts. Real ghosts.  
Daniel Scared you, didn't we?  
Damian Whatever.  
Demi No. As if.  
India How did you do that thing with the lights and stuff?  
Maximus What lights?  
Chloe Yeah! You know, the spooky lights... and the blackout.  
Daniel What blackout?  
*India points into the distance.*  
India Who is the forth kid?  
All What?  
Kelsey What fourth kid?  
Taylor What are you talking about?  
Daniel There was only three of us, one, two, three.  
Jess Duh! Might need to get your eyes checked, buddy.  
India No there's definitely a fourth kid.... Look. There he is (*points*)

*They all see a real ghost at once, and run screaming from the stage.*

*SFX - Creepy music amplifies.*

*LFX - Lights fade down.*

*The End.*