

THE GHOST CHASER

By C. B. BROOKS.

"And they say—"here the voice lowered to a tragic whisper.

Three pairs of eyes—blue, brown, hazel—widened with fear.

Not so Claire Berkeley's. Had she not longed for excitement, adventure? It had been so lonely and monotonous, especially since Al Trevor had left without one word. Surely there must be some mistake. She had overheard his sister whispering that he had arrived from overseas.

"And they say," whispered Amy Trevor, "that late in the evening it is seen in the upper back room. The light it carries illumines its long, white form. I'd go in if Tom would go, too. It might be great fun."

The girls' eyes flashed their excitement.

"Tom go with you," sneered Claire Berkeley. "Why! I'd like nothing better than to go with our own girls. As if we depended on men for everything we undertake." And the pretty chin tilted in the air.

The timid ones, inspired by Claire's brave assertion, promised to accompany the two girls on condition that they be allowed to follow in the rear. It was decided to investigate one evening and the following night to enter the haunted house.

Thus one dark evening found five weird, creeping forms silently tracing their way along the deserted road. Amy and Claire braved the way ahead, and the three timid ones followed quakingly.

"I—I saw a speck of light," trembled Sadie Deanforth. "O—oh, dear! I—I don't dare go on."

"I wish brother Bob were here," quaked Betty Seers.

Suddenly Amy slackened her gait. "Claire! I—I believe Sadie did see something. I do myself. Look!"

"A light! I don't see a thing but a trefly. What little cowards you are! Now listen. We'll go back now; but next time we shall enter. How many will promise? Are you afraid?"

"Why, of course I'll not back out, Claire," said Amy.

"And you three timid ones?" withered their leader mockingly.

"We—we—of course we'll go," they haltingly agreed.

"Brave girls!" laughed Claire.

The next evening the three fearful girls followed their brave leaders to the very door of the haunted house. The long, black hedge seemed to conceal black, spooky shapes.

"I—don't dare go—at least, not into the back room. Would you mind, Claire?" began Amy.

"No, I wouldn't mind going in alone. I'm bound to chase that ghost. I'm not afraid," boasted the girl.

But even as she forged ahead the girl felt herself tremble. She would never give in—oh, no.

She groped her way to the opposite side of the room and began fumbling for the doorknob.

At every fumble faint groans issued from the corner where the girls stood huddled. When the branch of an old lilac tree tapped the window the groans deepened.

"Sh!" warned Claire.

"Claire's voice trembles, too," whispered one of the girls.

Amy nudged her into fearful silence. As Claire pushed wide the awful door, the girls saw a small bright light outlining a tall white form. Then the door closed on their friend.

The girls stood quaking, and with eyes covered.

It seemed hours before they dared to speak or to peer through the darkness.

Where was Claire so long—had anything happened to her?

Not one dared to move. Suddenly they heard peals of laughter, which frightened them still more.

Then the door opened, and a flashlight fell full upon them.

"It's all right, girls, I'm the ghost," laughed Al Trevor in a happy, tremulous voice. "You can all testify that Claire chased after me, in fact she fell right into my arms."

"Why—Al Trevor, you—"

"Yes, girls, I will confess. I overheard Amy tell of your ghostly trip. To punish this fair maid, who blamed me, I substituted for the ghost. By the way, where is the original spook?"

"Vanished, Al. It must have been my ghost of unhappiness," unblushingly admitted Claire.

"O—oh dear! let's get out of this gruesome, ghostly house," cried Amy Trevor.

"Gruesome!" chided Al.

"Gruesome!" echoed Claire. They beamed at each other.

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CLERK'S SALE

State of South Carolina, County of Lexington.

Anna Jones, et al., Plaintiffs, vs Ann Burgess, et al., Defendants—Court of Common Pleas.

By virtue of authority vested in me by Order of the Court in the above entitled Cause, I will sell on the first Monday in January next, the same being the 5th day of said month, before the court house door at Lexington, S. C., during the legal hours of sale, to the highest bidder, the following described real estate, to wit:

"All that piece, or parcel of land, situated in Lexington County, containing one hundred acres, more or less, it being the southeast portion of my present homestead as follows: On the South by Chinquapin Creek, East by Cunnahan Branch, North by lands now owned by Felix Burgess and then from a stake corner of Felix Burgess' field to a large hickory standing beyond the old barn house, and from said hickory to a point in Chinquapin Creek known as the Fox lands."

Terms of sale: Cash, purchaser to pay for papers, revenue stamps and recording fees.

H. L. HARMON,
Clerk of Court.
Dec. 10th, 1919.

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Notice of Election

State of South Carolina, County of Lexington.

An Election having been ordered by Governor R. A. Cooper to be held in requirements with the law governing said election upon the question of annexing a portion of Lexington County to Newberry County described in a proclamation issued by the Governor of South Carolina to be held on the 6th day of January, 1920 at which election the electors shall vote "yes" or "no" upon the question of annexation. The following Managers are

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hereby appointed to conduct said election at the precinct named below and to canvass and declare the result and return the same to the Commissioners at Lexington Court House, South Carolina, immediately thereafter. The first named Manager is hereby declared Chairman and is requested to secure the boxes from the Clerk of Court's office at Lexington, S. C., and return the same together with the number of votes cast for and against the said annexation and the total number of votes polled etc.

That only those residing within the area affected, as described in the governor's Proclamation, shall be permitted to vote at said precinct in the

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