

Ghost Story

By Kristen Doherty

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 Bigger 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!

LFX - 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.

****End Preview****

Please contact Kristen at kristencmdoherty@gmail.com to request a full script perusal.

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