

The Deserted Barn

"You won't believe what happened," I said one night during dinner.

"Did you finally catch a shot of your ghost?" my mom Jenny asked.

"No," I admitted, holding up the camera strapped around my neck. "But something way better happened.

"Well, tell us about it Julie," she said.

Of course I was going to tell my family about my exciting day. I wanted to tell the story not only because I had originally thought of going on ghost hunts with my little sister, Jessi, but also because I was older so I should get to tell them. Yes, I, Julie Zalen was selfish, but everyone is.

I just love mysteries. Creepy shadows, haunting noises, and ghostly smells are all my favorite; but most of all I love ghosts. Whenever I go on a ghost hunt trying to prove that there is a such thing, I always dress the same way. I wear a midnight black sweat shirt, a black shirt, black shoes, black mittens, black pants, black socks, and a black beanie to cover my sunflower blond hair. I wear black clothing so that I will blend in with the darkness.

"So," I said, all eyes on me and Jessi. "We started out on one of our usual ghost hunts when we came across an old beat-up deserted barn. Just the place where ghosts might lurk. When we looked inside, Jessi thought the barn might have been over 200 years old. The cracked roof leaked and cobwebs hung like banners everywhere. The rafters looked like a board of dust, so fragile that if you stepped on them they would fall apart. The place smelled like a graveyard.

"It was really scary," said Jessi, wide-eyed.

"Yea," I continued. "I was as scared as a spider under a size 12 boot, but it was awesome at the same time, but Jessi didn't want to go in. Eventually she came through, but you guys wouldn't believe it. The pitch black deserted barn had death written all over it. Every time you took a step, the whole barn creaked like a witches cackle. As we stepped inside a fuzzy mouse scurried across the floor, and outside a barn owl screeched. When Jessi saw the mouse, she let out a big yelp."

"I did not!" Jessi insisted. "I just... well..."

"Screamed," I finished. "So as we slinked through the barn, I thought to myself, Gosh, this must be that old barn that hadn't been used in over 100 years that everybody rumored about."

"Good Heavens, no," cried my mom.

"You didn't go in there," protested dad.

"Of course we did, but it's okay. I read in a book once that it's supposed to be cursed and

anyone who goes in will never come out alive. You don't see us still in there, do you?" boasted Jessi.

"Well, no but..." said mom.

"It's okay mom, we're not hurt." Jessi reassured her. "Besides, the good parts coming up. After we..."

"Hush," I ordered her. "I'm telling this story. So, just as we turned around to leave, for a split second, I saw something white float around the corner and into a stall. We sprinted after it and I was just about to take a picture when... I couldn't."

"What did you see, Julie?" dad asked curiously.

"An angel," I told them. "An angel all dressed up in white. With a frightened face and hair as bright and as colorful as a sunset. She had small silky wings and a little halo twinkled above her head."

"No," she said. "Please don't. I will do something for each of you if you don't take my picture. I'll grant you one special wish."

"I wished for a big doll house, mommy," said Jessi, smiling.

"What did you wish for, Julie?" asked dad.

"Well," I said. "I wished for one million dollars and a wagon with boxes to put the money in. Then I wheeled it along with Jessi's doll house down to the community center and put all the money in the charity barrels to help the homeless."

"Wow," was all mom and dad could say.

Later that night when I went to bed, mom came to say good-night. "You had an exciting day," she informed me. "Are you upset that you didn't find a ghost?"

"No way," I said, "and yea. I did have an exciting day though. And I'm going to remember it always."

After mom kissed me good-night and turned off the lamp, a vision of the angel, now with a smiling face filled my room. I blinked only for a brief moment and she was gone.