

✓

The Haunted House



A Photo-play Comedy

By

Lincoln J. Carter



Copyright 1915

By LINCOLN J. CARTER

CAST OF CHARACTERS



WOMEN

Mrs. Byron
Mrs. Sloan
Mrs. May
Mrs. Steadman
Mrs. Fayette
Mrs. Dean
Mrs. Tallman
Mrs. Decker
Mrs. Wheeler
Mrs. Toney

GIRLS

Nora
Belle
Florence
Fay
Gertrude
Kitty
Annie
Sally
Eva
Susie
Della
Kate
Josie
Colored Girl

MEN

Mr. Stewart
Mr. Bell
Mr. Rose
Mr. Brown
Mr. Styles
Dr. Smith
Dr. Green
Mr. Bush
Mr. Pridmore
Mr. Gurney
Mr. Lake
Dry Goods Merchant
The Druggist
The Property Man
3 Firemen
Chief of Fire Dept.

BOYS

Dick
Frank
Joe
Dolph
Tom
Allen
Jeffrey
Ned
Clarence
Ghost
Black Knight
Leader of the Lodge
9 Lodge Members
Colored Boy

AUG 23 1915

©CLA 412116

20,

2000 Aug. 31 '15

The Haunted House

SCENE 1.

For some little time there had been rumors that the empty house on the old Jordan place was haunted and now Mose and Chloe are certain of it because when walking past at night they both see a ghostly figure appear in the doorway, waving its arms, and acting in the regulation "spooky" manner. They give a terror stricken look, turn and flee.

SCENE 2.

On the sidewalk in front of a residence Dick, Frank and Joe are chatting with Nora, Belle and Florence, when Dolph appears and makes several mysterious signs to the boys who respond in like manner, hastily excuse themselves and leave. The girls are surprised, curious and resentful. They do not relish being left so abruptly, and surround Dolph, seeking an explanation. Dolph only smiles patronizingly, shakes his head and leaves them still wondering.

SCENE 3.

The same evening, Nora, Fay, Gertrude and Kitty are walking past the Haunted House when the ghost again appears and upon seeing it they are overcome with fright and run, screaming, away.

SCENE 4.

Seated on a garden seat in a park or on a lawn, Clarence is being very attentive to Annie, and has no thoughts for anything but her. Suddenly he raises his head and listens. His face shows anxiety and fear.

At one side, partially hidden by the bushes the "Black Knight" is shown giving a peculiar call (Scene 5).

As Clarence hears the call he jumps up, starts to leave then remembering Annie hastily excuses himself and goes. Annie gazes after him in wonder and resentment. Just then Nora, Fay, Gertrude and Kitty rush in out of breath and tell of the Ghost. All show consternation.

SCENE 6.

At the Haunted House the Ghost is seen at the door, the Black Knight arrives, greets the Ghost with a mysterious sign. Clarence follows almost immediately and gives the hailing sign. All turn and enter the house.

SCENE 7.

Inside the Haunted House the Ghost, Black Knight and Clarence are seen to enter, cross the floor, lift a trap door and go down into the cellar.

SCENE 8.

The cellar of the Haunted House is shown fitted up as a lodge room, with lodge altar, candles, skulls and regular lodge settings. The ladder can be seen in one corner. Ten boys dressed in lodge robes and wearing masks are shown pointing knives at the bared breast of Clarence, from whose eyes a blindfold is then lifted.

SCENE 8.

The leader of the lodge then has Clarence place his left hand on a skull and cross bones, raise his right hand, and repeat the solemn promise of the newly initiated.

THE PROMISE

"I solemnly promise to buy one REMMAH NORI and bring to next meeting or suffer the penalty".

The Penalty. The scene then fades and shows the same lodge members standing around Clarence who is tied and suspended head downward over a smoking caldron. (Scene 9)

Scene fades back to the lodge room, Clarence lowers his right hand, affrightedly takes a paper from the leader of the lodge, and ascends the ladder. Boys remove their masks and all laugh.

SCENE 10.

In front of a residence Mrs. Byron, Mrs. Slogan, Mrs. May, and Mrs. Steadman are talking, when Clarence, in search of the mysterious REMMAH NORI, rushes up, shows them the paper and asks their assistance. They all look at him in blank astonishment, shake their heads, and look after him in wonderment as he leaves.

SCENE 11.

Mr. Stewart, Mr. Bell, Mr. Smith and Mr. Brown are standing in front of a store or hotel. Clarence rushes in and propounds his query. They shake their heads and indicate their belief that he is not all right mentally, as he leaves them in sore disappointment.

SCENE 12.

On a box at the side of a store or some out of the way place, Clarence is seated, very much worried and in deep thought. The leader of the lodge, Tom and Allen sneak up behind him, place a black bordered paper, bearing skull and cross bones, on the box and retire. Clarence turns, sees the paper and in terror reads:—

"BEWARE THE PENALTY".

He leaves very much frightened and the boys all laugh.

SCENE 13.

The front of a Dry Goods store. Mrs. Fayette and Mrs. Dean are just entering. The proprietor of the store bows to them. May, Sally and Eva are looking in the window and pointing at the goods. Clarence comes up and asks the proprietor if he has a REMMAH NORI. The proprietor shakes his head, and Clarence groans, drops his hands in despair and goes, as the lodge leader, Tom, Jeffrey and Ned appear and laugh at him.

SCENE 14.

In front of a drug store. Mrs. Tallman, and Mrs. Decker are coming out. The druggist follows them out to say a last word. Just then Mr. Styles and Dr. Smith come up as Clarence runs in, hurriedly questions the druggist and rushes on. Dr. Green, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Toney join the group, and all look at Clarence in amazement and then at each other in wonderment.

SCENE 15.

A park or lawn at night. Dick and Nora, Frank and Florence seated on benches and very much interested in each other.

A view of the Black Knight giving the secret call is given.

Dick and Frank, upon hearing the call, jump up and hurriedly leave. The girls are angry and indignant and as Susie and Della approach they tell them what has occurred and they speculate as to what it can all mean.

SCENE 16.

Interior of a boys' room—Clarence is seated at a table with bandaged head, ruffled hair and plainly shows that he is worried. He is intently studying the mysterious paper when he happens to glance into a hand mirror and reads it backwards when he discovers that he has been in search of an IRON HAMMER. His relief of mind is at once apparent as he smiles, tears the bandage from his head, puts on his coat and hat and runs out.

SCENE 17.

Clarence who has found the REMMAH NORI is seen sneaking through the bushes toward the Haunted House.

Nora, Florence, Minnie and Susie suspecting something on account of his peculiar actions, stealthily follow him and see him enter the Haunted House. (Scene 18)

(Back to Scene 17). All at once the reason for the odd conduct of the boys dawns upon the girls and they plan to play a huge joke "to get even".

SCENE 19.

Nora's brother is the "property man" at the Opera House and he agrees to help them and suggests that they create a "stage fire" at the Haunted House when the boys are all assembled, and he shows them how to light and manipulate a "smoke pot" and "flame flash box". The

girls agree to the plan, take the apparatus and leave laughing and giggling.

SCENE 20.

That night, Kate, Annie, Kitty, Susie, Gertrude and Belle are watching with suppressed excitement as Nora, Fay and Florence slip through the bushes towards the Haunted House.

SCENE 21.

Nora, Florence and Fay enter the Haunted House on their tip toes, cautioning each other to be quiet and listen intently.

SCENE 22.

In the cellar of the Haunted House, Clarence is seen giving the hammer to the lodge leader. The leader shakes him by the hand and to show that he is now really one of them the boys take off their masks, show their approval of his success and welcome him enthusiastically.

SCENE 23.

In the interior Fay and Florence are seen lighting the smoke pots, while Nora works the flame flash box.

SCENE 24.

Exterior of the Haunted House with smoke and flames showing at the windows.

SCENE 25.

Joe Saunders, Mr. Pridmore, Tom Gurney and Lake are walking past when they see the flames and excitedly run to give the alarm.

SCENE 26.

A big fire bell is seen ringing.

SCENE 27.

Up the street the fire department is seen coming at full speed, followed by the crowds who are always anxious to watch a fire.

SCENE 28.

Three firemen approach the house with the hose and the first gush of the water is seen.

SCENE 29.

Nora, Florence and Fay are busily engaged with their "stage fire" and are having lots of fun, when Florence suddenly glances through the window and they disappear without detection.

SCENE 30.

The firemen turn the stream of water in to the windows of the house.

SCENE 31.

Shows the interior of the house with a stream of water coming in.

SCENE 32.

In the meantime the lodge is still at work in the cellar and so busily are they engaged that they do not notice anything unusual until water begins to come through the ceiling. The boys look up in astonishment, hesitate a moment and then all rush for the ladder and start to climb up.

SCENE 33.

Tom is the first to reach the ladder, closely followed by Joe and Dick. They are seen coming up through the trap door and as each one is almost through he gets a full spurt of the stream from the hose and falls back.

SCENE 34.

In the yard of the Haunted House, Nora, Florence and Fay with the other girls and a crowd of people are standing about. The lodge leader, Tom, Joe and Dick come in all wet. The girls giggle and laugh at them. The Chief of the Fire Department then enters with the smoke pots and fire box. Nora and Florence giggle suspiciously. The Chief "smells a rat" and asks the girls about it. The girls admit it was their work and that they did it to break up the lodge. The boys are indignant and resentful. The Chief takes a look at the water soaked boys, then at the giggling girls, bursts into a roar of laughter, in which all join.

END

