

ILLUSIONS

It was a windy Halloween night, and Ellie and her twin brother Robert, were getting their costumes on to go trick or treating.

“Come on!” Ellie called to Robert impatiently, “putting on a costume isn't too hard. You're taking forever”.

“Not my fault.” Robert replied, “This costume is too complicated. I'm almost done anyways.”

After a long time, Robert finished getting his costume on, and the siblings went out for trick or treating.

When it was dark, Ellie and Robert headed home. “Look” Ellie called out to Robert, who had run ahead. “A haunted house! Let's go there.”

Robert paused and looked at what Ellie was pointing to. “Maybe we shouldn't. Let's just go straight home instead.”

But Ellie wouldn't take no for an answer.” Robert, please!” she whined, “just a tiny little peek!”

“Ugh, fine,” Robert groaned, feeling defeated, “just a little peek. But then we go home. Got it?”

“Whatever. Now come on!” Ellie dashed to the front door.

“Wait up!” Robert yelled to Ellie, as he tried to catch up, “You're going too fast!”

Robert caught up to Ellie, and tried to catch his breath while Ellie repeatedly rang the rusty doorbell. “Check if it's open.” Robert said, after he caught his breath.

Ellie pushed the door, and it creaked open loudly. “Come on,” she called to Robert. “No one's in here”.

Robert felt uneasy, like he wasn't supposed to be there. Everything was covered in dust. There were some rooms. The walls had many cracks in them. It was clear that the place had been abandoned for a long time. Robert glanced at his watch. It was getting late. He called out to Ellie. “Let's go. Mom will be worried if we get late”.

“Okay. Let’s go, “Ellie replied.

As they walked back home, Robert said to Ellie,” When we go back, don’t tell anyone about it. Got it?”

Ellie nodded. When they reached their house, it had gotten darker. As soon as they both went inside, they both collapsed on their beds and slept for a very long time.

The sun shone through the window, waking Ellie and Robert up. Ellie groaned, not wanting to go to school. But she got ready anyways.

The siblings always walked by themselves to their school, since it was so close by. “Look! “Ellie cried out, pointing to a piece of empty land. “That was where the house was!”

“Then where is it now? Was it our imagination?” Robert asked, sounding confused.

“I don’t know. “Ellie replied. “Let’s go to school now. We can think about this later”.

While coming back from school, Ellie and Robert couldn’t stop thinking about the haunted house. They saw an old lady nearby and asked her about it. She was surprised to hear about it. She once had heard a story from her grandma. She had seen a haunted house on a full moon Halloween night. They were curious to find more. Was it a creepy mystery or just an illusion?

- Aarohi Kulkarni