A Bad Idea

Everything was going well until Scarlett made the worst decision of her life...

It was a bitter cold night. Two best friends hanging out at the shop, everything normal. The hours dragged by as Alisha and Scarlett stood shivering, hands in pockets to try to keep them warm.

“I’m away, it’s way too cold, and they’re 10 minutes late!” moaned Alisha.

“Just wait ten minutes and stop being annoying!” shouted Scarlett impatiently.

“No! they have probably stood us up, I’ll see ya later.”

“There they are!” cried Alisha with excitement.

“Okay, act cool,” said Scarlett.

James and Ben casually walked towards the girls.

James had dark blonde hair, dazzling blue eyes, and was very sporty. He was Scarlet’s crush from she was a little girl. She always felt, though, that she had to act like someone else around James to make him like her.

On the other hand, there was Ben. He was not as handsome as James but he was very intelligent. He had been crushing on Alisha for the past year, but she was not interested. She was too busy concentrating on her studies. But the more she pushed him away, the more he liked her.

“What do you want to do?” asked Alisha.

“Let’s play dares! “James said with excitement.

“Alright then, there’s nothing else to do.”

“I dare you, Scarlett, to go into the haunted house up that hill.”

“ Don’t be daft, nobody goes up there,” murmured Alishia.

“ Do it!, Do it !”chanted James.

Scarlett’s heart dropped, blood pounded in her ears, cold sweat dipped down her forehead. This was her worst fear! Didn’t they know that? But James was here, and she didn’t want him to think her as a baby. All these thoughts rushed through her mind, “What if she didn’t come out? What if she got caught?”

And in the background of it all, all she could hear was James nattering on and on “do it! do it!” What was she going to do, face her fear, or be a baby? Alisha looked horrified, and shook her head as if to say “Don’t do it.”

After a long hesitation she replied, “Let’s do this”.

Standing some 20 yards back from the street, guarded by black steel railings, stood the derelict, neglected old house with smashed windows. There was a cold, musty damp smell about the place standing on a gloomy hill and the dim light of a half moon. Scarlett straddled the gate, and then made her way along a path so overgrown with weeds that they seemed to be reaching out to her; through the middle of this overgrown garden she crept, a mist hovering around her knees and a chilling in her very bones. As she reached the door her heart leaped. She paused for a moment, and trembling with fear, she rapped on the large brown beaten door. No sound came from the house.

Then, suddenly, the large brown door creaked open. Her heart stopped. She was ready to go back when she noticed James was watching, so she couldn’t, there was no going back. She slowly crept into the house, but suddenly the door shut behind her with a large bang. She nearly jumped out of her skin.

“ Ahhh” screamed Scarlett.

Alisha heard the scream from outside.

“There is something wrong”, cried Alisha. “I am going in to get her, she’s my best friend.”

Alisha ran as fast as her legs could carry her. Then she approached the house. It loomed over her as she stood glaring in astonishment at the place. She opened the dark, brown doors, and there her best friend was, in a little ball whimpering to herself.

“Oh my goodness, are you okay?” asked Alisha.

“Just get me out of this place”.

Alisha took Scarlet’s hand and helped her get to her feet. They walked out of the deserted house. Scarlet heard James sneering, and Ben shouting at him. When they opened the huge old door, the two boys’ eyes stayed fixed on Scarlet.

“Are you okay?”, questioned Ben.

“Of course she’s okay,” sneered James.

At this moment Scarlet felt a sharp punch in the stomach. He was meant to be her crush, and he didn’t even care! Anger hit, and before she knew it Scarlet was swearing and shouting in a rage. She threw her arms in the air and she was like a madwoman.

“I’m okay? I’m okay!” , yelled Scarlet.

James smirked, “Dunno, it’s not like I care”.

Suddenly all the anger dissipated, and instead sadness washed over her like a flood, and a tear drip-dropped from her cold cheek.

“Come on, Scarlet “, Ben said, throwing his arms around her.

They left the deserted garden, and headed home. By this time, Alisha was home already, and Ben offered to walk Scarlet home.

“Yes, okay, “ she replied.

As they walked home, they talked about school. Scarlet realised that she could be herself with Ben, and she enjoyed his company. Finally, they arrived at Scarlets house.

“This is me”, said Scarlet.

“Okay, I’ll see you in school tomorrow.

And as she was about to say goodbye, he gave her a kiss on the cheek. Scarlet felt her cheeks burn, with happiness.