

## Halloween Nightmare

October 31st, a date known and awaited by everyone, a date that Charlotte and Ash were looking forward to, especially this year because there was a very popular tunnel of terror in the city centre that people said was very scary. The two of them were childhood friends and had always celebrated Halloween since it was their favourite holiday. This year, however, they were short on time, so they were making their costumes in a hurry.

There were only a few hours left before nightfall, so they opted not to do anything too complicated for the costumes. Charlotte decided to dress up as a ghost, taking a long white sheet with a couple of holes in the eyes; Ash, on the other hand, decided to dress up as a pumpkin, carving one with a “scary” face on it to put on his head, wearing the rest of his clothes dark brown. As they worked on their costumes they talked again about their plans tonight, Charlotte excitedly said she wanted to go to that scary tunnel that people said was so scary, so Ash nodded with a smile, he wasn't a big fan of that sort of things, but he couldn't deny he was slightly curious.

The night came and they were both leaving Charlotte's house with their costumes on, as soon as they set foot on the street, they could immediately see hundreds of people walking around in different Halloween costumes. Once they made their way to the city centre it wasn't complicated to locate the tunnel of terror they wanted to go to, since there was a crowd of people all around it. They immediately stood in the queue until it was their turn, unconsciously during the tunnel Ash was clinging to Charlotte's arm in case something popped out to scare him all of a sudden. However, the further they went, the more it seemed

like a normal tunnel of terror, even a bit lame you could say. In the final stretch both of them let out a sigh of disappointment, they had much higher expectations than it turned out to be in the end, "it was a waste of time, I wanted something scarier" grumbled Charlotte, even Ash who had lower expectations was disappointed. Then as they left the tunnel they were greeted with a completely unexpected sight.

There was no one around, absolutely no one, the city centre that was always full of people on Halloween nights was now completely empty, not a single soul in sight. They looked at each other with an expression mixed between shock and concern. They decided to wander around in the hope of finding someone else, the only sound present being the echoing of their footsteps. Minute after minute passed, their concern increased along with the rhythm of their heartbeat, they were starting to feel a little scared. Ash looked from side to side anxiously, repeatedly asking Charlotte if she had heard anything or if she had seen the same thing he had, maybe he was paranoid from fear. "You're imagining things," the girl replied as they continued to move forward. They felt the sound of their own footsteps getting louder and louder, but didn't think much about it, then after a couple of minutes when they decided to stop to rest a little, they froze in place for a second.

They were standing still, but they could still hear footsteps, "I'm not imagining it, am I?" Charlotte asked with a shaky voice, Ash shook his head quickly. They didn't hesitate and decided to start running without a clear direction, there was definitely someone following them, they heard the footsteps of that mysterious figure getting closer and closer, they didn't even dare to look

back, they only had in mind to run away. They went into some alleys hoping to lose sight of him, which they had managed to do as the footsteps had stopped, or so they thought. When Charlotte turned around she was surprised to see that Ash's figure was taller than normal, but when she looked down she understood everything.

Blood, there was a large puddle of blood underneath the dead body lying on the ground, that body was Ash's, Charlotte was paralysed with fear as she realised this, she felt like her heart was going to pop out of her chest. Then when she looked back at the silhouette in front of her she didn't even have time to run away or try to figure out their identity underneath her friend's stolen pumpkin, she was grabbed by the neck and strangled as she tried to mumble something incomprehensible while trying to catch her breath. Consequently, when she knew she was going to be killed at that moment, she closed her eyes in acceptance of her fate.

What she didn't expect was to be able to open her eyes again, and even less to see that she was in her room, lying in her bed under the covers. She sat up and put a hand to her neck, "was it all a nightmare?" she murmured to herself with a sigh of relief, when suddenly a voice brought her out of her thoughts.

"Charlotte, come and have breakfast, if you don't hurry we'll be late," she heard her mother's voice from the kitchen. Puzzled, she went over there and asked her mother what she meant by being late, where they had to go. To which she replied with a confused look on her face, "Honey, today is Ash's funeral."