

DOCTOR WHO



Haunted
Part One

By Joseph Lidster

Part One

I wake up. And I'm cold. It's dark and I'm cold.

Where am I?

There's a light bulb hanging from the ceiling and everything smells of damp. I feel like I'm underground. There are old brick walls and no windows. It definitely feels as if I'm underground. But where?

And then I remember. The dare. It started with a dare.

Well, really it started YEARS ago when I was just a little kid and I accidentally called Mrs Latif "mum" in front of everyone and everyone laughed at me and he laughed at me. Dan Hinchliffe, my best friend, he laughed at me and the other kids started to like him and not like me and now I'm 13. My name is Ross McNamara, I'm 13, and I'm weird. I'm clever and the teachers like me but hardly any of the kids do.

And that's why I came to the school basement. Dan dared me to. He dared me to come to the basement to try and find the Ghost. And I did come to the basement but... why am I still here? What happened? Sometimes Mum's boyfriend Terry wakes up and can't remember what he did the night before but Mum says that's just because he had too much to drink which means he didn't mean to do what he did. I think you should take responsibility for your own actions.

Why am I still in the basement? Was I attacked by the Ghost? Do ghosts attack people? No! Ghosts aren't real. Only the Year Sevens really believe in the Ghost and that's just because they're little kids. I don't believe in the Ghost because I don't believe in things that

can't be scientifically proven. That's why I came here. It wasn't because I wanted those idiots to like me. Honest.

Ghosts aren't real and I came here to prove that.

So why am I still here?

I stand up. I walk over to the door and I start to panic that Dan and the others might have locked me in. It's what they do. I reach for the door handle and I turn it and... it opens! I quickly walk out of the basement then stop. What was that? There was a noise behind me. Something... scratching? Scratching on the old brick wall.

Just a mouse. Or a rat. Not the Ghost. Definitely not the Ghost.

I leave the basement and climb the stairs and I'm in the corridor. The lights are on but I can't see anyone. And then I realise I can't hear anyone. And that's weird. A silent school is weird. The corridor is festooned with Christmas decorations. I like the word festooned. I read it once in a book. The corridor is festooned in Christmas decorations and rubbish drawings of Father Christmas and Christmas trees and it's silent. There's no laughing, no running, no shouting... no quiet crying from the toilets. It's like my school is broken. I look at the clock on the wall and it says it is 8:47. It's dark outside so it must be 8:47 at night.

I've been locked in. Everyone has gone home for the Christmas holiday and I've been locked in. I should panic about this but I'm not stupid. I know where the doors are and although the silent school is weird there's also something nice about it. School without the other kids would be perfect.

But, I need to get home. Mum will need help with the presents for Terry and I can't stay in school forever. I start to walk down the silent corridor in the silent school.

Tap. Tap. Tap. My feet echo loudly. At one point I do a little skip to hear the beat of my shoes change. It's funny.

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Tap. Tap. Tap. *Tap.*

That was weird. That last tap wasn't me.

I stop. Then I take one step.

Tap.

I wait.

Tap.

That wasn't me. Someone else is here.

Tap. *Tap.* Tap. *Tap.*

Someone else is here and they're playing with me and I hate that! *Don't hit yourself, Ross. Why are you hitting yourself, Ross?* I won't get angry though. They hate it when I don't get angry and try to fight back. And they're just jealous anyway and who needs them as friends. And, that's not the Ghost. I bet it's Dan.

I reach the main door and look outside through the glass. It's dark and I can't see anyone so I push on the door. It won't open. Obviously. The school is locked up for the Christmas holidays. I haven't got a phone, not since Terry lost mine. But I won't panic. I won't panic even though I can hear *tap... tap... tap... tap...* It's getting close but I'm not scared. I'm not a kid, I'm 13 and I'm not scared.

I go to one of the big windows. It's festooned with paper snowflakes. I look for the catch to open it and... it's gone. I push on the window. I can't open it. I can't open the door and I can't open the window. I won't panic. I'll try every window.



Tap... tap... tap...

But the tapping is getting closer. And now there's a different sound.

Chink. Chink. Chink.

I look down the corridor. I look down past the classrooms and down towards the entrance to the basement. And the lights are going out. One by one.

Chink. Chink. Chink.

And the footsteps are getting closer.

Tap. Chink. Tap. Chink. Tap. Chi-

And suddenly there's a roaring sound and wind is blowing the paper snowflakes all around me and suddenly there's a big blue box in front of the secretary's office and a door's opening and there's this bright light and an old man is standing across from me and he looks angry with me before he smiles.

"Hello," he says. "I'm the Doctor."

He looks down the corridor into the darkness and then he looks back at me with big wide eyes.

"Run."

To be continued...

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