

Jazmyn Perry

Writing Contest

15, October 2020

### The Unsolved Mystery

Their hands were coming out of the cemetery, clawing themselves out of the ground.

I tried to move, to scream, but I couldn't. They were crawling towards me, and I heard them say my name, over and over, but I was frozen to the ground, unable to move.

"Hannah... Hannah!"

It got louder and louder. The skeletons shook me. *Splash!* I woke up with water all over my body. I woke with a start and gave Jesse the look of death.

"Why did you do that?" I asked him.

"I tried to shake you awake. I even yelled your name and you didn't budge," he told me.

"Who let you in the house?"

"Your mom did."

"Did she say it was okay for you to soak me with water?" I asked him. He looked at me sheepishly.

"Sorry, won't happen again." I felt my face soften, and I felt bad for yelling at him.

"Okay, I forgive you."

"Okay... anyways, they wanted me to come and get you to tell you it's time," he said. A wave of recognition hit me like a wave. All of a sudden I was up and getting ready to go.

"Get out for a minute, so that I can get ready."

Jesse turned around and walked out the door. I looked at my clock and saw that it was already ten o'clock in the morning. After a few minutes, I walked out of my room and met Jesse in the living room.

“MOM!!! We're leaving to go to the library; we'll be back by noon!”

“Okay honey, stay safe! Be nice to Jesse!”

I rolled my eyes in response, then turned on my heel and walked out the door. After about 10 minutes, we pulled up to our destination. We got out of the car and went to the edge of the bright blue house, where Liam had told them to meet him. We sat down at the table that was outside when we saw Liam walking towards us with a teacup in his right hand. I smiled at him to say hello.

“Hi, guys, so let's get right to the point.” Liam said.

“Ok, sir,” I said sarcastically.

“I'm serious. So, an idea for the newspaper this week is that there have been kids our age, 16 and 17 year olds, disappearing. I was thinking we could go investigate it. Their parents have told the police, but they aren't finding anything that they can use to put two and two together. I really want to do this, but I will only do it if it's okay with you.”

“It's okay with me,” I said.

“Same here,” said Jesse.

“Okay then, let's start right now. My plan is to spy on the few witnesses we do have.” Liam said, and we got up and started walking to his first source.

When we arrived at a dull gray mansion, we ducked behind the unkept bushes.

“I wanna try to go inside the house,” Liam said.

Jesse followed him, darting behind as many bushes as they could. When we finally reached the window, they climbed through.

“Guys, it looks like no one’s home,” I yelled to them.

“You couldn’t have said that sooner?” Jesse asked, clearly annoyed.

“I was just enjoying watching you guys make a fool of yourself.”

It was their turn to roll their eyes at me. I strolled over to the window and climbed through to join them. We looked around the old man’s house and saw something we weren’t expecting. With shaky hands, I took a picture. Just then we heard the engine of the old man's car, which meant it was time to go. We turned to leave, but were not fast enough. The old man had a teacup in his hand and saw us coming out of the house. He yelled at us to go away and that we are not welcome here.

The next day we went back to school only to find a picture frame in our lockers. Only the principal and ourselves know our combinations to our locks. But that wasn't even the most unsettling part. The most unsettling part was that written in red marker were the words “watch your back”. I was pretty shaken up, so I went to Liam and Jesse to talk about it.

“Did you guys get the message in the picture frame, like me?” I asked them.

“Yeah mine said ‘I'm watching you’,” Jesse told me.

“And mine said ‘be careful or else’,” Liam mentioned.

“Well, we should go to the authorities for this. It seems serious.”

“Okay, then after school meet me at two o'clock at the police station.” Liam responded.

As school went by I was very distracted thinking about the threats made towards my friends and I. While I was distracted, I saw a statue by the door and it was facing right towards me, but I didn’t think too much about it. As I went home on the school bus the statue was there

again, facing towards me. By this point I was already skeptical, so I thought I was just being paranoid.

Later that night, I tried calling Liam and Jesse to ask them if they were already at the police station, but neither of them responded, so I decided we could wait until tomorrow morning to state our case to the law enforcers. I should have been worried about them, but I figured it was a normal thing to miss a call now and then.

I ate dinner and decided it should be an early night because I was tired. As I was laying in bed, I saw the statue again by my window, but I was too tired to think logically. I woke up feeling like someone was watching me. I looked up and saw the old man looking at me, holding the statue. I wanted to scream, but never got the chance...

The End