

WELCOME ***to the*** ***Haunted House***

By Craig Sodaro

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Miss Crandall and her junior high students are returning home late one night from a field trip when their bus breaks down and they are forced to seek shelter in an old abandoned house that legend has is haunted. While Miss Crandall goes for help, the kids keep up their spirits by telling spooky stories. A teacher who is really a vampire, a rude girl who is turned into a doll, a mummy that is sent as a gift and two other stories raise a lots of goose bumps and lots of laughs. An ideal play for junior high students with such flexible casting that a director can work with just a corps of actors with doubling or utilize a large cast with small, easily learned parts.

Playing time: About an hour.

SETTING

The parlor of the haunted house. Entrances DSL, DSR, USC. There only need be a suggestion of a house, with a bench SL and two chairs and a small table USR. An old chest or trunk should stand DSL. If possible, light the trunk inside so it glows when opened. Other scene changes involve a simple move or two of the furniture.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Large, flexible cast, doubling possible)

Teacher and students stranded at the house

MISS CRANDALL: the teacher

HOLLY: tells "The Doll"

AGGIE: tells "Vampires 101"

SAM: tells "Jurassic Spark"

FREDDY: tells "Frankenfool Strikes Again"

NAOMI: tells "The Witch Sisters"

JEFF: tells "Ghosts of the House"

The Stories and their Characters

THE WITCH SISTERS

CRUMILLA: hard working witch

BOOBALA: her lazy sister

MARQUIS DE SCUM: Boobala's date

ROSA RATFINK: family "fiend", dinner guest

LOUELLA LIVERWART: another

GRETA GREMLIN: another

MAYOR BATSWORTH: another

BEDA BATSWORTH: another

PRINCE CHARMING: falls for Crumilla

FRANKENFOOL STRIKES AGAIN

FELIX: young inventor

FELIX'S MOM: his mom

FELIX'S DAD: his dad

ROBOMAID: needs to be controlled

MR. BIGWIG: possible buyer

MRS. BIGWIG: his wife

Cast list continued next page.

Welcome to the Haunted House

-4-

VAMPIRES 101

DARLENE: zombie-like student

MARLENE: another

DOREEN: a suspicious student

MAUREEN: another

TAB: another

TOM: latest victim

TIM: another student

MR. BLOODWORTH: vampire teacher

MISS SHOEMAKER: the principal

WEREWOLF: substitute teacher?

JURASSIC SPARK

JOHNNY: studying mummies

BELINDA: his girl friend

DORK: delivers the gift

MUMMY: has an attitude

PROFESSOR: got the wrong gift

THE DOLL

PRISCILLA: nasty student

TRUDY: Priscilla's friend

ANDREA: nice student

MAGGIE: her friend

OLD LADY: has unusual doll

ESMERALDA: new girl at school

GHOSTS OF THE HOUSE

ROGUE: two-timing bank robber

KITTY: one sister in crime

KATIE: other sister in crime

JACK: Rogue's cohort

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: THUNDER and LIGHTNING along with spooky MUSIC.)

NAOMI: *(Offstage.)* Everybody SAYS this house is haunted, Miss Crandall.

(MISS CRANDALL enters center, followed by NAOMI, JEFF, SAM, AGGIE, FREDDY, and HOLLY. They all wear raincoats and hats.)

MISS CRANDALL: Nonsense! There is NO such thing as a haunted house, children. This is just an old abandoned house that is in need of a very good cleaning. If we weren't supposed to be back from the field trip an hour ago, I'd suggest we get some brooms, dust cloths, and mops and have at it.

HOLLY: Gee, too bad we'll have to pass on that one.

JEFF: How long are we going to be here, Miss Crandall? I wanna go home!

MISS CRANDALL: Well, now that we've found shelter, it'll only be as long as it'll take me to walk to town and phone for help.

FREDDY: We TOLD you that red light that came on thirty miles ago was important.

AGGIE: That happened to my dad once and you know what?

MISS CRANDALL: Please, I don't need more bad news.

AGGIE: I'll tell you anyway. The engine blew a rod and had to be replaced.

FREDDY: And that probably cost more than fifty dollars!

MISS CRANDALL: Well, girls and boys, dark is coming, so I'll be heading to the nearest phone.

NAOMI: You're leaving us?

MISS CRANDALL: I'll be back, quick as a wink.

NAOMI: You're leaving us HERE?

MISS CRANDALL: You can't stay outside, and you very well can't walk with me.

Welcome to the Haunted House

-6-

SAM: Don't worry, Naomi, I get to stay home alone ALL the time. I can teach you the ropes.

MISS CRANDALL: I don't want you playing with ANY ropes, Sam. Understand?

SAM: Yes, ma'am.

MISS CRANDALL: In fact, I want you to stay on the ground floor of the house and not leave ... no matter what!

AGGIE: What if we see a ghost?

MISS CRANDALL: No matter WHAT! I'm sure you'll find some way to amuse yourselves.

JEFF: We can play games or something.

MISS CRANDALL: That's the spirit. Keep those chins up and I'll have you back home before you can say "BOO!"
(MISS CRANDALL laughs as she exits center.)

HOLLY: Know something? She's definitely weird.

FREDDY: But the field trip was fun. I think mummies are cool!

SAM: They better be. They're dead!

NAOMI: Stop talking about them. I thought they were gross.

AGGIE: You have to think of them as scientific phenomenon, Naomi.

NAOMI: What's that?

AGGIE: I don't know. Just sounded good.

JEFF: Anybody want to look around the place?

FREDDY: I'm game.

JEFF: Anybody else ... or are we trapped in a haunted house with a bunch of chickens? *(FREDDY and JEFF laugh as they exit SR.)*

SAM: We're not chickens, you bozos! We've just got some sense.

AGGIE: Yeah ... no point tempting fate.

HOLLY: There COULDN'T be any ghosts in this house, COULD there be?

SAM: Naw! We'd hear strange noises and stuff like that if there was. *(Noise of chains off SL)*

NAOMI: What's that?

AGGIE: Probably just the wind. *(Noise USC)*

NAOMI: What's that?!

HOLLY: That's just the wind, too. *(Noise off SR)*

End of Freeview

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