

White Widow

By Naadir Joseph

a teen ghost story

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Characters:

Sam – The adopted, mysterious girl

Emma – The fearful one

Anna – The self-proclaimed leader

Kayla – Anna’s right hand or second in command

Nora – Anna’s left hand or third in command

Zack – The uninterested one

John – Zack’s follower

White Widow – The ghost dressed in white.

Homeless man

Scene I

(It is an old burned house in darkness. Several chairs or seats can be placed on stage with the effect of it being burned. A flashlight comes onto stage from stage left and Sam walks on from stage left with the flashlight in hand. As she enters, SFX of door creaking. A faint spotlight is on Sam. Important to note that the lighting when dealing with many characters on the stage is feint enough to see everyone clearly. Homeless man is sitting in a corner under a blanket.)

Sam: This isn't so bad. **(Looks around and touches the walls.)** Is there anyone here?

Anna: **(Enters from stage left with a torch in hand.)** This place has been abandoned for nearly twenty years. Do you really think someone is here?

Sam: Well, you never know. Someone could be living here. Who says that just because it's abandoned it must be empty.

(Homeless man moans. Sam and Anna turn to the source of the noise.)

Anna: Who is there?

Sam: And I thought to you abandoned means no one is here.

(Anna hushes Sam. She points to the source of the noise and the two creep over to the source. They pull off the blanket and are frightened at the Homeless Man.)

Homeless Man: Don't hurt me!

Sam: We're not going to hurt you.

Homeless Man: It's not you, I'm afraid of. I-it's her! **(Points to any empty area.)**

Anna: There's no one there, old man.

Sam: What do you see?

Homeless Man: A woman in white. She lurks in these halls.

Sam: Are you alright, sir?

Homeless Man: Beware! Beware! **(Runs off stage left, repeatedly saying this line.)**

(Nora, Emma and Kayla walk in from stage left. Huddled up together with flashlights of their own.)

Nora: What was that about?

Anna: Just a crazy man.

Kayla: Why was he screaming, ‘‘Beware?’’

(Anna shrugs and the group of three girls walk forward to centre stage.)

Emma: **(Scans the room with her flashlight. Speaks with uncertainty.)** So, this place seems nice.

Anna: Stop lying. We know you’re scared.

Emma: Fine. I hate this place. It gives me the creeps.

(Nora and Kayla break from the huddle, leaving Emma curled up and looking around.)

Nora: We’re friends, Anna, but I agree with Emma. I hate this place and I hate the boys that dared us to come here.

Kayla: Stop being such a drag. If you want to blame someone, blame Sam. She didn’t want to tell the truth.

(Girls start bickering. Sam keeps to herself and continues to look around. SFX of a strong breeze. SFX of a house creaking. Girls stop bickering. They all huddle up and hold up their flash lights to their faces.)

Emma: Here’s an idea. What if I waited for you outside? I mean, I see no reason why we should all suffer for Sam’s decision.

(Emma start to creep towards stage left. Anna rushes to her and pulls her back.)

Anna: And where do you think you’re going? There’s no turning back now, unless you want to be teased for the rest of your school career?

Kayla: Anna is right. But where do we start? This place is huge. **(Scans the room with her flashlight.)**

Anna: We start with Sam.

(Anna directs Kayla’s flashlight to Sam. They all find a place to sit while watching Sam sit down nervously.)

Anna: Come on, out with it. We not leaving here until you tell us.

Sam: Then I'm afraid we will be here all night.

Emma: Don't say that. Please, do this for me. I'd like to leave.

Sam: **(Sighs.)** Fine! **(Hesitates to speak.)** Where do I start?

Anna: Come out and just say it. We're all friends here and friends are there for each other.

Nora: Start at the truth or dare game! I mean, that's where it started. She didn't want to talk about her parents.

(SFX of strong breeze. They all raise their flashlights to their faces. The White Widow walks across upstage centre.)

Emma: I still say we should leave.

Kayla: Can she start already or are you three going to go at it all night?

(Emma, Anna and Nora keep quiet and turn to Sam.)

Sam: (Clears throat and struggles to speak.) You guys know I'm adopted right?

(Everyone nods except Emma. She is scanning the roof with her flashlight.)

Kayla: Pay attention, Emma.

Emma: Sorry, Sam.

Sam: It's okay. Well. My adoptive parents never told me much about my real parents.

Anna: Weren't you curious about them? I mean, I'd be. I'd want to know.

Sam: I was. I still am, but I never had the courage to ask. But before we came out, they weren't really themselves.

Nora: How so?

Sam: They were extremely jittery for some reason. Spilling cups of water or even the odd chance of breaking a glass cup on the floor. Although I never asked them why. They were nervous for me coming out here. I see no reason why. This place is kind of a dump.

(Zack and John creep onto the stage from stage left. The two scare them all into standing except for Sam. She does not react at all.)

Zack: You see, I told you.

John: You did, Zack. You did.

Anna: What's going on here?

John: We took a bet, kind of. Zack bet me that he could scare you all and I bet he couldn't. But he won, fare and square.

Anna: I wasn't scared. **(Turns her head away from them.)**

Zack: Then why did you scream the loudest?

(Zack and John laugh and mock Anna.)

Kayla: What are the two of you doing here anyway?

Zack: The guys were restless back in Anna's room and got tired of waiting for you all. What's taking you all so long anyway?

Nora: Girl time is girl time. What we do in our private time is none of your business. Besides, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you.

John: I thought it was a good dare. **(In a dishonest voice.)** Who doesn't like the White Widow's place?

Kayla: Puff up your chest all you want, John. We know you share the same kind of pants that Emma wears, the scaredy type.

(John hides his face and Anna turns back around to them.)

Zack: I thought everyone would like this adventure.

Emma: I don't! **(Whimpers.)** I-I've been wanting to leave since we came here.

Zack: You can't until you take a photo of her.

Nora: But we haven't even seen her. **(Takes out a camera from her pocket.)** If you want a photo of her, you take it.

Zack: That wasn't the dare. The dare was you all go in, take a photo of her and leave. Simple!

Emma: Not simple.

Kayla: The White Widow is a myth. She is nothing more than a myth.

(White Widow stands at stage left, allowing the audience to see her.)

Zack: Is that what you think?

(Zack starts walking around them and John mimics him.)

Zack: People say that her husband was responsible for all of this. At the end of their wedding day, he murdered her. They had a child though and this child was born a year before they were to be married. A month after her death, she returned in that dress and found him with her child and another woman. So, she burned this place down taking the husband, new wife and child with her.

Anna: We all know the story.

Emma: And some of us, John and I, don't like hearing it.

John: Speak for yourself. **(Crosses his arms.)**

(White Widow exists from the audience's view.)

Emma: What was that? **(Searches the room.)**

Nora: It doesn't change the fact she is not here.

Kayla: She would have shown up if she was.

Anna: No one has seen her.

(Emma turns her flashlight's light in the direction of stage left. She suddenly goes into blank stare and exits stage left.)

Zack: I've seen her.

(Emma screams from off-stage.)

Anna: Emma? Where are you?

(Everyone runs off searching for Emma and after a few moments, they come back and take their seats again.)

Nora: Where could she have gone?

Zack: There's only one explanation.

John: You're telling me that –

Anna: Don't you even bother saying it.

Zack: It can only be the White Widow.

Nora: No, she can't be gone. Where is she? Stop playing games, Emma. Where are you?

Zack: Think of it. Why would Emma joke around with this? She is the most fearful of all of you. So where could she have gotten this idea? The White Widow is the only explanation.

John: Zack's right. I mean, there's no other explanation.

Nora: Don't say such. I mean, do you really think that she is here? **(Looks around with her flashlight.)**

Anna: We need to get out of here.

Sam: We can't leave Emma.

Anna: She's on her own!

(Anna heads towards stage left, for the door. SFX of closing door. Nora stares at stage right in blank stare and her mouth opens wide. She walks off stage right.)

Anna: Well, it seems leaving is out of the question.

Kayla: At least we're together... wait, where's Nora?

Sam: **(Sighs.)** She's gone just like Emma.

Kayla: What's going on Zack? John? Explain yourselves now!

John: Don't look at me. I'm as shocked as you are.

Zack: I'm not up to anything. I only see one person, **(Pauses.)** well ghost, that can do this.

Anna: Enough with the White Widow. We need to find a way out of here.

Sam: Not without Emma.

Anna: You search for Emma. As for me, I'm going to look for a way out to save myself. Come on, Kayla.

