An Unexpected Find

It was early Sunday morning, my twin sister Emma and I decided that we should go for a walk down to the forest behind our house. We love going there as there is actually a lot to do. Our favourite thing is definitely the tyre swing mainly because that is where we tell each other all the gossip of our day. We don’t go to the same schools so that’s why there’s so much to tell each other.

As we were walking up the hill, it was a little muddy but it didn’t bother me much but it obviously bothered my perfect-pants sister Emma.

She was screaming in my ear, “Yuck, mud is getting on my new white shoes!”

I just told her to wind her neck in because it would come off in the wash but she kept on complaining until we finally got to the forest. It was quiet as always, no one really goes there except for Joe who lives down the road. He goes there every morning to walk his dog. But he wasn’t there today which was a bit weird. We kept walking towards the tyre swing but something definitely felt odd. The air was chill and I got shivers up my spine.

I turned to Emma and said, “Does it feel weird here or is it just me?”

“Yea I know something definitely does not feel right, maybe we should just go home” she said.

But before I could even reply we heard someone run through the trees. We turned to see who it was but couldn’t see a face or anything just a dark, running, manly figure.

Emma looked at me, she was as white as a ghost. I could tell she was scared. There wasn’t really anything to be frightened of I told myself, it was only someone running, wasn’t it? But the way this figure was running it looked like it was chasing someone or something… or being chased? They didn’t even look behind them once.

It was wearing all black clothing and a black mask over its face so we couldn’t even see if it was a man or a woman. “Anna, can we leave please?” Emma asked.

“Oh you don’t even have to ask, come on let’s go this place is creeping me out today” I replied.

As we started walking back we heard a dog barking but barking very loud and it sounded like it was whimpering. I wanted to turn back but Ellie wouldn’t she was so afraid and I didn’t want to leave her. To be honest I wanted to get home too and fast. I felt something on my leg I looked down anxiously but it was only Buster, Joe’s dog. He was definitely barking at something but I couldn’t tell what, then he began jumping about like a mad thing.

“Hey now, calm down” Emma shouted.

But he didn’t calm down he just started running over to the middle of the field.

I looked at Emma confused, “What is wrong with that dog? He’s not usually like that,” I said.

We suddenly realised, Joe was not there. Where was he? Why was he not there?

Maybe that was why Buster was playing up because Joe wasn’t there. We were going to have to take the dog home.

“Buster, come on we have to go now” I called, but the dog did not move and he started to cry. Emma ran down to the middle of the field to get Buster, she got half way there and she froze, everywhere went silent and I knew something was wrong.

Emma stopped. I ran down to her, I could now see what she could see. It was the worst sight in my life I shivered. I couldn’t believe what I saw, I literally felt sick to my stomach. It was Joe. He was dead. Well I think he was anyway, I didn’t go any closer, I didn’t want to. Emma and I stood in silence for at least ten minutes and Buster lay beside Joe. Poor Buster he didn’t know what was going on. He had lost the only person in his life.

Emma started to walk down the hill down to Joe’s body.

She called me and said, “We can’t just leave him and we need to find out what happened”

I really didn’t want to but I needed to. I finally got the courage to go and see this terrible scene. Emma and I were so upset, we really could not believe what actually happened. There was no one else in the forest so how did he die because it definitely did not look like a natural death or an accident it looked like a murder. But how? No one else was there - well I didn’t think so anyway.

Then from the corner of my eye, I saw the same dark figure that we had seen earlier. He was sitting on a rock crying with something shiny and sharp in his hand and I think it was a knife. I clutched Emma’s arm. I was so frightened. I knew in my head this was the person who had killed him, this was the person who killed Joe. I was in the same place as a murderer, it was too much to handle. Emma hadn’t seen him yet but I had to tell her. Just as I was about to, he ran towards us screaming. We ducked down behind a bush, this cannot be real, this cannot be happening to us I thought.

My eyes shut tight. I heard nothing, it was completely silent, I couldn’t even hear the sound of the wind. I was surrounded in darkness no one was there, nothing was there.

Just the dark...

By Rachel O’Halloran