

Halloween Camp Out 2019

Written by Retta Bodhaine

Cast of Characters

- Featured
 - CHRIS Jones
 - ELLIE Jones
 - CARTER Jones
 - ARWEN Jones
- Also-Heards
 - VOICE of God

1 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 1

2 *(SETTING: We are at a Skidaway Island campsite. Centered is an unlit fire pit. Off to*
3 *stage right is a hammock. Off to stage left a large tent with at least two entrances. One*
4 *entrance is pointed at stage right and the other is pointed at stage left. In the background,*
5 *are many island type plants and trees.)*

6 *(AT RISE: CARTER and ARWEN are in the large tent, hidden from audience view.)*

7 ARWEN But it's not fair!

8 CARTER I don't care.

9 *(STAGE: CARTER exits large tent with tablet in hand and walks towards hammock,*
10 *followed quickly by ARWEN.)*

11 ARWEN How come you get to watch TV and I don't?

12 *(STAGE: CARTER turns and faces ARWEN. Both stop walking)*

13 CARTER Because I brought it.

14 ARWEN But I –

15 CARTER You weren't even supposed to be back yet. I thought you were all
16 about seeing the sloths?

17 ARWEN The sloth center is closed!

18 CARTER Ugh! So now whatever I'm doing is your back up plan? I don't think
19 so.

20 ARWEN But there's nothing to do!

21 *(STAGE: CARTER gets on hammock)*

22 ARWEN I'm gonna tell mom!

23 CARTER Good luck finding her. They've been looking for the camp host for
24 what, 30 minutes now? Pretty sure they don't even know where they
25 are by this point.

26 ARWEN I'll—

27 *(STAGE: CARTER puts on headphones and raises tablet, pointedly ignoring ARWEN.*
28 *ARWEN makes frustrated sound and exits stage left)*

29 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

30 *(SCRIPT: IN THE SHADOWS BENEATH THE TREES)*

31

32 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 2

33 *(AT RISE: CARTER lays in hammock watching tablet with headphones on.)*

34 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CHRIS, and ARWEN enter stage left. CHRIS is carrying firewood.)*

35 ARWEN See! I told you she's watching TV!

36 ELLIE Yes, sweetie. We heard you.

37 *(STAGE: CHRIS puts down firewood next to fire pit and heads over to CARTER in*
38 *hammock. ELLIE walks over to the stage right tent entrance. ELLIE pulls out 4 folding*
39 *chairs, a folding table, a large tote bag, and a cooler from the tent.)*

40 CHRIS Carter, what did we say about this weekend?

41 CARTER That it was going to be family time.

42 CHRIS That's right.

43 CARTER But the family wasn't here yet, so...

44 CHRIS Your sister was.

45 CARTER No she went off to see the sloths.

46 ARWEN But it was closed!

47 CARTER I was her back up choice. Why should I change my plans just because
48 her's fell through?

49 CHRIS You could have let your sister share your plans.

50 CARTER There was gratuitous violence.

51 CHRIS Then you should have watched something else!

52 CARTER It's the only show I downloaded.

53 ELLIE Anyways, we're all here now. So why don't we spend some 'family
54 time' helping me set up.

55 CRTR & ARWN Yes, mom.

56 *(STAGE: CHRIS and CARTER set out folding chairs in a semi-circle around the fire pit*
57 *cheated towards audience. ELLIE and ARWEN set up folding table (upstage center) with*
58 *cooler and tote. Food supplies are unpacked and laid out on table. All this goes on under*
59 *the dialogue.)*

60 ELLIE And once we're set up, we can all enjoy a show together.

61 ARWEN You brought a hotspot thing mom?

62 ELLIE Streaming isn't the only way to enjoy shows, you know. When I used
63 to go camping with my family, my dad would turn on the truck's
64 radio and we'd listen to shows all night while lying under the stars.

65 ARWEN Listen to shows?

66 CARTER Like television without the vision?

67 ELLIE Exactly!

68 ARWEN Then how do you see?

69 CHRIS Remember how we were talking about how when you read a book,
70 your mind fills in details that the author never wrote?

71 CARTER Yes.

72 CHRIS Your mind LOVES to do that. It loves to create. So when you listen
73 to radio dramas, your mind creates everything for you. Your mind
74 gets to picture an entire world!

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77 have any visual aids, so they put in sound effects, and verbal cues to
78 help your mind know exactly what it should be picturing.

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80 story. It's like you actually go on the adventure with the characters.

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83 *(STAGE: ELLIE tickles ARWEN mock menacingly. ARWEN squeals and runs to other*
84 *end of table)*

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86 find tons of them on podcasts. My favorite group, the Atlanta Radio
87 Theatre Company, just started live streaming so I can watch or listen
88 to them anywhere.

89 ARWEN So we can watch or listen them on Carter's tablet?

90 CARTER No we can't. There's no Wi-Fi here.

91 ELLIE Actually, we can. They've been creating quality audio drama since
92 1984, and with all that experience, they know that some people or
93 some situations call for *(dramatic gasp)* physical media.

94 *(STAGE: ELLIE pulls CD player and CD carrier out of tote bag with flourish. ELLIE*
95 *with CD player and ARWEN with food items walk to fire pit. ALL sit in chairs.)*

96 CARTER You brought a boom box? Could you be any more 80s?

97 CHRIS Not a boom box, Carter. And don't deflate your mom's enthusiasm.

98 CHRIS & GIRLS *(with audible eye roll)* Only jerks deflate other people's enthusiasm.

99 CARTER Sorry mom.

100 ELLIE Thank you Carter.

101 ARWEN So what did you bring for us to listen to?

102 ELLIE Well they have a whole assortment of choices... *(pause for effect)*

103 *(STAGE: SPOTLIGHTS come up on sales table. Sales associates do their best Vanna*
104 *White impressions. SPOTLIGHTS fade down.)*

105 ELLIE ...but I had just brought some of my Halloween favorites since it is
106 the season.

107 CHRIS So what are we starting with?

108 ELLIE I thought we might start off with something uplifting!

109 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

110 *(SCRIPT: MERCURY)*

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112 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 3

113 *(AT RISE: Family sits in folding chairs around campfire. Ziploc with trash has replaced*
114 *food.)*

115 CHRIS Well what did you think?

116 ARWEN I liked it!

117 CARTER But it wasn't very Halloweenie

118 ELLIE It was set in the Zombie apocalypse.

119 CARTER Yeah, but it wasn't scary.

120 ELLIE It doesn't have to be scary. It's inspirational! They put it on every day
121 just to send out five minute messages of hope. It's been on the air for
122 750 days, and every day it's something new! Isn't that cool?

123 CARTER ...It could have at least been about ghosts!

124 CHRIS Ok. Ok.

125 *(STAGE: CHRIS Flips CDs.)*

126 CHRIS Why don't we try Haunter Hunters, by Thomas Berry next? Does that
127 sound good to you guys?

128 CR, AN, & EL Yes!

129 *(STAGE: CHRIS plays CD.)*

130 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

131 *(SCRIPT: HAUNTER HUNTERS)*

132

133 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 4

134 *(AT RISE: ARWEN and CARTER sit in folding chairs around campfire. ELLIE is over*
135 *by the folding table, getting s'mores supplies. CHRIS is getting a fire started.)*

136 ARWEN That one was funny. I liked the old ghost lady who thought she was
137 still alive.

138 CARTER She was still alive, Arwen.

139 ARWEN Then why were they in her house?

140 ELLIE They were behaving badly, and I thought it was funny because she
141 caught them.

142 ARWEN Oh yeah, that is funny.

143 CHRIS Do you want to hear another funny one?

144 ARWEN Yeah!

145 CARTER (Groans)

146 CHRIS Now, what's wrong with funny!

147 CARTER It's. not. scary. This is Halloween!

148 ELLIE Carter, watch your tone.

149 CARTER (Takes a deep calming breath) Sorry.

150 CHRIS Maybe we can strike a balance. (flips through case) Ah-ha! Are alien
151 abductions scary to you?

152 CARTER They can be...

153 ELLIE Then let's try, Unresolved Mysteries: UFO Abductions by Ron N.
154 Butler.

155 CHRIS And if you don't like it, then you can pick the next one. Ok?

156 CARTER (hesitantly) ok.

157 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

158 *(SCRIPT: UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES)*

159

160 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 5

161 *(AT RISE: Family is sitting in folding chairs around campfire roasting s'mores. Lit*
162 *lanterns are on the table.)*

163 CARTER My turn to pick!

164 ARWEN Uh-uh! You only got to pick if you didn't like it, and I saw you
165 smiling.

166 CARTER Maybe I was smiling because I knew it was my turn to pick next.

167 ARWEN Liar!

168 ELLIE Arwen, that's not nice.

169 ARWEN But she just wants to pick.

170 CHRIS Carter, did you like it?

171 CARTER I... liked parts of it, but it still wasn't scary enough for me to have
172 really liked it as a Halloween story.

173 CHRIS Arwen, I think she's telling the truth.

174 ARWEN But I didn't get to pick.

175 CHRIS You can pick the ne—

176 ELLIE I think this might be the last story for tonight if we want to get up
177 early for our hike tomorrow, but how about you pick the story
178 tomorrow night?

179 ARWEN Alright.

180 CARTER I want to hear, The Crowded Graveyard by Doug Kaye.

181 *(STAGE: ELLIE Flips through CDs.)*

182 ELLIE I don't see that one here, hon. Do you have it?

183 CHRIS No. Carter, where is it?

184 CARTER I don't know, but I know the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company does it.
185 It was on their Tales from the Dark River album.

186 ELLIE And how do you know that?

187 CARTER (quietly) I looked it up on my phone.

188 ARWEN You said we couldn't use your phone! You said there wasn't any
189 Wifi!

190 CHRIS There isn't.

191 CARTER It was just a quick search. ARTC.org is really easy to find and
192 navigate. It didn't take almost any data at all!

193 *(STAGE: ELLIE holds out hand. CARTER hands over her phone.)*

194 ELLIE Thank you. Now, since we don't have that story –

195 CARTER Mom please?! I really want to hear that one.

196 ELLIE We don't have the CD. How do you propose we do that?

197 CARTER It's available for download on their website and it's on audible.com.
198 It's really easy to –

199 CHRIS Or,

200 *(STAGE: CHRIS holds flashlight under face and turns it on.)*

201 CHRIS I could tell it as a campfire story.

202 CTR & ARN Ooooo

203 CHRIS Honey, get the lights please.

204 *(STAGE: ELLIE stands up and turns off the lamps, theatre lights come down until only
205 the camp fire light is showing.)*

206 CHRIS You guys remember Aunt Sam?

207 CTR & ARN ...no?

208 CHRIS She used to be around a lot more when you were kids. I've known
209 Aunt Sam for a real long time. And she used to be married to this man
210 named Jamie...

211 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

212 *(SCRIPT: THE CROWDED GRAVEYARD)*

213

214 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 6

215 *(AT RISE: Lights are still down. Ellie is at the table. ARWEN, CARTER, and CHRIS are*
216 *sitting in the folding chairs.)*

217 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on flashlight.)*

218 CHRIS So it turns out that little girl was buried at the cemetery, and lucky for
219 Aunt Sam that she was. She saved her from the other ghosts, but she
220 also demanded a price. Uncle Jamie was never the same again, he just
221 couldn't stop giggling. After a while, he and Aunt Sam separated.
222 They never talked about it, but they also never got over that night.
223 Every so often I get a late-night call from Aunt Sam. She says she
224 can't sleep, but over the line I hear it. I hear that little girl giggling.

225 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns off flashlight. ARWEN squeaks. ELLIE turns on lanterns. All*
226 *lights come up.)*

227 CARTER Oh come on, it wasn't that scary. Don't be a baby.

228 ARWEN I'm not being a baby! I was just surprised.

229 CARTER Oh so you want an even scarier story too?

230 ARWEN (clearly does not) I would, but mom said that was the last story.

231 ELLIE Yes, and I meant it. Come on girls, go get your PJs and toothbrushes.
232 It's time to trek to the showers.

233 *(STAGE: ARWEN goes into the tent.)*

234 CARTER Come on mom! The stories just started getting good. Dad hasn't even
235 scared me yet!

236 CHRIS Oh I haven't have I?

237 ELLIE Babe... a little help here.

238 CHRIS Oh, ah, yes. Girls your mother's right. We've got a big hike
239 tomorrow—

240 CARTER But I'm not even tired! I'll just be lying awake in the tent all night,
241 and then I'll be exhausted and cranky on the hike tomorrow.

242 ELLIE I have some chamomile tea you can have before bed.

243 CARTER But if I'm going to stay up to drink the tea, couldn't I drink it while
244 dad tells just one more story?

245 *(STAGE: CHRIS and ELLIE share a knowing look.)*

246 ELLIE Do you absolutely promise to go right to bed afterwards, and to not
247 complain at all on the hike tomorrow?

248 *(STAGE: ARWEN comes out of the tent with everyone's toiletry bags. She hands*
249 *everyone their things.)*

250 ARWEN And to let me pick ALL the stories tomorrow?

251 CARTER Yes, mom. I promise. Please?

252 ELLIE Okay then, but we're getting ready for bed first. Come on, let's hit the
253 showers.

254 VOICE Enjoy your intermission. Act 2 will begin in 10 minutes.

255 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

256 *(SCRIPT: END OF ACT)*

257

258 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 7

259 *(AT RISE: The food and trash are out of sight. Only the lanterns and mugs remain on the*
260 *table. The fire is glowing embers. CHRIS is in PJs and standing by the table finishing*
261 *making the tea.)*

262 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CARTER, and ARWEN enter from stage left carrying their toiletries*
263 *bags. They are now in PJs.)*

264 CHRIS Perfect timing, the tea just finished brewing.

265 (CARTER throws her toiletry bag in the tent and scrambles into a chair.)

266 CHRIS *clears throat* Aren't you forgetting something?

267 *(STAGE: CARTER goes and grabs a mug, and walks carefully but quickly back to her*
268 *chair.)*

269 CARTER Hurry up Arwen! I want to hear the story!

270 ARWEN (Stage whisper) Mom, do I have to? I don't want a scarier story.

271 ELLIE Actually Carter, I'm really tired, and I'd like it if Arwen kept me
272 company until I fall asleep. Is that ok with you?

273 CARTER But then she'll miss it! And it has to be really scary this time.

274 ARWEN It's ok. I want to keep mom company.

275 *(STAGE: ARWEN and ELLIE grab mugs off the table and go into the tent. CHRIS grabs*
276 *his mug and goes to sit in a chair.)*

277 CARTER You're still going to tell me the story, right Dad?

278 CHRIS Are you sure? I think it might be too scary for you.

279 CARTER No, it's not!

280 CHRIS Okay. If you're sure. So, you weren't scared by anything before?

281 CARTER Nu-uh

282 *(STAGE: CARTER shakes her head after each thing CHRIS lists)*

283 CHRIS Not zombies? Or ghost hunters? Or aliens? OR restless spirits? Well,
284 you're in luck, because I know what the scariest thing in the whole
285 wide world is.

286 CARTER What?

287 CHRIS (smiles knowingly but doesn't answer – background noise of the
288 drums and Sayer of the law comes up) It all started on February the
289 first...

290 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

291 *(SCRIPT: THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU)*

292

293 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 8

294 *(AT RISE: CARTER and CHRIS are sitting in chairs. ELLIE and ARWEN are hiding*
295 *behind the plants out of sight of the audience and other cast.)*

296 CARTER Ummm... it got really dark.

297 CHRIS I kind of like it like this. The stars are so bright, and the rest of the
298 world has just faded away...

299 CARTER (chuckles nervously) Yeah, but without light how can we see to get to
300 the tent?

301 CHRIS Oh, you're joining us in the tent now? I thought you wanted to sleep
302 in the hammock.

303 CARTER No, I just wanted to lay in it a bit. I'm sleeping in the tent.

304 CHRIS I could have sworn you said that your sister kicks in her –

305 CARTER Yeah she does, but I'm not going to make her sleep alone. It's dark,
306 and we're outside, and –

307 CHRIS Carter, you're not scared, are you?

308 CARTER ... no...

309 CHRIS It's ok to be scared. Here.

310 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on lantern. Dim houselights come up)*

311 CHRIS Is that better?

312 CARTER I wasn't –

313 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

314 CARTER What was that?

315 CHRIS I don't know.

316 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

317 CHRIS It's probably just a raccoon.

318 CARTER Yeah?

319 CHRIS Yeah. (Pause) Probably.

320 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants louder)*

321 CHRIS I'm going to check it out.

322 CARTER What? Why?

323 CHRIS So we can see it's a raccoon and then get some sleep. (PAUSE) It's
324 ok. I'm only 5 yards away.

325 CARTER O-o-okay.

326 *(STAGE: CHRIS creeps carefully towards the plants holding up the light. Right as he's*
327 *about to reach it, ELLIE and ARWEN jump out of the plants yelling. CARTER screams*
328 *and tips her chair over, CHRIS yells. ELLIE and ARWEN laugh. CHRIS starts laughing.)*

329 CHRIS Ah, you got us good

330 *(STAGE: CARTER scrambles to her feet)*

331 CARTER That wasn't funny!

332 ARWEN You said you wanted to be scared.

333 CARTER I wasn't scared!

334 ELLIE Sure you weren't sweetie.

335 ARWEN (teasing) Don't worry, I won't let dad tell scary stories tomorrow.

336 CARTER Whatever! I'm going to bed!

337 *(STAGE: CARTER grabs lantern and goes in tent. CHRIS ELLIE and ARWEN follow her*
338 *in. Lights dim when lantern enters tent)*

339 ELLIE (singsong) Goodnight!

340 CARTER (reluctantly) Goodnight.

341 ARWEN (singsong) Love you!

342 CARTER (annoyed) Love you too.

343 CHRIS Don't let the bed bugs—

344 *(STAGE: CARTER turns off light in tent)*

345 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

346 *(STAGE: HOUSE LIGHTS UP)*

347

348 VOICE That was the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company’s “ARTC Halloween
349 Campout.”

350 Featuring the talents of Billy Barefoot, David Benedict, William
351 Brown, Thomas Cage, Ellie Cook, BJ Copeland, Matt Goodson,
352 Joseph Griffiths, Lyssa Hoganson, Arwen Jones, Chris Jones, Clair
353 Kiernan, Daniel Kiernan, Diana Lancaster, Paul Landri, Alice Leigh,
354 Fiona Leonard, Trudy Leonard, Stephen Miller, Carter Mines, Rosi
355 Ringham, Dave Schroeder, Liz Schroeder, Brad Strickland, Anthony
356 Urda, and Hal Wiedeman.

357 Your Foley artists were Retta Bodhaine, Trever Winn, Alexandria
358 Denise and Liz Schroeder.

359 Original music composed and performed by Alton Leonard.

360 Recorded sound effects programmed by Chris Jones and performed
361 by _____. Lighting and sound design by Liam Irwin, Robert Drake,
362 and Retta Bodhaine. Videography and streaming by Brian E Smith.

363 Working the board was _____. The Floor Manager was _____.

364 Your writers were Ron N Butler, David Benedict, Thomas Berry,
365 (Elisabeth Allen or Brad Strickland), Doug Kaye, Retta Bodhaine,
366 and Thomas Fuller.

367 Your directors were Trudy Leonard, David Benedict, Brian E Smith,
368 Madeline McCanness, Robert Drake, Retta Bodhaine and Thomas
369 Cage.

370 Your producer was Retta Bodhaine, and the executive producer was
371 David Benedict.

372 Thank you for coming out tonight, we hope you enjoyed the show.
373 Our next show is back here at the Tucker Rec Center for the 20th
374 anniversary of An Atlanta Christmas on December 14th, 15th, 21st,
375 and 22nd.

376 Follow and like us on Facebook to be the first to know when tickets
377 go on sale.

378 Once again, we are the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company reminding
379 you that...

380 EVERYONE There is Adventure in Sound!

381 (END OF ACT)

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124 CHRIS Ok. Ok.

125 *(STAGE: CHRIS Flips CDs.)*

126 CHRIS Why don't we try Haunter Hunters, by Thomas Berry next? Does that
127 sound good to you guys?

128 CR, AN, & EL Yes!

129 *(STAGE: CHRIS plays CD.)*

130 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

131 *(SCRIPT: HAUNTER HUNTERS)*

132

133 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 4

134 *(AT RISE: ARWEN and CARTER sit in folding chairs around campfire. ELLIE is over*
135 *by the folding table, getting s'mores supplies. CHRIS is getting a fire started.)*

136 ARWEN That one was funny. I liked the old ghost lady who thought she was
137 still alive.

138 CARTER She was still alive, Arwen.

139 ARWEN Then why were they in her house?

140 ELLIE They were behaving badly, and I thought it was funny because she
141 caught them.

142 ARWEN Oh yeah, that is funny.

143 CHRIS Do you want to hear another funny one?

144 ARWEN Yeah!

145 CARTER (Groans)

146 CHRIS Now, what's wrong with funny!

147 CARTER It's. not. scary. This is Halloween!

148 ELLIE Carter, watch your tone.

149 CARTER (Takes a deep calming breath) Sorry.

150 CHRIS Maybe we can strike a balance. (flips through case) Ah-ha! Are alien
151 abductions scary to you?

152 CARTER They can be...

153 ELLIE Then let's try, Unresolved Mysteries: UFO Abductions by Ron N.
154 Butler.

155 CHRIS And if you don't like it, then you can pick the next one. Ok?

156 CARTER (hesitantly) ok.

157 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

158 *(SCRIPT: UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES)*

159

160 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 5

161 *(AT RISE: Family is sitting in folding chairs around campfire roasting s'mores. Lit*
162 *lanterns are on the table.)*

163 CARTER My turn to pick!

164 ARWEN Uh-uh! You only got to pick if you didn't like it, and I saw you
165 smiling.

166 CARTER Maybe I was smiling because I knew it was my turn to pick next.

167 ARWEN Liar!

168 ELLIE Arwen, that's not nice.

169 ARWEN But she just wants to pick.

170 CHRIS Carter, did you like it?

171 CARTER I... liked parts of it, but it still wasn't scary enough for me to have
172 really liked it as a Halloween story.

173 CHRIS Arwen, I think she's telling the truth.

174 ARWEN But I didn't get to pick.

175 CHRIS You can pick the ne—

176 ELLIE I think this might be the last story for tonight if we want to get up
177 early for our hike tomorrow, but how about you pick the story
178 tomorrow night?

179 ARWEN Alright.

180 CARTER I want to hear, The Crowded Graveyard by Doug Kaye.

181 *(STAGE: ELLIE Flips through CDs.)*

182 ELLIE I don't see that one here, hon. Do you have it?

183 CHRIS No. Carter, where is it?

184 CARTER I don't know, but I know the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company does it.
185 It was on their Tales from the Dark River album.

186 ELLIE And how do you know that?

187 CARTER (quietly) I looked it up on my phone.

188 ARWEN You said we couldn't use your phone! You said there wasn't any
189 Wifi!

190 CHRIS There isn't.

191 CARTER It was just a quick search. ARTC.org is really easy to find and
192 navigate. It didn't take almost any data at all!

193 *(STAGE: ELLIE holds out hand. CARTER hands over her phone.)*

194 ELLIE Thank you. Now, since we don't have that story –

195 CARTER Mom please?! I really want to hear that one.

196 ELLIE We don't have the CD. How do you propose we do that?

197 CARTER It's available for download on their website and it's on audible.com.
198 It's really easy to –

199 CHRIS Or,

200 *(STAGE: CHRIS holds flashlight under face and turns it on.)*

201 CHRIS I could tell it as a campfire story.

202 CTR & ARN Ooooo

203 CHRIS Honey, get the lights please.

204 *(STAGE: ELLIE stands up and turns off the lamps, theatre lights come down until only
205 the camp fire light is showing.)*

206 CHRIS You guys remember Aunt Sam?

207 CTR & ARN ...no?

208 CHRIS She used to be around a lot more when you were kids. I've known
209 Aunt Sam for a real long time. And she used to be married to this man
210 named Jamie...

211 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

212 *(SCRIPT: THE CROWDED GRAVEYARD)*

213

214 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 6

215 *(AT RISE: Lights are still down. Ellie is at the table. ARWEN, CARTER, and CHRIS are*
216 *sitting in the folding chairs.)*

217 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on flashlight.)*

218 CHRIS So it turns out that little girl was buried at the cemetery, and lucky for
219 Aunt Sam that she was. She saved her from the other ghosts, but she
220 also demanded a price. Uncle Jamie was never the same again, he just
221 couldn't stop giggling. After a while, he and Aunt Sam separated.
222 They never talked about it, but they also never got over that night.
223 Every so often I get a late-night call from Aunt Sam. She says she
224 can't sleep, but over the line I hear it. I hear that little girl giggling.

225 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns off flashlight. ARWEN squeaks. ELLIE turns on lanterns. All*
226 *lights come up.)*

227 CARTER Oh come on, it wasn't that scary. Don't be a baby.

228 ARWEN I'm not being a baby! I was just surprised.

229 CARTER Oh so you want an even scarier story too?

230 ARWEN (clearly does not) I would, but mom said that was the last story.

231 ELLIE Yes, and I meant it. Come on girls, go get your PJs and toothbrushes.
232 It's time to trek to the showers.

233 *(STAGE: ARWEN goes into the tent.)*

234 CARTER Come on mom! The stories just started getting good. Dad hasn't even
235 scared me yet!

236 CHRIS Oh I haven't have I?

237 ELLIE Babe... a little help here.

238 CHRIS Oh, ah, yes. Girls your mother's right. We've got a big hike
239 tomorrow—

240 CARTER But I'm not even tired! I'll just be lying awake in the tent all night,
241 and then I'll be exhausted and cranky on the hike tomorrow.

242 ELLIE I have some chamomile tea you can have before bed.

243 CARTER But if I'm going to stay up to drink the tea, couldn't I drink it while
244 dad tells just one more story?

245 *(STAGE: CHRIS and ELLIE share a knowing look.)*

246 ELLIE Do you absolutely promise to go right to bed afterwards, and to not
247 complain at all on the hike tomorrow?

248 *(STAGE: ARWEN comes out of the tent with everyone's toiletry bags. She hands*
249 *everyone their things.)*

250 ARWEN And to let me pick ALL the stories tomorrow?

251 CARTER Yes, mom. I promise. Please?

252 ELLIE Okay then, but we're getting ready for bed first. Come on, let's hit the
253 showers.

254 VOICE Enjoy your intermission. Act 2 will begin in 10 minutes.

255 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

256 *(SCRIPT: END OF ACT)*

257

258 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 7

259 *(AT RISE: The food and trash are out of sight. Only the lanterns and mugs remain on the*
260 *table. The fire is glowing embers. CHRIS is in PJs and standing by the table finishing*
261 *making the tea.)*

262 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CARTER, and ARWEN enter from stage left carrying their toiletries*
263 *bags. They are now in PJs.)*

264 CHRIS Perfect timing, the tea just finished brewing.

265 (CARTER throws her toiletry bag in the tent and scrambles into a chair.)

266 CHRIS *clears throat* Aren't you forgetting something?

267 *(STAGE: CARTER goes and grabs a mug, and walks carefully but quickly back to her*
268 *chair.)*

269 CARTER Hurry up Arwen! I want to hear the story!

270 ARWEN (Stage whisper) Mom, do I have to? I don't want a scarier story.

271 ELLIE Actually Carter, I'm really tired, and I'd like it if Arwen kept me
272 company until I fall asleep. Is that ok with you?

273 CARTER But then she'll miss it! And it has to be really scary this time.

274 ARWEN It's ok. I want to keep mom company.

275 *(STAGE: ARWEN and ELLIE grab mugs off the table and go into the tent. CHRIS grabs*
276 *his mug and goes to sit in a chair.)*

277 CARTER You're still going to tell me the story, right Dad?

278 CHRIS Are you sure? I think it might be too scary for you.

279 CARTER No, it's not!

280 CHRIS Okay. If you're sure. So, you weren't scared by anything before?

281 CARTER Nu-uh

282 *(STAGE: CARTER shakes her head after each thing CHRIS lists)*

283 CHRIS Not zombies? Or ghost hunters? Or aliens? OR restless spirits? Well,
284 you're in luck, because I know what the scariest thing in the whole
285 wide world is.

286 CARTER What?

287 CHRIS (smiles knowingly but doesn't answer – background noise of the
288 drums and Sayer of the law comes up) It all started on February the
289 first...

290 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

291 *(SCRIPT: THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU)*

292

293 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 8

294 *(AT RISE: CARTER and CHRIS are sitting in chairs. ELLIE and ARWEN are hiding*
295 *behind the plants out of sight of the audience and other cast.)*

296 CARTER Ummm... it got really dark.

297 CHRIS I kind of like it like this. The stars are so bright, and the rest of the
298 world has just faded away...

299 CARTER (chuckles nervously) Yeah, but without light how can we see to get to
300 the tent?

301 CHRIS Oh, you're joining us in the tent now? I thought you wanted to sleep
302 in the hammock.

303 CARTER No, I just wanted to lay in it a bit. I'm sleeping in the tent.

304 CHRIS I could have sworn you said that your sister kicks in her –

305 CARTER Yeah she does, but I'm not going to make her sleep alone. It's dark,
306 and we're outside, and –

307 CHRIS Carter, you're not scared, are you?

308 CARTER ... no...

309 CHRIS It's ok to be scared. Here.

310 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on lantern. Dim houselights come up)*

311 CHRIS Is that better?

312 CARTER I wasn't –

313 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

314 CARTER What was that?

315 CHRIS I don't know.

316 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

317 CHRIS It's probably just a raccoon.

318 CARTER Yeah?

319 CHRIS Yeah. (Pause) Probably.

320 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants louder)*

321 CHRIS I'm going to check it out.

322 CARTER What? Why?

323 CHRIS So we can see it's a raccoon and then get some sleep. (PAUSE) It's
324 ok. I'm only 5 yards away.

325 CARTER O-o-okay.

326 *(STAGE: CHRIS creeps carefully towards the plants holding up the light. Right as he's*
327 *about to reach it, ELLIE and ARWEN jump out of the plants yelling. CARTER screams*
328 *and tips her chair over, CHRIS yells. ELLIE and ARWEN laugh. CHRIS starts laughing.)*

329 CHRIS Ah, you got us good

330 *(STAGE: CARTER scrambles to her feet)*

331 CARTER That wasn't funny!

332 ARWEN You said you wanted to be scared.

333 CARTER I wasn't scared!

334 ELLIE Sure you weren't sweetie.

335 ARWEN (teasing) Don't worry, I won't let dad tell scary stories tomorrow.

336 CARTER Whatever! I'm going to bed!

337 *(STAGE: CARTER grabs lantern and goes in tent. CHRIS ELLIE and ARWEN follow her*
338 *in. Lights dim when lantern enters tent)*

339 ELLIE (singsong) Goodnight!

340 CARTER (reluctantly) Goodnight.

341 ARWEN (singsong) Love you!

342 CARTER (annoyed) Love you too.

343 CHRIS Don't let the bed bugs—

344 *(STAGE: CARTER turns off light in tent)*

345 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

346 *(STAGE: HOUSE LIGHTS UP)*

347

348 VOICE That was the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company’s “ARTC Halloween
349 Campout.”

350 Featuring the talents of Billy Barefoot, David Benedict, William
351 Brown, Thomas Cage, Ellie Cook, BJ Copeland, Matt Goodson,
352 Joseph Griffiths, Lyssa Hoganson, Arwen Jones, Chris Jones, Clair
353 Kiernan, Daniel Kiernan, Diana Lancaster, Paul Landri, Alice Leigh,
354 Fiona Leonard, Trudy Leonard, Stephen Miller, Carter Mines, Rosi
355 Ringham, Dave Schroeder, Liz Schroeder, Brad Strickland, Anthony
356 Urda, and Hal Wiedeman.

357 Your Foley artists were Retta Bodhaine, Trever Winn, Alexandria
358 Denise and Liz Schroeder.

359 Original music composed and performed by Alton Leonard.

360 Recorded sound effects programmed by Chris Jones and performed
361 by _____. Lighting and sound design by Liam Irwin, Robert Drake,
362 and Retta Bodhaine. Videography and streaming by Brian E Smith.

363 Working the board was _____. The Floor Manager was _____.

364 Your writers were Ron N Butler, David Benedict, Thomas Berry,
365 (Elisabeth Allen or Brad Strickland), Doug Kaye, Retta Bodhaine,
366 and Thomas Fuller.

367 Your directors were Trudy Leonard, David Benedict, Brian E Smith,
368 Madeline McCanless, Robert Drake, Retta Bodhaine and Thomas
369 Cage.

370 Your producer was Retta Bodhaine, and the executive producer was
371 David Benedict.

372 Thank you for coming out tonight, we hope you enjoyed the show.
373 Our next show is back here at the Tucker Rec Center for the 20th
374 anniversary of An Atlanta Christmas on December 14th, 15th, 21st,
375 and 22nd.

376 Follow and like us on Facebook to be the first to know when tickets
377 go on sale.

378 Once again, we are the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company reminding
379 you that...

380 EVERYONE There is Adventure in Sound!

381 (END OF ACT)

Halloween Camp Out 2019

Written by Retta Bodhaine

Cast of Characters

- Featured
 - CHRIS Jones
 - ELLIE Jones
 - CARTER Jones
 - ARWEN Jones
- Also-Heards
 - VOICE of God

1 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 1

2 *(SETTING: We are at a Skidaway Island campsite. Centered is an unlit fire pit. Off to*
3 *stage right is a hammock. Off to stage left a large tent with at least two entrances. One*
4 *entrance is pointed at stage right and the other is pointed at stage left. In the background,*
5 *are many island type plants and trees.)*

6 *(AT RISE: CARTER and ARWEN are in the large tent, hidden from audience view.)*

7 ARWEN But it's not fair!

8 CARTER I don't care.

9 *(STAGE: CARTER exits large tent with tablet in hand and walks towards hammock,*
10 *followed quickly by ARWEN.)*

11 ARWEN How come you get to watch TV and I don't?

12 *(STAGE: CARTER turns and faces ARWEN. Both stop walking)*

13 CARTER Because I brought it.

14 ARWEN But I –

15 CARTER You weren't even supposed to be back yet. I thought you were all
16 about seeing the sloths?

17 ARWEN The sloth center is closed!

18 CARTER Ugh! So now whatever I'm doing is your back up plan? I don't think
19 so.

20 ARWEN But there's nothing to do!

21 *(STAGE: CARTER gets on hammock)*

22 ARWEN I'm gonna tell mom!

23 CARTER Good luck finding her. They've been looking for the camp host for
24 what, 30 minutes now? Pretty sure they don't even know where they
25 are by this point.

26 ARWEN I'll—

27 *(STAGE: CARTER puts on headphones and raises tablet, pointedly ignoring ARWEN.*
28 *ARWEN makes frustrated sound and exits stage left)*

29 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

30 *(SCRIPT: IN THE SHADOWS BENEATH THE TREES)*

31

32 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 2

33 *(AT RISE: CARTER lays in hammock watching tablet with headphones on.)*

34 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CHRIS, and ARWEN enter stage left. CHRIS is carrying firewood.)*

35 ARWEN See! I told you she's watching TV!

36 ELLIE Yes, sweetie. We heard you.

37 *(STAGE: CHRIS puts down firewood next to fire pit and heads over to CARTER in*
38 *hammock. ELLIE walks over to the stage right tent entrance. ELLIE pulls out 4 folding*
39 *chairs, a folding table, a large tote bag, and a cooler from the tent.)*

40 CHRIS Carter, what did we say about this weekend?

41 CARTER That it was going to be family time.

42 CHRIS That's right.

43 CARTER But the family wasn't here yet, so...

44 CHRIS Your sister was.

45 CARTER No she went off to see the sloths.

46 ARWEN But it was closed!

47 CARTER I was her back up choice. Why should I change my plans just because
48 her's fell through?

49 CHRIS You could have let your sister share your plans.

50 CARTER There was gratuitous violence.

51 CHRIS Then you should have watched something else!

52 CARTER It's the only show I downloaded.

53 ELLIE Anyways, we're all here now. So why don't we spend some 'family
54 time' helping me set up.

55 CRTR & ARWN Yes, mom.

56 *(STAGE: CHRIS and CARTER set out folding chairs in a semi-circle around the fire pit*
57 *cheated towards audience. ELLIE and ARWEN set up folding table (upstage center) with*
58 *cooler and tote. Food supplies are unpacked and laid out on table. All this goes on under*
59 *the dialogue.)*

60 ELLIE And once we're set up, we can all enjoy a show together.

61 ARWEN You brought a hotspot thing mom?

62 ELLIE Streaming isn't the only way to enjoy shows, you know. When I used
63 to go camping with my family, my dad would turn on the truck's
64 radio and we'd listen to shows all night while lying under the stars.

65 ARWEN Listen to shows?

66 CARTER Like television without the vision?

67 ELLIE Exactly!

68 ARWEN Then how do you see?

69 CHRIS Remember how we were talking about how when you read a book,
70 your mind fills in details that the author never wrote?

71 CARTER Yes.

72 CHRIS Your mind LOVES to do that. It loves to create. So when you listen
73 to radio dramas, your mind creates everything for you. Your mind
74 gets to picture an entire world!

75 ARWEN But how does it know what to picture?

76 ELLIE Because the people who make audio dramas know that you won't
77 have any visual aids, so they put in sound effects, and verbal cues to
78 help your mind know exactly what it should be picturing.

79 CHRIS And because it's your mind creating everything, you get more into the
80 story. It's like you actually go on the adventure with the characters.

81 ARWEN But aren't those an old people thing?

82 ELLIE Hey!

83 *(STAGE: ELLIE tickles ARWEN mock menacingly. ARWEN squeals and runs to other*
84 *end of table)*

85 CHRIS No they're not. Streaming is actually bringing them back. You can
86 find tons of them on podcasts. My favorite group, the Atlanta Radio
87 Theatre Company, just started live streaming so I can watch or listen
88 to them anywhere.

89 ARWEN So we can watch or listen them on Carter's tablet?

90 CARTER No we can't. There's no Wi-Fi here.

91 ELLIE Actually, we can. They've been creating quality audio drama since
92 1984, and with all that experience, they know that some people or
93 some situations call for *(dramatic gasp)* physical media.

94 *(STAGE: ELLIE pulls CD player and CD carrier out of tote bag with flourish. ELLIE*
95 *with CD player and ARWEN with food items walk to fire pit. ALL sit in chairs.)*

96 CARTER You brought a boom box? Could you be any more 80s?

97 CHRIS Not a boom box, Carter. And don't deflate your mom's enthusiasm.

98 CHRIS & GIRLS *(with audible eye roll)* Only jerks deflate other people's enthusiasm.

99 CARTER Sorry mom.

100 ELLIE Thank you Carter.

101 ARWEN So what did you bring for us to listen to?

102 ELLIE Well they have a whole assortment of choices... *(pause for effect)*

103 *(STAGE: SPOTLIGHTS come up on sales table. Sales associates do their best Vanna*
104 *White impressions. SPOTLIGHTS fade down.)*

105 ELLIE ...but I had just brought some of my Halloween favorites since it is
106 the season.

107 CHRIS So what are we starting with?

108 ELLIE I thought we might start off with something uplifting!

109 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

110 *(SCRIPT: MERCURY)*

111

112 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 3

113 *(AT RISE: Family sits in folding chairs around campfire. Ziploc with trash has replaced*
114 *food.)*

115 CHRIS Well what did you think?

116 ARWEN I liked it!

117 CARTER But it wasn't very Halloweenie

118 ELLIE It was set in the Zombie apocalypse.

119 CARTER Yeah, but it wasn't scary.

120 ELLIE It doesn't have to be scary. It's inspirational! They put it on every day
121 just to send out five minute messages of hope. It's been on the air for
122 750 days, and every day it's something new! Isn't that cool?

123 CARTER ...It could have at least been about ghosts!

124 CHRIS Ok. Ok.

125 *(STAGE: CHRIS Flips CDs.)*

126 CHRIS Why don't we try Haunter Hunters, by Thomas Berry next? Does that
127 sound good to you guys?

128 CR, AN, & EL Yes!

129 *(STAGE: CHRIS plays CD.)*

130 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

131 *(SCRIPT: HAUNTER HUNTERS)*

132

133 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 4

134 *(AT RISE: ARWEN and CARTER sit in folding chairs around campfire. ELLIE is over*
135 *by the folding table, getting s'mores supplies. CHRIS is getting a fire started.)*

136 ARWEN That one was funny. I liked the old ghost lady who thought she was
137 still alive.

138 CARTER She was still alive, Arwen.

139 ARWEN Then why were they in her house?

140 ELLIE They were behaving badly, and I thought it was funny because she
141 caught them.

142 ARWEN Oh yeah, that is funny.

143 CHRIS Do you want to hear another funny one?

144 ARWEN Yeah!

145 CARTER (Groans)

146 CHRIS Now, what's wrong with funny!

147 CARTER It's. not. scary. This is Halloween!

148 ELLIE Carter, watch your tone.

149 CARTER (Takes a deep calming breath) Sorry.

150 CHRIS Maybe we can strike a balance. (flips through case) Ah-ha! Are alien
151 abductions scary to you?

152 CARTER They can be...

153 ELLIE Then let's try, Unresolved Mysteries: UFO Abductions by Ron N.
154 Butler.

155 CHRIS And if you don't like it, then you can pick the next one. Ok?

156 CARTER (hesitantly) ok.

157 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

158 *(SCRIPT: UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES)*

159

160 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 5

161 *(AT RISE: Family is sitting in folding chairs around campfire roasting s'mores. Lit*
162 *lanterns are on the table.)*

163 CARTER My turn to pick!

164 ARWEN Uh-uh! You only got to pick if you didn't like it, and I saw you
165 smiling.

166 CARTER Maybe I was smiling because I knew it was my turn to pick next.

167 ARWEN Liar!

168 ELLIE Arwen, that's not nice.

169 ARWEN But she just wants to pick.

170 CHRIS Carter, did you like it?

171 CARTER I... liked parts of it, but it still wasn't scary enough for me to have
172 really liked it as a Halloween story.

173 CHRIS Arwen, I think she's telling the truth.

174 ARWEN But I didn't get to pick.

175 CHRIS You can pick the ne—

176 ELLIE I think this might be the last story for tonight if we want to get up
177 early for our hike tomorrow, but how about you pick the story
178 tomorrow night?

179 ARWEN Alright.

180 CARTER I want to hear, The Crowded Graveyard by Doug Kaye.

181 *(STAGE: ELLIE Flips through CDs.)*

182 ELLIE I don't see that one here, hon. Do you have it?

183 CHRIS No. Carter, where is it?

184 CARTER I don't know, but I know the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company does it.
185 It was on their Tales from the Dark River album.

186 ELLIE And how do you know that?

187 CARTER (quietly) I looked it up on my phone.

188 ARWEN You said we couldn't use your phone! You said there wasn't any
189 Wifi!

190 CHRIS There isn't.

191 CARTER It was just a quick search. ARTC.org is really easy to find and
192 navigate. It didn't take almost any data at all!

193 *(STAGE: ELLIE holds out hand. CARTER hands over her phone.)*

194 ELLIE Thank you. Now, since we don't have that story –

195 CARTER Mom please?! I really want to hear that one.

196 ELLIE We don't have the CD. How do you propose we do that?

197 CARTER It's available for download on their website and it's on audible.com.
198 It's really easy to –

199 CHRIS Or,

200 *(STAGE: CHRIS holds flashlight under face and turns it on.)*

201 CHRIS I could tell it as a campfire story.

202 CTR & ARN Ooooo

203 CHRIS Honey, get the lights please.

204 *(STAGE: ELLIE stands up and turns off the lamps, theatre lights come down until only
205 the camp fire light is showing.)*

206 CHRIS You guys remember Aunt Sam?

207 CTR & ARN ...no?

208 CHRIS She used to be around a lot more when you were kids. I've known
209 Aunt Sam for a real long time. And she used to be married to this man
210 named Jamie...

211 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

212 *(SCRIPT: THE CROWDED GRAVEYARD)*

213

214 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 6

215 *(AT RISE: Lights are still down. Ellie is at the table. ARWEN, CARTER, and CHRIS are*
216 *sitting in the folding chairs.)*

217 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on flashlight.)*

218 CHRIS So it turns out that little girl was buried at the cemetery, and lucky for
219 Aunt Sam that she was. She saved her from the other ghosts, but she
220 also demanded a price. Uncle Jamie was never the same again, he just
221 couldn't stop giggling. After a while, he and Aunt Sam separated.
222 They never talked about it, but they also never got over that night.
223 Every so often I get a late-night call from Aunt Sam. She says she
224 can't sleep, but over the line I hear it. I hear that little girl giggling.

225 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns off flashlight. ARWEN squeaks. ELLIE turns on lanterns. All*
226 *lights come up.)*

227 CARTER Oh come on, it wasn't that scary. Don't be a baby.

228 ARWEN I'm not being a baby! I was just surprised.

229 CARTER Oh so you want an even scarier story too?

230 ARWEN (clearly does not) I would, but mom said that was the last story.

231 ELLIE Yes, and I meant it. Come on girls, go get your PJs and toothbrushes.
232 It's time to trek to the showers.

233 *(STAGE: ARWEN goes into the tent.)*

234 CARTER Come on mom! The stories just started getting good. Dad hasn't even
235 scared me yet!

236 CHRIS Oh I haven't have I?

237 ELLIE Babe... a little help here.

238 CHRIS Oh, ah, yes. Girls your mother's right. We've got a big hike
239 tomorrow—

240 CARTER But I'm not even tired! I'll just be lying awake in the tent all night,
241 and then I'll be exhausted and cranky on the hike tomorrow.

242 ELLIE I have some chamomile tea you can have before bed.

243 CARTER But if I'm going to stay up to drink the tea, couldn't I drink it while
244 dad tells just one more story?

245 *(STAGE: CHRIS and ELLIE share a knowing look.)*

246 ELLIE Do you absolutely promise to go right to bed afterwards, and to not
247 complain at all on the hike tomorrow?

248 *(STAGE: ARWEN comes out of the tent with everyone's toiletry bags. She hands*
249 *everyone their things.)*

250 ARWEN And to let me pick ALL the stories tomorrow?

251 CARTER Yes, mom. I promise. Please?

252 ELLIE Okay then, but we're getting ready for bed first. Come on, let's hit the
253 showers.

254 VOICE Enjoy your intermission. Act 2 will begin in 10 minutes.

255 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

256 *(SCRIPT: END OF ACT)*

257

258 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 7

259 *(AT RISE: The food and trash are out of sight. Only the lanterns and mugs remain on the*
260 *table. The fire is glowing embers. CHRIS is in PJs and standing by the table finishing*
261 *making the tea.)*

262 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CARTER, and ARWEN enter from stage left carrying their toiletries*
263 *bags. They are now in PJs.)*

264 CHRIS Perfect timing, the tea just finished brewing.

265 (CARTER throws her toiletry bag in the tent and scrambles into a chair.)

266 CHRIS *clears throat* Aren't you forgetting something?

267 *(STAGE: CARTER goes and grabs a mug, and walks carefully but quickly back to her*
268 *chair.)*

269 CARTER Hurry up Arwen! I want to hear the story!

270 ARWEN (Stage whisper) Mom, do I have to? I don't want a scarier story.

271 ELLIE Actually Carter, I'm really tired, and I'd like it if Arwen kept me
272 company until I fall asleep. Is that ok with you?

273 CARTER But then she'll miss it! And it has to be really scary this time.

274 ARWEN It's ok. I want to keep mom company.

275 *(STAGE: ARWEN and ELLIE grab mugs off the table and go into the tent. CHRIS grabs*
276 *his mug and goes to sit in a chair.)*

277 CARTER You're still going to tell me the story, right Dad?

278 CHRIS Are you sure? I think it might be too scary for you.

279 CARTER No, it's not!

280 CHRIS Okay. If you're sure. So, you weren't scared by anything before?

281 CARTER Nu-uh

282 *(STAGE: CARTER shakes her head after each thing CHRIS lists)*

283 CHRIS Not zombies? Or ghost hunters? Or aliens? OR restless spirits? Well,
284 you're in luck, because I know what the scariest thing in the whole
285 wide world is.

286 CARTER What?

287 CHRIS (smiles knowingly but doesn't answer – background noise of the
288 drums and Sayer of the law comes up) It all started on February the
289 first...

290 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

291 *(SCRIPT: THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU)*

292

293 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 8

294 *(AT RISE: CARTER and CHRIS are sitting in chairs. ELLIE and ARWEN are hiding*
295 *behind the plants out of sight of the audience and other cast.)*

296 CARTER Ummm... it got really dark.

297 CHRIS I kind of like it like this. The stars are so bright, and the rest of the
298 world has just faded away...

299 CARTER (chuckles nervously) Yeah, but without light how can we see to get to
300 the tent?

301 CHRIS Oh, you're joining us in the tent now? I thought you wanted to sleep
302 in the hammock.

303 CARTER No, I just wanted to lay in it a bit. I'm sleeping in the tent.

304 CHRIS I could have sworn you said that your sister kicks in her –

305 CARTER Yeah she does, but I'm not going to make her sleep alone. It's dark,
306 and we're outside, and –

307 CHRIS Carter, you're not scared, are you?

308 CARTER ... no...

309 CHRIS It's ok to be scared. Here.

310 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on lantern. Dim houselights come up)*

311 CHRIS Is that better?

312 CARTER I wasn't –

313 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

314 CARTER What was that?

315 CHRIS I don't know.

316 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

317 CHRIS It's probably just a raccoon.

318 CARTER Yeah?

319 CHRIS Yeah. (Pause) Probably.

320 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants louder)*

321 CHRIS I'm going to check it out.

322 CARTER What? Why?

323 CHRIS So we can see it's a raccoon and then get some sleep. (PAUSE) It's
324 ok. I'm only 5 yards away.

325 CARTER O-o-okay.

326 *(STAGE: CHRIS creeps carefully towards the plants holding up the light. Right as he's*
327 *about to reach it, ELLIE and ARWEN jump out of the plants yelling. CARTER screams*
328 *and tips her chair over, CHRIS yells. ELLIE and ARWEN laugh. CHRIS starts laughing.)*

329 CHRIS Ah, you got us good

330 *(STAGE: CARTER scrambles to her feet)*

331 CARTER That wasn't funny!

332 ARWEN You said you wanted to be scared.

333 CARTER I wasn't scared!

334 ELLIE Sure you weren't sweetie.

335 ARWEN (teasing) Don't worry, I won't let dad tell scary stories tomorrow.

336 CARTER Whatever! I'm going to bed!

337 *(STAGE: CARTER grabs lantern and goes in tent. CHRIS ELLIE and ARWEN follow her*
338 *in. Lights dim when lantern enters tent)*

339 ELLIE (singsong) Goodnight!

340 CARTER (reluctantly) Goodnight.

341 ARWEN (singsong) Love you!

342 CARTER (annoyed) Love you too.

343 CHRIS Don't let the bed bugs—

344 *(STAGE: CARTER turns off light in tent)*

345 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

346 *(STAGE: HOUSE LIGHTS UP)*

347

348 VOICE That was the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company’s “ARTC Halloween
349 Campout.”

350 Featuring the talents of Billy Barefoot, David Benedict, William
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374 anniversary of An Atlanta Christmas on December 14th, 15th, 21st,
375 and 22nd.

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377 go on sale.

378 Once again, we are the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company reminding
379 you that...

380 EVERYONE There is Adventure in Sound!

381 (END OF ACT)

Halloween Camp Out 2019

Written by Retta Bodhaine

Cast of Characters

- Featured
 - CHRIS Jones
 - ELLIE Jones
 - CARTER Jones
 - ARWEN Jones
- Also-Heards
 - VOICE of God

1 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 1

2 *(SETTING: We are at a Skidaway Island campsite. Centered is an unlit fire pit. Off to*
3 *stage right is a hammock. Off to stage left a large tent with at least two entrances. One*
4 *entrance is pointed at stage right and the other is pointed at stage left. In the background,*
5 *are many island type plants and trees.)*

6 *(AT RISE: CARTER and ARWEN are in the large tent, hidden from audience view.)*

7 ARWEN But it's not fair!

8 CARTER I don't care.

9 *(STAGE: CARTER exits large tent with tablet in hand and walks towards hammock,*
10 *followed quickly by ARWEN.)*

11 ARWEN How come you get to watch TV and I don't?

12 *(STAGE: CARTER turns and faces ARWEN. Both stop walking)*

13 CARTER Because I brought it.

14 ARWEN But I –

15 CARTER You weren't even supposed to be back yet. I thought you were all
16 about seeing the sloths?

17 ARWEN The sloth center is closed!

18 CARTER Ugh! So now whatever I'm doing is your back up plan? I don't think
19 so.

20 ARWEN But there's nothing to do!

21 *(STAGE: CARTER gets on hammock)*

22 ARWEN I'm gonna tell mom!

23 CARTER Good luck finding her. They've been looking for the camp host for
24 what, 30 minutes now? Pretty sure they don't even know where they
25 are by this point.

26 ARWEN I'll—

27 *(STAGE: CARTER puts on headphones and raises tablet, pointedly ignoring ARWEN.*
28 *ARWEN makes frustrated sound and exits stage left)*

29 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

30 *(SCRIPT: IN THE SHADOWS BENEATH THE TREES)*

31

32 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 2

33 *(AT RISE: CARTER lays in hammock watching tablet with headphones on.)*

34 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CHRIS, and ARWEN enter stage left. CHRIS is carrying firewood.)*

35 ARWEN See! I told you she's watching TV!

36 ELLIE Yes, sweetie. We heard you.

37 *(STAGE: CHRIS puts down firewood next to fire pit and heads over to CARTER in*
38 *hammock. ELLIE walks over to the stage right tent entrance. ELLIE pulls out 4 folding*
39 *chairs, a folding table, a large tote bag, and a cooler from the tent.)*

40 CHRIS Carter, what did we say about this weekend?

41 CARTER That it was going to be family time.

42 CHRIS That's right.

43 CARTER But the family wasn't here yet, so...

44 CHRIS Your sister was.

45 CARTER No she went off to see the sloths.

46 ARWEN But it was closed!

47 CARTER I was her back up choice. Why should I change my plans just because
48 her's fell through?

49 CHRIS You could have let your sister share your plans.

50 CARTER There was gratuitous violence.

51 CHRIS Then you should have watched something else!

52 CARTER It's the only show I downloaded.

53 ELLIE Anyways, we're all here now. So why don't we spend some 'family
54 time' helping me set up.

55 CRTR & ARWN Yes, mom.

56 *(STAGE: CHRIS and CARTER set out folding chairs in a semi-circle around the fire pit*
57 *cheated towards audience. ELLIE and ARWEN set up folding table (upstage center) with*
58 *cooler and tote. Food supplies are unpacked and laid out on table. All this goes on under*
59 *the dialogue.)*

60 ELLIE And once we're set up, we can all enjoy a show together.

61 ARWEN You brought a hotspot thing mom?

62 ELLIE Streaming isn't the only way to enjoy shows, you know. When I used
63 to go camping with my family, my dad would turn on the truck's
64 radio and we'd listen to shows all night while lying under the stars.

65 ARWEN Listen to shows?

66 CARTER Like television without the vision?

67 ELLIE Exactly!

68 ARWEN Then how do you see?

69 CHRIS Remember how we were talking about how when you read a book,
70 your mind fills in details that the author never wrote?

71 CARTER Yes.

72 CHRIS Your mind LOVES to do that. It loves to create. So when you listen
73 to radio dramas, your mind creates everything for you. Your mind
74 gets to picture an entire world!

75 ARWEN But how does it know what to picture?

76 ELLIE Because the people who make audio dramas know that you won't
77 have any visual aids, so they put in sound effects, and verbal cues to
78 help your mind know exactly what it should be picturing.

79 CHRIS And because it's your mind creating everything, you get more into the
80 story. It's like you actually go on the adventure with the characters.

81 ARWEN But aren't those an old people thing?

82 ELLIE Hey!

83 *(STAGE: ELLIE tickles ARWEN mock menacingly. ARWEN squeals and runs to other*
84 *end of table)*

85 CHRIS No they're not. Streaming is actually bringing them back. You can
86 find tons of them on podcasts. My favorite group, the Atlanta Radio
87 Theatre Company, just started live streaming so I can watch or listen
88 to them anywhere.

89 ARWEN So we can watch or listen them on Carter's tablet?

90 CARTER No we can't. There's no Wi-Fi here.

91 ELLIE Actually, we can. They've been creating quality audio drama since
92 1984, and with all that experience, they know that some people or
93 some situations call for *(dramatic gasp)* physical media.

94 *(STAGE: ELLIE pulls CD player and CD carrier out of tote bag with flourish. ELLIE*
95 *with CD player and ARWEN with food items walk to fire pit. ALL sit in chairs.)*

96 CARTER You brought a boom box? Could you be any more 80s?

97 CHRIS Not a boom box, Carter. And don't deflate your mom's enthusiasm.

98 CHRIS & GIRLS *(with audible eye roll)* Only jerks deflate other people's enthusiasm.

99 CARTER Sorry mom.

100 ELLIE Thank you Carter.

101 ARWEN So what did you bring for us to listen to?

102 ELLIE Well they have a whole assortment of choices... *(pause for effect)*

103 *(STAGE: SPOTLIGHTS come up on sales table. Sales associates do their best Vanna*
104 *White impressions. SPOTLIGHTS fade down.)*

105 ELLIE ...but I had just brought some of my Halloween favorites since it is
106 the season.

107 CHRIS So what are we starting with?

108 ELLIE I thought we might start off with something uplifting!

109 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

110 *(SCRIPT: MERCURY)*

111

112 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 3

113 *(AT RISE: Family sits in folding chairs around campfire. Ziploc with trash has replaced*
114 *food.)*

115 CHRIS Well what did you think?

116 ARWEN I liked it!

117 CARTER But it wasn't very Halloweenie

118 ELLIE It was set in the Zombie apocalypse.

119 CARTER Yeah, but it wasn't scary.

120 ELLIE It doesn't have to be scary. It's inspirational! They put it on every day
121 just to send out five minute messages of hope. It's been on the air for
122 750 days, and every day it's something new! Isn't that cool?

123 CARTER ...It could have at least been about ghosts!

124 CHRIS Ok. Ok.

125 *(STAGE: CHRIS Flips CDs.)*

126 CHRIS Why don't we try Haunter Hunters, by Thomas Berry next? Does that
127 sound good to you guys?

128 CR, AN, & EL Yes!

129 *(STAGE: CHRIS plays CD.)*

130 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

131 *(SCRIPT: HAUNTER HUNTERS)*

132

133 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 4

134 *(AT RISE: ARWEN and CARTER sit in folding chairs around campfire. ELLIE is over*
135 *by the folding table, getting s'mores supplies. CHRIS is getting a fire started.)*

136 ARWEN That one was funny. I liked the old ghost lady who thought she was
137 still alive.

138 CARTER She was still alive, Arwen.

139 ARWEN Then why were they in her house?

140 ELLIE They were behaving badly, and I thought it was funny because she
141 caught them.

142 ARWEN Oh yeah, that is funny.

143 CHRIS Do you want to hear another funny one?

144 ARWEN Yeah!

145 CARTER (Groans)

146 CHRIS Now, what's wrong with funny!

147 CARTER It's. not. scary. This is Halloween!

148 ELLIE Carter, watch your tone.

149 CARTER (Takes a deep calming breath) Sorry.

150 CHRIS Maybe we can strike a balance. (flips through case) Ah-ha! Are alien
151 abductions scary to you?

152 CARTER They can be...

153 ELLIE Then let's try, Unresolved Mysteries: UFO Abductions by Ron N.
154 Butler.

155 CHRIS And if you don't like it, then you can pick the next one. Ok?

156 CARTER (hesitantly) ok.

157 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

158 *(SCRIPT: UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES)*

159

160 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 5

161 *(AT RISE: Family is sitting in folding chairs around campfire roasting s'mores. Lit*
162 *lanterns are on the table.)*

163 CARTER My turn to pick!

164 ARWEN Uh-uh! You only got to pick if you didn't like it, and I saw you
165 smiling.

166 CARTER Maybe I was smiling because I knew it was my turn to pick next.

167 ARWEN Liar!

168 ELLIE Arwen, that's not nice.

169 ARWEN But she just wants to pick.

170 CHRIS Carter, did you like it?

171 CARTER I... liked parts of it, but it still wasn't scary enough for me to have
172 really liked it as a Halloween story.

173 CHRIS Arwen, I think she's telling the truth.

174 ARWEN But I didn't get to pick.

175 CHRIS You can pick the ne—

176 ELLIE I think this might be the last story for tonight if we want to get up
177 early for our hike tomorrow, but how about you pick the story
178 tomorrow night?

179 ARWEN Alright.

180 CARTER I want to hear, The Crowded Graveyard by Doug Kaye.

181 *(STAGE: ELLIE Flips through CDs.)*

182 ELLIE I don't see that one here, hon. Do you have it?

183 CHRIS No. Carter, where is it?

184 CARTER I don't know, but I know the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company does it.
185 It was on their Tales from the Dark River album.

186 ELLIE And how do you know that?

187 CARTER (quietly) I looked it up on my phone.

188 ARWEN You said we couldn't use your phone! You said there wasn't any
189 Wifi!

190 CHRIS There isn't.

191 CARTER It was just a quick search. ARTC.org is really easy to find and
192 navigate. It didn't take almost any data at all!

193 *(STAGE: ELLIE holds out hand. CARTER hands over her phone.)*

194 ELLIE Thank you. Now, since we don't have that story –

195 CARTER Mom please?! I really want to hear that one.

196 ELLIE We don't have the CD. How do you propose we do that?

197 CARTER It's available for download on their website and it's on audible.com.
198 It's really easy to –

199 CHRIS Or,

200 *(STAGE: CHRIS holds flashlight under face and turns it on.)*

201 CHRIS I could tell it as a campfire story.

202 CTR & ARN Ooooo

203 CHRIS Honey, get the lights please.

204 *(STAGE: ELLIE stands up and turns off the lamps, theatre lights come down until only
205 the camp fire light is showing.)*

206 CHRIS You guys remember Aunt Sam?

207 CTR & ARN ...no?

208 CHRIS She used to be around a lot more when you were kids. I've known
209 Aunt Sam for a real long time. And she used to be married to this man
210 named Jamie...

211 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

212 *(SCRIPT: THE CROWDED GRAVEYARD)*

213

214 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 6

215 *(AT RISE: Lights are still down. Ellie is at the table. ARWEN, CARTER, and CHRIS are*
216 *sitting in the folding chairs.)*

217 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on flashlight.)*

218 CHRIS So it turns out that little girl was buried at the cemetery, and lucky for
219 Aunt Sam that she was. She saved her from the other ghosts, but she
220 also demanded a price. Uncle Jamie was never the same again, he just
221 couldn't stop giggling. After a while, he and Aunt Sam separated.
222 They never talked about it, but they also never got over that night.
223 Every so often I get a late-night call from Aunt Sam. She says she
224 can't sleep, but over the line I hear it. I hear that little girl giggling.

225 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns off flashlight. ARWEN squeaks. ELLIE turns on lanterns. All*
226 *lights come up.)*

227 CARTER Oh come on, it wasn't that scary. Don't be a baby.

228 ARWEN I'm not being a baby! I was just surprised.

229 CARTER Oh so you want an even scarier story too?

230 ARWEN (clearly does not) I would, but mom said that was the last story.

231 ELLIE Yes, and I meant it. Come on girls, go get your PJs and toothbrushes.
232 It's time to trek to the showers.

233 *(STAGE: ARWEN goes into the tent.)*

234 CARTER Come on mom! The stories just started getting good. Dad hasn't even
235 scared me yet!

236 CHRIS Oh I haven't have I?

237 ELLIE Babe... a little help here.

238 CHRIS Oh, ah, yes. Girls your mother's right. We've got a big hike
239 tomorrow—

240 CARTER But I'm not even tired! I'll just be lying awake in the tent all night,
241 and then I'll be exhausted and cranky on the hike tomorrow.

242 ELLIE I have some chamomile tea you can have before bed.

243 CARTER But if I'm going to stay up to drink the tea, couldn't I drink it while
244 dad tells just one more story?

245 *(STAGE: CHRIS and ELLIE share a knowing look.)*

246 ELLIE Do you absolutely promise to go right to bed afterwards, and to not
247 complain at all on the hike tomorrow?

248 *(STAGE: ARWEN comes out of the tent with everyone's toiletry bags. She hands*
249 *everyone their things.)*

250 ARWEN And to let me pick ALL the stories tomorrow?

251 CARTER Yes, mom. I promise. Please?

252 ELLIE Okay then, but we're getting ready for bed first. Come on, let's hit the
253 showers.

254 VOICE Enjoy your intermission. Act 2 will begin in 10 minutes.

255 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

256 *(SCRIPT: END OF ACT)*

257

258 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 7

259 *(AT RISE: The food and trash are out of sight. Only the lanterns and mugs remain on the*
260 *table. The fire is glowing embers. CHRIS is in PJs and standing by the table finishing*
261 *making the tea.)*

262 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CARTER, and ARWEN enter from stage left carrying their toiletries*
263 *bags. They are now in PJs.)*

264 CHRIS Perfect timing, the tea just finished brewing.

265 (CARTER throws her toiletry bag in the tent and scrambles into a chair.)

266 CHRIS *clears throat* Aren't you forgetting something?

267 *(STAGE: CARTER goes and grabs a mug, and walks carefully but quickly back to her*
268 *chair.)*

269 CARTER Hurry up Arwen! I want to hear the story!

270 ARWEN (Stage whisper) Mom, do I have to? I don't want a scarier story.

271 ELLIE Actually Carter, I'm really tired, and I'd like it if Arwen kept me
272 company until I fall asleep. Is that ok with you?

273 CARTER But then she'll miss it! And it has to be really scary this time.

274 ARWEN It's ok. I want to keep mom company.

275 *(STAGE: ARWEN and ELLIE grab mugs off the table and go into the tent. CHRIS grabs*
276 *his mug and goes to sit in a chair.)*

277 CARTER You're still going to tell me the story, right Dad?

278 CHRIS Are you sure? I think it might be too scary for you.

279 CARTER No, it's not!

280 CHRIS Okay. If you're sure. So, you weren't scared by anything before?

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282 *(STAGE: CARTER shakes her head after each thing CHRIS lists)*

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285 wide world is.

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288 drums and Sayer of the law comes up) It all started on February the
289 first...

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295 *behind the plants out of sight of the audience and other cast.)*

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298 world has just faded away...

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300 the tent?

301 CHRIS Oh, you're joining us in the tent now? I thought you wanted to sleep
302 in the hammock.

303 CARTER No, I just wanted to lay in it a bit. I'm sleeping in the tent.

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310 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on lantern. Dim houselights come up)*

311 CHRIS Is that better?

312 CARTER I wasn't –

313 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

314 CARTER What was that?

315 CHRIS I don't know.

316 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

317 CHRIS It's probably just a raccoon.

318 CARTER Yeah?

319 CHRIS Yeah. (Pause) Probably.

320 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants louder)*

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324 ok. I'm only 5 yards away.

325 CARTER O-o-okay.

326 *(STAGE: CHRIS creeps carefully towards the plants holding up the light. Right as he's*
327 *about to reach it, ELLIE and ARWEN jump out of the plants yelling. CARTER screams*
328 *and tips her chair over, CHRIS yells. ELLIE and ARWEN laugh. CHRIS starts laughing.)*

329 CHRIS Ah, you got us good

330 *(STAGE: CARTER scrambles to her feet)*

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332 ARWEN You said you wanted to be scared.

333 CARTER I wasn't scared!

334 ELLIE Sure you weren't sweetie.

335 ARWEN (teasing) Don't worry, I won't let dad tell scary stories tomorrow.

336 CARTER Whatever! I'm going to bed!

337 *(STAGE: CARTER grabs lantern and goes in tent. CHRIS ELLIE and ARWEN follow her*
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340 CARTER (reluctantly) Goodnight.

341 ARWEN (singsong) Love you!

342 CARTER (annoyed) Love you too.

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1 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 1

2 *(SETTING: We are at a Skidaway Island campsite. Centered is an unlit fire pit. Off to*
3 *stage right is a hammock. Off to stage left a large tent with at least two entrances. One*
4 *entrance is pointed at stage right and the other is pointed at stage left. In the background,*
5 *are many island type plants and trees.)*

6 *(AT RISE: CARTER and ARWEN are in the large tent, hidden from audience view.)*

7 ARWEN But it's not fair!

8 CARTER I don't care.

9 *(STAGE: CARTER exits large tent with tablet in hand and walks towards hammock,*
10 *followed quickly by ARWEN.)*

11 ARWEN How come you get to watch TV and I don't?

12 *(STAGE: CARTER turns and faces ARWEN. Both stop walking)*

13 CARTER Because I brought it.

14 ARWEN But I –

15 CARTER You weren't even supposed to be back yet. I thought you were all
16 about seeing the sloths?

17 ARWEN The sloth center is closed!

18 CARTER Ugh! So now whatever I'm doing is your back up plan? I don't think
19 so.

20 ARWEN But there's nothing to do!

21 *(STAGE: CARTER gets on hammock)*

22 ARWEN I'm gonna tell mom!

23 CARTER Good luck finding her. They've been looking for the camp host for
24 what, 30 minutes now? Pretty sure they don't even know where they
25 are by this point.

26 ARWEN I'll—

27 *(STAGE: CARTER puts on headphones and raises tablet, pointedly ignoring ARWEN.*
28 *ARWEN makes frustrated sound and exits stage left)*

29 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

30 *(SCRIPT: IN THE SHADOWS BENEATH THE TREES)*

31

32 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 2

33 *(AT RISE: CARTER lays in hammock watching tablet with headphones on.)*

34 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CHRIS, and ARWEN enter stage left. CHRIS is carrying firewood.)*

35 ARWEN See! I told you she's watching TV!

36 ELLIE Yes, sweetie. We heard you.

37 *(STAGE: CHRIS puts down firewood next to fire pit and heads over to CARTER in*
38 *hammock. ELLIE walks over to the stage right tent entrance. ELLIE pulls out 4 folding*
39 *chairs, a folding table, a large tote bag, and a cooler from the tent.)*

40 CHRIS Carter, what did we say about this weekend?

41 CARTER That it was going to be family time.

42 CHRIS That's right.

43 CARTER But the family wasn't here yet, so...

44 CHRIS Your sister was.

45 CARTER No she went off to see the sloths.

46 ARWEN But it was closed!

47 CARTER I was her back up choice. Why should I change my plans just because
48 her's fell through?

49 CHRIS You could have let your sister share your plans.

50 CARTER There was gratuitous violence.

51 CHRIS Then you should have watched something else!

52 CARTER It's the only show I downloaded.

53 ELLIE Anyways, we're all here now. So why don't we spend some 'family
54 time' helping me set up.

55 CRTR & ARWN Yes, mom.

56 *(STAGE: CHRIS and CARTER set out folding chairs in a semi-circle around the fire pit*
57 *cheated towards audience. ELLIE and ARWEN set up folding table (upstage center) with*
58 *cooler and tote. Food supplies are unpacked and laid out on table. All this goes on under*
59 *the dialogue.)*

60 ELLIE And once we're set up, we can all enjoy a show together.

61 ARWEN You brought a hotspot thing mom?

62 ELLIE Streaming isn't the only way to enjoy shows, you know. When I used
63 to go camping with my family, my dad would turn on the truck's
64 radio and we'd listen to shows all night while lying under the stars.

65 ARWEN Listen to shows?

66 CARTER Like television without the vision?

67 ELLIE Exactly!

68 ARWEN Then how do you see?

69 CHRIS Remember how we were talking about how when you read a book,
70 your mind fills in details that the author never wrote?

71 CARTER Yes.

72 CHRIS Your mind LOVES to do that. It loves to create. So when you listen
73 to radio dramas, your mind creates everything for you. Your mind
74 gets to picture an entire world!

75 ARWEN But how does it know what to picture?

76 ELLIE Because the people who make audio dramas know that you won't
77 have any visual aids, so they put in sound effects, and verbal cues to
78 help your mind know exactly what it should be picturing.

79 CHRIS And because it's your mind creating everything, you get more into the
80 story. It's like you actually go on the adventure with the characters.

81 ARWEN But aren't those an old people thing?

82 ELLIE Hey!

83 *(STAGE: ELLIE tickles ARWEN mock menacingly. ARWEN squeals and runs to other*
84 *end of table)*

85 CHRIS No they're not. Streaming is actually bringing them back. You can
86 find tons of them on podcasts. My favorite group, the Atlanta Radio
87 Theatre Company, just started live streaming so I can watch or listen
88 to them anywhere.

89 ARWEN So we can watch or listen them on Carter's tablet?

90 CARTER No we can't. There's no Wi-Fi here.

91 ELLIE Actually, we can. They've been creating quality audio drama since
92 1984, and with all that experience, they know that some people or
93 some situations call for *(dramatic gasp)* physical media.

94 *(STAGE: ELLIE pulls CD player and CD carrier out of tote bag with flourish. ELLIE*
95 *with CD player and ARWEN with food items walk to fire pit. ALL sit in chairs.)*

96 CARTER You brought a boom box? Could you be any more 80s?

97 CHRIS Not a boom box, Carter. And don't deflate your mom's enthusiasm.

98 CHRIS & GIRLS *(with audible eye roll)* Only jerks deflate other people's enthusiasm.

99 CARTER Sorry mom.

100 ELLIE Thank you Carter.

101 ARWEN So what did you bring for us to listen to?

102 ELLIE Well they have a whole assortment of choices... *(pause for effect)*

103 *(STAGE: SPOTLIGHTS come up on sales table. Sales associates do their best Vanna*
104 *White impressions. SPOTLIGHTS fade down.)*

105 ELLIE ...but I had just brought some of my Halloween favorites since it is
106 the season.

107 CHRIS So what are we starting with?

108 ELLIE I thought we might start off with something uplifting!

109 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

110 *(SCRIPT: MERCURY)*

111

112 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 3

113 *(AT RISE: Family sits in folding chairs around campfire. Ziploc with trash has replaced*
114 *food.)*

115 CHRIS Well what did you think?

116 ARWEN I liked it!

117 CARTER But it wasn't very Halloweenie

118 ELLIE It was set in the Zombie apocalypse.

119 CARTER Yeah, but it wasn't scary.

120 ELLIE It doesn't have to be scary. It's inspirational! They put it on every day
121 just to send out five minute messages of hope. It's been on the air for
122 750 days, and every day it's something new! Isn't that cool?

123 CARTER ...It could have at least been about ghosts!

124 CHRIS Ok. Ok.

125 *(STAGE: CHRIS Flips CDs.)*

126 CHRIS Why don't we try Haunter Hunters, by Thomas Berry next? Does that
127 sound good to you guys?

128 CR, AN, & EL Yes!

129 *(STAGE: CHRIS plays CD.)*

130 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

131 *(SCRIPT: HAUNTER HUNTERS)*

132

133 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 4

134 *(AT RISE: ARWEN and CARTER sit in folding chairs around campfire. ELLIE is over*
135 *by the folding table, getting s'mores supplies. CHRIS is getting a fire started.)*

136 ARWEN That one was funny. I liked the old ghost lady who thought she was
137 still alive.

138 CARTER She was still alive, Arwen.

139 ARWEN Then why were they in her house?

140 ELLIE They were behaving badly, and I thought it was funny because she
141 caught them.

142 ARWEN Oh yeah, that is funny.

143 CHRIS Do you want to hear another funny one?

144 ARWEN Yeah!

145 CARTER (Groans)

146 CHRIS Now, what's wrong with funny!

147 CARTER It's. not. scary. This is Halloween!

148 ELLIE Carter, watch your tone.

149 CARTER (Takes a deep calming breath) Sorry.

150 CHRIS Maybe we can strike a balance. (flips through case) Ah-ha! Are alien
151 abductions scary to you?

152 CARTER They can be...

153 ELLIE Then let's try, Unresolved Mysteries: UFO Abductions by Ron N.
154 Butler.

155 CHRIS And if you don't like it, then you can pick the next one. Ok?

156 CARTER (hesitantly) ok.

157 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

158 *(SCRIPT: UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES)*

159

160 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 5

161 *(AT RISE: Family is sitting in folding chairs around campfire roasting s'mores. Lit*
162 *lanterns are on the table.)*

163 CARTER My turn to pick!

164 ARWEN Uh-uh! You only got to pick if you didn't like it, and I saw you
165 smiling.

166 CARTER Maybe I was smiling because I knew it was my turn to pick next.

167 ARWEN Liar!

168 ELLIE Arwen, that's not nice.

169 ARWEN But she just wants to pick.

170 CHRIS Carter, did you like it?

171 CARTER I... liked parts of it, but it still wasn't scary enough for me to have
172 really liked it as a Halloween story.

173 CHRIS Arwen, I think she's telling the truth.

174 ARWEN But I didn't get to pick.

175 CHRIS You can pick the ne—

176 ELLIE I think this might be the last story for tonight if we want to get up
177 early for our hike tomorrow, but how about you pick the story
178 tomorrow night?

179 ARWEN Alright.

180 CARTER I want to hear, The Crowded Graveyard by Doug Kaye.

181 *(STAGE: ELLIE Flips through CDs.)*

182 ELLIE I don't see that one here, hon. Do you have it?

183 CHRIS No. Carter, where is it?

184 CARTER I don't know, but I know the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company does it.
185 It was on their Tales from the Dark River album.

186 ELLIE And how do you know that?

187 CARTER (quietly) I looked it up on my phone.

188 ARWEN You said we couldn't use your phone! You said there wasn't any
189 Wifi!

190 CHRIS There isn't.

191 CARTER It was just a quick search. ARTC.org is really easy to find and
192 navigate. It didn't take almost any data at all!

193 *(STAGE: ELLIE holds out hand. CARTER hands over her phone.)*

194 ELLIE Thank you. Now, since we don't have that story –

195 CARTER Mom please?! I really want to hear that one.

196 ELLIE We don't have the CD. How do you propose we do that?

197 CARTER It's available for download on their website and it's on audible.com.
198 It's really easy to –

199 CHRIS Or,

200 *(STAGE: CHRIS holds flashlight under face and turns it on.)*

201 CHRIS I could tell it as a campfire story.

202 CTR & ARN Ooooo

203 CHRIS Honey, get the lights please.

204 *(STAGE: ELLIE stands up and turns off the lamps, theatre lights come down until only
205 the camp fire light is showing.)*

206 CHRIS You guys remember Aunt Sam?

207 CTR & ARN ...no?

208 CHRIS She used to be around a lot more when you were kids. I've known
209 Aunt Sam for a real long time. And she used to be married to this man
210 named Jamie...

211 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

212 *(SCRIPT: THE CROWDED GRAVEYARD)*

213

214 ACT 1: VIGNETTE 6

215 *(AT RISE: Lights are still down. Ellie is at the table. ARWEN, CARTER, and CHRIS are*
216 *sitting in the folding chairs.)*

217 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on flashlight.)*

218 CHRIS So it turns out that little girl was buried at the cemetery, and lucky for
219 Aunt Sam that she was. She saved her from the other ghosts, but she
220 also demanded a price. Uncle Jamie was never the same again, he just
221 couldn't stop giggling. After a while, he and Aunt Sam separated.
222 They never talked about it, but they also never got over that night.
223 Every so often I get a late-night call from Aunt Sam. She says she
224 can't sleep, but over the line I hear it. I hear that little girl giggling.

225 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns off flashlight. ARWEN squeaks. ELLIE turns on lanterns. All*
226 *lights come up.)*

227 CARTER Oh come on, it wasn't that scary. Don't be a baby.

228 ARWEN I'm not being a baby! I was just surprised.

229 CARTER Oh so you want an even scarier story too?

230 ARWEN (clearly does not) I would, but mom said that was the last story.

231 ELLIE Yes, and I meant it. Come on girls, go get your PJs and toothbrushes.
232 It's time to trek to the showers.

233 *(STAGE: ARWEN goes into the tent.)*

234 CARTER Come on mom! The stories just started getting good. Dad hasn't even
235 scared me yet!

236 CHRIS Oh I haven't have I?

237 ELLIE Babe... a little help here.

238 CHRIS Oh, ah, yes. Girls your mother's right. We've got a big hike
239 tomorrow—

240 CARTER But I'm not even tired! I'll just be lying awake in the tent all night,
241 and then I'll be exhausted and cranky on the hike tomorrow.

242 ELLIE I have some chamomile tea you can have before bed.

243 CARTER But if I'm going to stay up to drink the tea, couldn't I drink it while
244 dad tells just one more story?

245 *(STAGE: CHRIS and ELLIE share a knowing look.)*

246 ELLIE Do you absolutely promise to go right to bed afterwards, and to not
247 complain at all on the hike tomorrow?

248 *(STAGE: ARWEN comes out of the tent with everyone's toiletry bags. She hands*
249 *everyone their things.)*

250 ARWEN And to let me pick ALL the stories tomorrow?

251 CARTER Yes, mom. I promise. Please?

252 ELLIE Okay then, but we're getting ready for bed first. Come on, let's hit the
253 showers.

254 VOICE Enjoy your intermission. Act 2 will begin in 10 minutes.

255 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

256 *(SCRIPT: END OF ACT)*

257

258 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 7

259 *(AT RISE: The food and trash are out of sight. Only the lanterns and mugs remain on the*
260 *table. The fire is glowing embers. CHRIS is in PJs and standing by the table finishing*
261 *making the tea.)*

262 *(STAGE: ELLIE, CARTER, and ARWEN enter from stage left carrying their toiletries*
263 *bags. They are now in PJs.)*

264 CHRIS Perfect timing, the tea just finished brewing.

265 (CARTER throws her toiletry bag in the tent and scrambles into a chair.)

266 CHRIS *clears throat* Aren't you forgetting something?

267 *(STAGE: CARTER goes and grabs a mug, and walks carefully but quickly back to her*
268 *chair.)*

269 CARTER Hurry up Arwen! I want to hear the story!

270 ARWEN (Stage whisper) Mom, do I have to? I don't want a scarier story.

271 ELLIE Actually Carter, I'm really tired, and I'd like it if Arwen kept me
272 company until I fall asleep. Is that ok with you?

273 CARTER But then she'll miss it! And it has to be really scary this time.

274 ARWEN It's ok. I want to keep mom company.

275 *(STAGE: ARWEN and ELLIE grab mugs off the table and go into the tent. CHRIS grabs*
276 *his mug and goes to sit in a chair.)*

277 CARTER You're still going to tell me the story, right Dad?

278 CHRIS Are you sure? I think it might be too scary for you.

279 CARTER No, it's not!

280 CHRIS Okay. If you're sure. So, you weren't scared by anything before?

281 CARTER Nu-uh

282 *(STAGE: CARTER shakes her head after each thing CHRIS lists)*

283 CHRIS Not zombies? Or ghost hunters? Or aliens? OR restless spirits? Well,
284 you're in luck, because I know what the scariest thing in the whole
285 wide world is.

286 CARTER What?

287 CHRIS (smiles knowingly but doesn't answer – background noise of the
288 drums and Sayer of the law comes up) It all started on February the
289 first...

290 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

291 *(SCRIPT: THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU)*

292

293 ACT 2: VIGNETTE 8

294 *(AT RISE: CARTER and CHRIS are sitting in chairs. ELLIE and ARWEN are hiding*
295 *behind the plants out of sight of the audience and other cast.)*

296 CARTER Ummm... it got really dark.

297 CHRIS I kind of like it like this. The stars are so bright, and the rest of the
298 world has just faded away...

299 CARTER (chuckles nervously) Yeah, but without light how can we see to get to
300 the tent?

301 CHRIS Oh, you're joining us in the tent now? I thought you wanted to sleep
302 in the hammock.

303 CARTER No, I just wanted to lay in it a bit. I'm sleeping in the tent.

304 CHRIS I could have sworn you said that your sister kicks in her –

305 CARTER Yeah she does, but I'm not going to make her sleep alone. It's dark,
306 and we're outside, and –

307 CHRIS Carter, you're not scared, are you?

308 CARTER ... no...

309 CHRIS It's ok to be scared. Here.

310 *(STAGE: CHRIS turns on lantern. Dim houselights come up)*

311 CHRIS Is that better?

312 CARTER I wasn't –

313 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

314 CARTER What was that?

315 CHRIS I don't know.

316 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants)*

317 CHRIS It's probably just a raccoon.

318 CARTER Yeah?

319 CHRIS Yeah. (Pause) Probably.

320 *(STAGE: ELLIE and ARWEN rustle the plants louder)*

321 CHRIS I'm going to check it out.

322 CARTER What? Why?

323 CHRIS So we can see it's a raccoon and then get some sleep. (PAUSE) It's
324 ok. I'm only 5 yards away.

325 CARTER O-o-okay.

326 *(STAGE: CHRIS creeps carefully towards the plants holding up the light. Right as he's*
327 *about to reach it, ELLIE and ARWEN jump out of the plants yelling. CARTER screams*
328 *and tips her chair over, CHRIS yells. ELLIE and ARWEN laugh. CHRIS starts laughing.)*

329 CHRIS Ah, you got us good

330 *(STAGE: CARTER scrambles to her feet)*

331 CARTER That wasn't funny!

332 ARWEN You said you wanted to be scared.

333 CARTER I wasn't scared!

334 ELLIE Sure you weren't sweetie.

335 ARWEN (teasing) Don't worry, I won't let dad tell scary stories tomorrow.

336 CARTER Whatever! I'm going to bed!

337 *(STAGE: CARTER grabs lantern and goes in tent. CHRIS ELLIE and ARWEN follow her*
338 *in. Lights dim when lantern enters tent)*

339 ELLIE (singsong) Goodnight!

340 CARTER (reluctantly) Goodnight.

341 ARWEN (singsong) Love you!

342 CARTER (annoyed) Love you too.

343 CHRIS Don't let the bed bugs—

344 *(STAGE: CARTER turns off light in tent)*

345 *(STAGE: BLACK OUT)*

346 *(STAGE: HOUSE LIGHTS UP)*

347

348 VOICE That was the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company’s “ARTC Halloween
349 Campout.”

350 Featuring the talents of Billy Barefoot, David Benedict, William
351 Brown, Thomas Cage, Ellie Cook, BJ Copeland, Matt Goodson,
352 Joseph Griffiths, Lyssa Hoganson, Arwen Jones, Chris Jones, Clair
353 Kiernan, Daniel Kiernan, Diana Lancaster, Paul Landri, Alice Leigh,
354 Fiona Leonard, Trudy Leonard, Stephen Miller, Carter Mines, Rosi
355 Ringham, Dave Schroeder, Liz Schroeder, Brad Strickland, Anthony
356 Urda, and Hal Wiedeman.

357 Your Foley artists were Retta Bodhaine, Trever Winn, Alexandria
358 Denise and Liz Schroeder.

359 Original music composed and performed by Alton Leonard.

360 Recorded sound effects programmed by Chris Jones and performed
361 by _____. Lighting and sound design by Liam Irwin, Robert Drake,
362 and Retta Bodhaine. Videography and streaming by Brian E Smith.

363 Working the board was _____. The Floor Manager was _____.

364 Your writers were Ron N Butler, David Benedict, Thomas Berry,
365 (Elisabeth Allen or Brad Strickland), Doug Kaye, Retta Bodhaine,
366 and Thomas Fuller.

367 Your directors were Trudy Leonard, David Benedict, Brian E Smith,
368 Madeline McCanness, Robert Drake, Retta Bodhaine and Thomas
369 Cage.

370 Your producer was Retta Bodhaine, and the executive producer was
371 David Benedict.

372 Thank you for coming out tonight, we hope you enjoyed the show.
373 Our next show is back here at the Tucker Rec Center for the 20th
374 anniversary of An Atlanta Christmas on December 14th, 15th, 21st,
375 and 22nd.

376 Follow and like us on Facebook to be the first to know when tickets
377 go on sale.

378 Once again, we are the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company reminding
379 you that...

380 EVERYONE There is Adventure in Sound!

381 (END OF ACT)