

Ghost Of Greengale Forest - Synopsis

Casey, an average preteen, reluctantly ends up in Greengale camp after his old one shuts down. In this new camp, he stands up for Kelly, a foreign girl who is being made fun of for her ghost story.

Unfortunately for him he would come to regret his decision as they both discover a skull. A skull Kelly seems too eager to keep. Casey is creeped out at this and distances himself from Kelly but it's far too late to turn away. Terrifying things begin to happen; Some campers mysteriously disappear and strange sounds echo in the cabins at night. Casey is the only one aware of the ghost's doing and Kelly's possible link to it. Some campers also confirm Kelly to be weird and mysterious, leading Casey to confront the person he believes has the answers. He tries to talk to Kelly but she's stubborn and refuses to hear him out, still bitter from his words and everyone's past attitude towards her.

With the lives of the campers at stake and Kelly seemingly unphased, what would Casey do before he is unfortunately taken by the mystery that is the ghost of greengale forest.

[Word Count: 198]

CHAPTER 1:

There I sat at my desk grinning from ear to ear, waiting for the last bell. I was so excited about this summer because I was spending it with my friends at Camp Lakewood.

Camp Lakewood was an American themed summer camp in Essex that I had been attending for the past two years. It had amazing sites, a beautiful lake and pretty chill staff. This year was going to be my last year as a camper 'cause the age limit at Lakewood is thirteen. My friends and I had planned to leave on as high a note as possible this summer to celebrate our final year. Simply thinking of all we planned was enough to make me explode.

The final bell rang and I immediately jumped off my seat and headed straight for the door. "Bye Mrs Caufman," I said as I rushed out before she could react.

I ran so fast through the halls that the classes and everyone in them appeared as nothing but quick images. I think I remember one of my teachers asking me to slow down but I was too focused on getting to the parking lot to listen. My parents were coming to pick me up today for a change, so I was hoping they'd already be there by the time I arrived.

When I got out of the building, the once miserable brown that Springfield and many other Portsmouth secondary Schools had to be honest, was suddenly looking bright and beautiful. The sun poured down and the beautiful afternoon breeze made me even more excited

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for the journey ahead. By the time I made it to the parking lot, my parents were already waiting in the car and I guess I caught them by surprise with how fast I ran towards them.

I jumped straight into the back seat of the Mercedes. “Hi Mum, hi Dad,” I greeted them excitedly. “When am I leaving?”

Mum and Dad exchanged concerned looks before dad cleared his throat.

“Casey, about that,” Mum started before dad could.

Their expressions had begun to fill me with dread. “What?”

“Camp Lakewood has been canceled this year, unfortunately,” Mum replied not looking back.

My jaw dropped. “What? Why?” I asked looking from parent to parent.

“The club didn’t receive enough funding this year to run the camp,” Dad replied. “I’m sorry son.”

I bent my head unhappy about this new revelation. I had been waiting for this event with high spirits for weeks and now it wasn’t even happening.

“If it makes you feel any better Casey, I found you a new Camp,” Mum said, obviously trying to cheer me up.

“Yay,” I replied without enthusiasm.

“Aw don’t be like that honey, I’m sure you’ll like it,” mum replied.

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I highly doubted that ‘cause my expectations were already through the roof, and I didn’t think there was a camp in existence capable of reaching said expectations.

“Is this the same camp we saw on that poster at Sainsbury’s?” Dad asked as he began to start the car.

“Greengale?” I asked.

“Yeah, is there something wrong?”

“Yes, I can’t go there, my friends and I have been making fun of it for days,” I replied. “It’s just a cheap copy of...”

I stopped noticing how quiet my mum had gotten, it takes very little to upset her and I didn’t want to come off as brash or ungrateful. I mean, she was only trying to help. “I’m sorry mum, I’ll go to Greengale and try my best to make the most of it,” I promised. I didn’t mean it but I couldn’t stand seeing her upset.

“It’s Okay,” Mum replied, her blonde hair covering her expression. “It is a sudden change after all, I don’t blame you.”

Later when we got home, I went into my room and threw myself on the bed. I lay motionless for a minute before turning over to look at my Camp Lakewood headband hanging off the edge of my bed. I picked it up and tossed it at the door. Time to start preparing for a new camp, yay.

I held back tears and tried to stay cool-headed, maybe Greengale camp wouldn’t be so bad, I mean, yeah it’s low budget, and covered in just trees and boring and... okay let me be honest with myself, this is going to suck straight dookie. A text came in and I immediately

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checked my phone to the not so surprising text from one of my friends. He asked if I had gotten the news too with a sad emoji. I replied, sighed and lay motionless.

A couple of days later, after all the registering and paying and all that dumb stuff I'm not going to bore you with, it was finally time to leave. "Casey we're burning daylight let's go," my Dad ordered as he closed the boot of the Mercedes.

I came out of the house and I don't think my happy face was very convincing because mum was able to catch on really quickly. Before she could say anything however, I quickly cut in. "Mum I'm fine, I'm just a bit bummed by Lakewood." Dad then proceeded to the front seat while I followed him to the passenger's seat.

"You ready?"

"Yeah," I answered as he started the car. On heading out, my mum looked on and waved us goodbye. The heavy regret of my decision started to weigh in on me as my home slowly faded into the background. I couldn't afford to regret now, I had to tolerate it for the sake of my parents especially my mum who went through a lot to get me a space at Greengale Forest.

The drive was two hours long with a break in between before we finally arrived at Greengale camp. The entrance was a small clearing from all the trees. Guess that's why it's called Greengale. There's leaves, vines or high grasses everywhere you look. The head of Greengale Camp was at a small open shed checking and welcoming campers in and there were only a few cars present at the time we arrived. The camp leader was a tall buff looking guy with short brown hair and a stubble. He wore a horrendous green top with the Greengale logo

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on the chest and brown cargos over black shoes. As soon as he saw us he smiled in salutation “Hiya, I’m assuming you’re.... Mr Richards,” he said in a lighter voice than I was expecting as he shook hands with my dad.

“Yes this is my son, Casey Richards,” My Dad said as he put his hands on my shoulders.

“Nice to meet you chap, I’m Herald,” he reached his arm out to shake mine.

I reached out my hand in response to shake his. Now I don’t want to be rude, but who the heck names their kid Herald? Almost like his parents saw the name Harold in a dictionary and decided to be different.

After the shake he turned back to my Dad “Anyway let’s get down to it shall we?” They got through with the check-in process and soon after, my Dad left. I watched him leave and waved goodbye as he waved back. Once he was out of sight, I let out a sigh. Can’t wait to begin my not boring summer, yay.

Mr Herald then placed a hand on my shoulder “Come on lad,” he said as he led me to the campsite. “You’re going to have the time of your life?”

CHAPTER 2:

On the night of my arrival at Greengale Forest, the campfire was set and all the campers gathered round. First, we were to introduce ourselves before we began the late-night stories “scary stories” to be exact, and in case you didn’t notice I used I quote fingers for “scary stories.”

“Evening ladies and lads,” Mr Herald started. “You guys know the drill, who wants to go first?”

“Me, I’ll go first,” said Mark as he raised his arm in enthusiasm. Mark was a boy in a green TMNT sleeveless top and black shorts. He was a short and chubby guy with wavy black hair.

“Alright Mark, go for it,” Mr Herald replied.

“Thanks.”

He quickly cleared his throat before speaking. “There were two workers in New York City named Chad and Brad,” Mark began. “They worked in a Beer Place called “Drink and Haunt”. What they didn’t know is that the Beer Place was owned and attended by ghosts. So one day, Chad came earlier than Brad to work. While on his way to his workspace, a ghost guest quickly ran into him, grabbed his arm and...,”

“Boring!” Ted interrupted loudly.

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“Ted, I’m not tolerating that behaviour this year,” Mr Herald warned quickly.

“What? I can’t give my opinion on a story?”

Mark scoffed and sat back angrily as Ted bent his head back in laughter. “What horrible literature,” he said. “I guess that’s why it’s a horror story,” He continued to laugh.

Sorry I haven’t introduced everyone, didn’t want to bore you. Ted was a tall and fat chap who looked way older than twelve. He had a huge belly, a folded neck, flabby body stature, long brown hair and fat cheeks. Safe to say he’s not exactly a heartthrob.

“Ted,” Mr Herald called in a warning tone.

Ted groaned and stopped laughing, leaving the place silent for a while before a blonde girl broke it up. Kelly I think, another reason I didn’t introduce everyone, I wasn’t paying much attention when it was happening. What I do know is that from her accent she’s definitely American, probably just here for the summer, but why the heck would she come to this dump? Anyways she had a really kiddish voice, almost too much for her age. Her hair was also quite long as it ended at her elbows. “I’ve got a story,” she said.

“Go on Kelly, let’s hear it,” Mr Herald replied.

“Thanks,” she said before she began. “A couple of years ago in this forest, there was a lady who loved animals so much that she moved here to be with them. But one day, while she was watching her pet dog, a hunter accidentally shot at her. The hunter must have missed his initial target and shot the woman. Rather than help the dying woman, The hunter ran from the forest and never returned. The woman however woke up a few days later as a dark evil ghost who now moves around this forest searching for her killer.”

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“Where is the ghost now?” Dylan asked.

“No one knows,” she replied. “But as long as we’re here, we’re not safe.”

Dylan was starting to look a bit pale and Ted noticing this obviously made sure to point it out. “Do you actually believe this?”

“You’re so stupid,” One of the campers added as everyone burst out laughing.

Ouch! To be fair it was kind of his fault for outing himself like that. He could have at least tried to talk to her in private or something like that.

“The ghost is real,” Kelly said over the laughs. “It’s not funny.”

“Okay sure, whatever,” Ted joked mimicking her accent as the others laughed.

“Oh no, we’re gonna die,” another boy mimicked as the laughs continued..

I’m not going to lie, I kind of laughed a bit as well, but not at her. It was the accent impersonations and Dylan being all like ‘Where is she now?’ I mean mate, are you actually believing this? There are no animals in this forest to begin with.

“Yeah it’s very funny,” She replied sarcastically while rolling her eyes. “I don’t need you jerks to believe me anyway.”

She was visibly getting more upset as Mr Herald tried to defuse the situation. “Okay that is enough, quiet please, Quiet!”

I kind of felt bad for laughing since she was evidently annoyed and no one but probably Mr Herald cared, so I decided to help her out. When Mr Herald got things under a bit more

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control, I chimed in. “What if she’s right?” I said. “I mean isn’t Greengale forest a big mystery?”

“The only thing mysterious about this place is how it’s so close to London yet doesn’t stink of piss,” Ted answered.

“Language Ted,” Mr Herald warned.

“I mean yeah, but you never know,” I said.

Ted leaned forward on the log he was sitting on. “Really?”

I shrugged in response. I had no idea what I was doing but I couldn’t back down now after I had already drawn this much attention to myself. Some of the campers began to whisper to each other, no doubt talking about the stupid decision I had just made, I mean even Mr Herald seemed a bit surprised by my decision.

Whilst this was going on, Ted smirked as though a light bulb had switched on in his head. “Alright then, let’s make a deal, If she’s right, I don’t care but if she’s wrong, you owe me.”

“Well, that’s not a really fair deal, is it?” I replied.

“Because you’re not gaining anything if you win you melt,” Ted said. “You’ll probably die, I mean, the ghost isn’t going to celebrate with you now is it?”

He had a point. “I guess, but I didn’t say the ghost is real, I said there’s a possibility.”

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You're probably asking yourself, "Casey, what were you thinking?" believe me, I have no idea myself, I had just joined this new camp and already made a regretful decision. Heck I caught Mr Herald and many others holding in laughter.

"Prove it then," Ted demanded.

I thought to myself what a proper dummy this guy was but if it's a ghost he wants, it's a ghost he was going to get. "Maybe I will," I responded.

Later that evening when the camp fire stories were over, everyone began heading for their cabins and I took this as an opportunity to talk to Kelly who was only a few steps ahead of me. I rushed over to her side but before I could utter a word, Ted rushed over to my side.

"Before you idiots start kissing, I've got a suggestion for you."

Kelly and I rolled our eyes in unison. "What?" I asked.

"For you lot to show me proof of this ghost," Ted replied. "You and your girlfriend meet by the front of the cabins at twelve am, deal?"

Kelly rolled her eyes again before picking up the pace to walk ahead of us.

"Deal," I answered Ted, once again without really thinking. I think at this point I was going on pride alone but something felt a bit odd about Greengale, something that made me feel like this place was beyond normal. There was no wildlife here according to mum's research and there had to be a reason why. Also I had the idea of like, maybe faking something, I don't know but I was ready to pull a stunt of some kind just to save my pride.

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Ted chuckled in triumph. “See ya,” he said as he darted off to meet his friends.

Kelly was at her cabin stairs when I managed to catch back up to her. “Hi, sorry I forgot, what was your name again?” I asked. Before you judge, yes that wasn’t the best ice breaker but what should I have said? “Hey, let’s talk about ghosts.”

She turned to me a bit surprised. “Who? Me?” she asked.

“Yeah you, you’re the one I vouched for.”

“And I didn’t ask you to,” She replied. “So I don’t owe you anything.”

I guessed she didn’t have a lot of friends. I mean yeah she didn’t ask for my help but she doesn’t have to be rude about it, jeez. Whatever, I’ve already made it this far. “Um okay fine,” I said. “But can you at least tell me your name?” I asked.

She let out a low sigh before turning to face me completely. “Kelly,” she replied.

See, wasn’t so hard to just answer the flippin’ question. “So can you help me out? You seem to know a lot about this... ghost, so even if it’s just this once, can you do a guy a solid?” I pleaded.

Kelly thought a bit about it. By this time it was just the two of us outside, well us and Mr Herald who was still sorting stuff out by the campfire, his grunts echoing through the area as he chucked the pieces of firewood. “Fine,” She said. “But you owe me now,” she smiled for the first time since I saw her.

“So what’s your name again? I wasn’t paying attention to introductions,” she said.

“That makes two of us,” I joked. “I’m Casey.”

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“Cool name... I guess.”

“Yeah I guess so.”

There was another brief silence.

“Uh Kelly,” I started. “About earlier, you know the others were only joking?”

“Yeah, sure, very funny,” she replied a bit annoyed. “Look, Casey, they’re jerks. If you can’t see that, maybe someday you will.”

“Uh... cool... I guess,” I said in response. “We’ll see later with Ted then?”

“Yeah,” she said as she turned to leave.

I turned as well and began heading back to my cabin. Jeez did she seem like a handful. Although, from talking to her, I kind of had this feeling that she’d been through a lot. I mean no one suddenly gets that rude... unless they’re just naturally insufferable. She didn’t strike me that way though, hmm maybe I was overthinking it.

CHAPTER 3:

It was finally midnight, and I was feeling shaky all of a sudden. Initially, I was so blinded by the desire to put Ted in his place that I literally forgot that this could have dire consequences. Still, I had to be strong, even though I wasn't realistically. I put on a blue T-Shirt, a pair of sneakers and black trousers. I picked up my torch and crept out of the room to avoid waking up my roommates.

As soon as I stepped outside of the cabin, I was greeted by the night's breeze and it wasn't a very pleasant experience. I wrapped my arms around my chest and shivered before closing the door gently behind me. A bit chilly for a summer evening, but then again this is England. I began walking away from my Cabin hoping the walk would make me less cold. I probably should have gotten myself a jacket. But it was too late to turn back as a voice called. "Hey Casey," Kelly called a few feet from my cabin.

She was wearing a purple jacket over a black top. She also wore dark blue jeans with a pair of sneakers. "You ready?" She asked.

"Yeah, let's just wait for Ted," I said as I rubbed my palms. "I mean he's the one we want to prove wrong?"

"Who cares what Ted thinks?" Kelly replied. "Forget him and Let's go".

"But..." Before I could utter any other words, Kelly turned to leave.

“Fine, wait for him, I’m not spending another minute with that jerk.”

I looked at the cabins then back at Kelly who was heading into the forest. Yeah I probably didn’t want to spend another minute next to that guy either. Besides, if luck was at my side I could probably have found something nice to make up as evidence later. With that decision, I followed Kelly into the forest with the goal of falsifying evidence. I didn't know how I was going to do it but I was certainly going to try.

In the forest, I lost count of how many trees I ducked and dodged. I guess they should have called it “Treeslane” instead of Greengale. Anyways, we walked for quite a bit and I began to ask myself how far we were going. We probably should have thought of this more before coming out. But judging by how Kelly moved, it seemed like she knew what she was doing. But how? The question began to cloud my head as I followed her.

By the time we finally arrived at another clearing free of trees, I had already asked myself a million questions. The clearing was a small circle with bits of bushes lying around the area. The moonlight poured in through the gap nicely, making it look stunning like those stock photos online. Kelly stopped and turned to me, her blonde hair almost illuminating under the light. “Let’s look around and see if we can find anything,” she whispered.

“Um... Okay... sure.”

We began the search and as we looked around, I have to admit I felt kind of stupid. That was until Kelly found something, something that sent chills down my spine. “Whoa, check this out,” she said as she pulled a skull from behind the bushes. “Isn’t this cool?”

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“I’m guessing we have very different definitions of the word, cool,” I replied. The skull had some weird sentence carved on its forehead “All Must Go!” I had no idea what that meant but I knew I didn’t like it one bit.

Kelly looked at me suspiciously. “Are you scared?”

I scoffed. “No I’m not, I’m just saying, There’s nothing cool about a skull.”

“Oh! Really?” she asked. “Fine then, Hold on to it for me okay?” she stretched it out to me with a mischievous grin.

“Well... Uh... I...” I wasn’t getting out of this one mock free. I couldn’t come up with a good cover-up, I’ve never been a good liar. Like ever.

“You... Uh... What?” She asked, mimicking me and giggling. She had a kid-like giggle. Honestly if I’d only heard her voice without seeing her, I would have thought she was like eight. “Scaredy cat,” she mocked as she continued to giggle on and on.

Where was this suddenly coming from? Did she have a twin sister or was she going through one of those period things I heard about at school? This was not the same person I’d spoken to earlier. “Mate I’m not scared, I’m just... Surprised, Yeah I’m just surprised.”

“Yeah! Right!” She replied sarcastically. “You were just surprised.”

I just stood still and remained quiet because I knew there was no way I could lie about not being scared anymore. But still, it was a bit weird seeing her smile and laugh. Matter of fact everything since this walk began had been weird, Kelly’s sudden change in attitude, the skull. I was honestly starting to feel a bit uneasy.

My thoughts were cut off the second I heard rustling behind me. I immediately turned in the direction of the footsteps. It was coming from where Kelly and I had also come from. My body went numb and my heart began to pound so hard that I could barely hear the approaching footsteps. I began to wish I had never left my cabin.

Kelly noticing my body language interrupted my thoughts. “Relax, you big baby, it’s probably just Ted.”

I had my doubts about that theory. I feel like if it was he’d probably be yelling already. I turned back to Kelly. “Can we put the skull down?”

“What? No way,” she replied, shielding it. “I finally have a tiny piece of evidence to prove my story is true and you want me to just drop it?”

“You can’t be serious.”

The bushes rustled and I froze in fear waiting for the worst when a bright light hit me from behind. With the light, came a familiar voice. “What are you two doing here?” Mr Herald asked as he moved the torch from Kelly to me. From the tone he used, we could tell he wasn’t thrilled by our little adventure.

I turned to face Mr Herald who looked visibly mad. “Well uh, you see... We were just... here.” Yes, that was the best I could come up with in that situation. I can’t lie to save my life.

“Hold on, aren’t you the new guy?” Mr Herald started. “Already causing trouble on your first day?” He then turned his torch to Kelly. “Of all the people in this Camp, you are the last person I’d expect to be caught in this situation,” he said angrily. He turned back to me

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“Since you’re new and she normally doesn’t do these kinds of things, I’ll let you two go with a warning this once but this should never repeat itself again, Am I clear?”

“Yes Mr Herald,” We both chorused.

“Good, now let’s be on our way.” He gave way, allowing us to walk ahead.

As we began to leave, I noticed that Kelly had hidden the skull behind her during the whole conversation. She slid it to her front as we walked ahead of Mr Herald back to camp. It had finally begun to dawn on me, just how strange this girl was. Like how could she carry that thing when we didn’t even know who it belonged to or whether it’s being used for some ritualistic practice. Like why would she carry a creepy skull? I know I’m not the only one who would ask myself this question.

We got back to the clearing where the cabins were and from there, Mr Herald left for his cabin. “See ya later, Casey,” Kelly called as she headed for her cabin.

I didn’t reply because I was already starting to see Kelly as a weirdo for what she’d just done. I ignored her and went straight for my cabin. “I know for a fact, that I’m not going near that girl again, just to be safe,” I assured myself.

I entered my cabin, changed and got ready for bed. My cabin was a small elevated room with two bunk beds opposite each other at the center. My bunkmate was Ronald and the other two were Timothy and Mark. I lay on my bed and was about to drift off when suddenly, I noticed someone staring at me from next to the window. The person was covered in what looked like a black robe so I couldn’t see their face. The moonlight shone on the person from

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the window and revealed their large stature. My body suddenly felt weak as I looked in horror. The person or thing was staring directly at me and I had no idea what it was going to do next.

“This can’t be happening, this can’t be happening,” I said to myself.

Suddenly, the figure took one step, then another, and another; It was moving towards me. No... No... This couldn’t be happening or could I be dreaming? I tried letting out a scream but nothing came out. I just had to stay there and wait for the worst as the figure slowly approached me. My fear grew stronger and my body felt numb.

The figure began to slowly close the gap as sweat dropped from my face. While watching the figure, I didn’t realize how long I had been holding my breath. The person came closer and closer causing me to gulp and tears began to drip down my eyes. As I awaited the worst, the person suddenly pulled off the sheets and I realized it was just Ted using thick and dark sheets that blended well with the dim light. “You absolute melt,” he laughed.

I let out an angry groan. How did I fall for that? Kelly and her stupid skull were definitely getting to me cause that lame disguise should have been obvious from the start. “Idiot,” I said as I sat up.

One of my roommates groaned lowly from his bed, causing Ted and I to look in that direction. We must have been a bit loud. I turned back to Ted. “What are you doing in my cabin?” I whispered.

Ted began folding the sheets he had. “What do you think? idiot,” he said. “Our deal? You guys were supposed to prove something to me, remember that? Or were you too eager to kiss in the forest?”

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“Wait! So, you saw us run into the woods?” I asked him. “Then why didn’t you follow?”

Ted dropped one of his sheets to fold a new one. “Because I saw Mr Herald watching you guys from his window, I couldn’t risk getting caught,” He explained. “I waited till he was out of sight before leaving my cabin and entering yours”.

“Whatever.”

“Anyways,” Ted started as he picked up his sheets in readiness to leave. “You and your girlfriend better find a way to prove me wrong or else...” He said before heading out.

He probably thought that was cool.

As soon as he left I sighed and lay down on my bed. “What have I gotten myself into,” I thought as I used my blanket to cover up. I had just decided to help someone I didn’t even know but unfortunately for me, she was a weirdo and then there was Ted. If the term “screwed” was a person, I was definitely that person.

CHAPTER 4:

Morning had finally arrived and I obviously didn't realize that because I was in a deep slumber. I remember one of my roommates waking me up when it was time for breakfast but I shrugged him off because of my deep sleep. I slept way past my usual bedtime and any time that happened, I always stayed in bed unable to move. Only this time I had to move if I wanted to stay out of trouble.

I forced myself off the bed and went straight for the bathroom. I showered and put on my camping uniform. A light brown buttoned top and thick brown shorts with black shoes. The uniform was so terrible it literally pissed me off. I guess it was made to stand out from all the green in the forest.

“Come on out everyone, it's time for the expedition,” Mr Herald yelled from outside.

My Roommates immediately began to leave the Cabin but instead of following them, I stayed and waited for a while. I was hoping by the time I came out, Kelly would have already been far ahead and I wouldn't have to talk to her but unfortunately for me, The second I came out, the bright sun was not the only thing at my front door, as Kelly was standing by the foot of my cabin.

“Oh no,” I thought to myself as soon as she saw me.

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“Oh, hey Casey, I was waiting for you, you forget something?” She asked.

I ignored her and kept heading towards the path the others followed for the expedition. I didn't even bother looking back to avoid eye contact. “She is a crazy person,” I told myself as I moved on. That was a bit much to say but put yourself in my shoes for a second.

“Casey, Casey,” She called.

I suddenly heard her footsteps as she ran towards me. After a few seconds, she was right next to me. What was I supposed to do now?

“Casey, are you mad at me or something?”

I took a deep breath before answering. “Kelly, please, leave me alone.”

Kelly looked a bit confused. “Don't tell me this is about the skull?”

I stopped and turned to Kelly. “Listen, I don't want anything to do with your crazy ghost antics anymore?” I started. “I only stood up for you cause I felt bad but now, I certainly don't want to spend another minute around ghosts, Ted or weirdos who just pick up creepy skulls for amusement, so, please let's just say goodbye...” I stopped noticing tears welling on Kelly's eyes. She is a roller coaster of emotions, jeez. “Look Kelly...”

“You called me a weirdo,” She interrupted me, holding back her tears. “You're just like the rest of them... I hate you, all of you.”

She walked off without looking back. I didn't even get the chance to say anything before she left. Was I being rude? I mean, I was just a bit weirded out by her behaviour and

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possibly attachment issues. It was clear she hated me now and I kind of felt like it was partly my fault. Should I have just tolerated it?

I watched her leave while pondering and after a minute or so when I was about to leave, my thoughts were completely interrupted by a weird sound behind me. It sounded like someone running around or near my cabin. I turned and squatted to see from underneath who was behind the cabin, as the floors of the rooms were off the grass. There was no one there. I got up and slowly approached my cabin where the sound came from.

As soon as I was at the stairs of my cabin, the rustling sounds from the grass alerted me again. I quickly turned around scanning my surroundings to see where it had come from but there was nothing anywhere. Not to mention there was no wind at all so it couldn't have been the breeze rustling the leaves. I shielded my eyes from the sun and looked down the path Kelly and the others had taken. "My imagination is running wild, I should probably rejoin the others."

Before leaving, I decided to take one last look back at my Cabin and to my greatest surprise, the skull Kelly picked up last night was hanging on the doorknob by a black smoky bead. I fell to the floor and my body froze immediately. My jaw dropped as I stared at it in horror. The skull hung in such a way It looked like Its empty eyes were staring right at me.

I tried forming words but unfortunately couldn't. My body began to tremble and I let out a sharp cry as the smoky bead disappeared. The skull then fell on the Cabin floor and began to roll down the steps that lead to the Cabin. It reached the grass and continued rolling, rolling towards me!

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As soon as I noticed this, I tried to get to my feet and run but my legs were almost paralyzed. I fell back down to the floor and as I turned back to the place where the skull was rolling from, it wasn't there anymore. It was gone; completely gone, almost like it was never there. What was I thinking? I should've never gotten involved in...

Another rustling sound made the hair on my neck stand up. I turned sharply. "Is someone there?" I cried. No reply. Tears began running down from my eyes as the rustling sounds grew louder. I felt like my head had started to spin and my heart pounded so hard I could hear it.

The sounds suddenly stopped, again. I couldn't take it anymore, I pushed myself off the floor and surprisingly my legs cooperated with me. I ran my fastest without looking back, I couldn't afford to die young, at least not in this camp. I ran so quickly and carelessly, I didn't even notice my own speed. I caught up to the others in what I assume is record time and bumped straight into one of the campers, Charles I think. We both fell hard on the grassy floors.

"Ow!" Charles cried.

"I'm so sorry," I said as I got on my hands and knees.

"So nice of you to join us Casey," Mr Herald said. "I was about to mark you as absent for the first expedition.

Just great, I was getting on Mr Herald's bad side. "I'm sorry I..."

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“It’s fine, just try to be early next time,” Mr Herald interrupted. “Anyways, where were we?” He turned back to where he was going and the others followed.

Charles after dusting himself off shot me a dirty look before walking. I followed them obediently without uttering a word because I had already made a fool of myself. Mr Herald, Kelly and possibly Charles already saw me in a negative light. “I’m sure you’ll like it,” mum said. The only thing I’m liking right now are my odds of getting kicked out of this dump. I should have spent my summer bored at home.

[Word Count: 5,996]