

The Henderson Hall Horror

Written by

David Schmidt

**Copyright © March 2019 David Schmidt and Off the
Wall Play Publishers**

<https://offthewallplays.com>

Caution: This script is provided for reading purposes only. Professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty. It is fully protected under the laws of the United States of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion of Canada, and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including but not limited to professional, amateur, film, radio, and all other media (including use on the worldwide web) and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved; and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. For any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link:

<https://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-by-off-the-wall-plays/>

The Henderson Hall Horror

The Setting

The setting for this play is simplicity itself. Everything is done with set pieces and lighting. DC is a bistro table with two chairs set at it. R is a sofa and a chair. L is a bed and dresser if you want to add a little more furniture to the setting.

SCENE ONE; The Bistro; can be lit with a single spot. If no spot is available simply bring the stage lights up to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$.

SCENE ONE: The living room; light only the right side of the stage.

SCENE TWO: The bedroom; only light the left half of the stage. For an eerie feeling only bring the lights up to $\frac{1}{2}$.

One production note: The role of Sddie can be played by one actress or two. If only one actress her appearance must be changed for scene two.

The Henderson Hall Horror

The Henderson Hall Horror

CHARACTERS

Silas Grey	A paranormal Investigator
Dr. William Henderson	The Client
Abigail Frost	A medium
Saddie	15 year old ghost girl
Zachariah Jackson	The dark scary man

The Henderson Hall Horror

The Henderson Hall Horror

Scene one

December 20th

*A spot light comes up on **SILAS GREY**. He has a disheveled appearance; his face has an unshaven look about it, his clothes look like he slept in them and he wears a care worn trench coat. As the lights come up he is sitting at a small, bistro style table with a coffee cup in front of him. A second cup can be seen in front of a second, vacant chair.*

SILAS

Ghosts, demons, Shadow men; some people believe in them others, like the subject of my narrative, Dr. William Henderson, are skeptics who look for any logical explanation for explaining away anything that appears paranormal. The truth is these things are real and it's my job to seek them out and put them to rest. My name is Silas Grey, I investigate the paranormal; you know ghosts and other things that go bump in the night. My narrative begins one cold December day when I received a phone call From Dr. Henderson asking to meet with me. I suggested we meet at a coffee shop I use as my office. He agreed. When he came into the coffee shop I could tell just by looking at him he was under a lot of stress. I instantly regretted ordering him a cup of coffee.

(The lights come up and DR. WILLIAM HENDERSON enters)

WILLIAM

Are you Silas Grey?

SILAS

Depends, who wants to know?

WILLIAM

My name is Dr. William Henderson and I need your help.

SILAS

So you told me on the phone. Sit down and let's talk about it.

WILLIAM

(Sitting in the vacant chair at the table) Thank you.

The Henderson Hall Horror

SILAS

So tell me, Doctor, what do you need my help with?

WILLIAM

I'm afraid my son might be in danger.

SILAS

From what?

WILLIAM

I know how crazy this is going to sound but I believe my son is being terrorized by a ghost.

SILAS

You're in luck, ghosts are my specialty. What makes you believe he's in danger?

WILLIAM

At first I didn't want to believe it. Billy has been under a lot of stress since me and his mother separated so at first I had thought he had been acting out, looking for attention. Then he started talking about Sddie.

SILAS

Who is Sddie?

WILLIAM

That's what I asked him. He said Sddie was a ghost girl who came into his room at night to warn him that the bad man was coming to get him. Billy told me she kept pleading with him to leave before the man could get him. Now more recently Billy claims to see a dark, scary man who hides in the shadows of his room and who watches him. When the Shadow man tries to approach his bed Billy says Sddie appears to stand between the shadow man and him like she was protecting him. Of course I simply chalked it up to a child's overactive imagination. I'm a man of science, Mr.Grey, I believe there is a logical explanation for everything, that shadow men and ghosts aren't real.

SILAS

What changed your mind?

WILLIAM

The Henderson Hall Horror

She did.

SILAS

Who did?

WILLIAM

Saddie; she appeared in my room last night to warn me the bad man was coming to hurt Billy. Then I heard a scream come from Billy's room. When I got to his room I found Billy cowering in a corner of his room. He told me he saw the bad man and he spoke to him.

SILAS

What did he say to Billy?

WILLIAM

He told Billy he would be coming for him soon. (*Becoming emotional*) The rest of the night I held him, rocking him in my arms thinking I can't lose him, but how do you fight something you can't see? For the first time I felt powerless. As a parent you try to protect your children, keep them safe, but how do you protect them from something you can't see?

SILAS

You've already started by coming to me.

WILLIAM

Then you'll help us?

SILAS

I've already started.

WILLIAM

What's your fee?

SILAS

Nothing right now, my fee hinges on whether I can solve your ghost problem or not. If I can't it'll cost you nothing. Now go home and be with your son. We'll be at your place tonight.

WILLIAM

We?

The Henderson Hall Horror

SILAS

I have an associate I work with, a psychic, her name is Abigail Frost. Abby is what is known in our business as a physical medium. She can physically interact with the dead.

WILLIAM

There was a time I would have thought all this was ludicrous, psychics and shadow men and ghosts, but I'm not a skeptic any more. All I want now is for you to save my son.

SILAS

That's all we want to do too. Where are you staying?

WILLIAM

Henderson Hall.

SILAS

(Surprised) Henderson Hall out on Shady Grove Lane?

WILLIAM

You know about Henderson Hall?

SILAS

Every Paranormal Investigator knows about Henderson Hall and its dark history. What on Earth possessed you to move in there?

WILLIAM

I didn't have any choice. When we separated my wife got the house so I had no choice but to move back into the family estate. I can't afford to buy a new house, not yet anyway. We've always maintained the hall in the off chance that one of us would have to move back in there.

SILAS

(With a sense of urgency) Abby and I will be there tonight.

WILLIAM

Thank you again, Mr. Grey. *(He shakes SILAS' hand and exits. As he exits the lights dim)*

SILAS

The Henderson Hall Horror

There was something dark and evil residing in Henderson Hall going all the way back to the end of the Revolutionary War when a farmer named Zachariah Jackson cursed the Henderson Family. He vowed their bloodline would be wiped out of existence after he lost his son to smallpox while under the care of Dr. Jeremiah Henderson. The date Zachariah's son died was December 21st. Since then every December 21st a Henderson male child died. Rumors were that a dark man would emerge from the shadows of the boy's room and take his soul. The death's eventually stopped after the Henderson family moved out of the Hall. Now a Henderson was once again living at Henderson Hall and the hauntings had started up again. What had me concerned was that today was December 20th. If Abby and I couldn't find a way to stop what was happening at Henderson Hall before Midnight on December 21st another Henderson male child was going to die.

(The lights go down and then come up on what appears to be the living room of Henderson hall. ABIGAIL and SILAS followed by WILLIAM enter).

WILLIAM

Thank you both for coming on such short notice.

SILAS

We didn't have much choice, tomorrow is December 21st.

WILLIAM

I don't understand what does that date have to do with anything?

SILAS

I'm talking about the curse, Man!

WILLIAM

What curse?

SILAS

The curse Zachariah Jackson put on your family so many years ago. The one where he vowed the Henderson Bloodline would be wiped out of existence.

WILLIAM

I always thought that was just an old family ghost story. I never put any credence to it.

ABIGAIL

I don't believe I've ever heard the story.

The Henderson Hall Horror

SILAS

The short version of the story is that on December 21st a Henderson male child dies. Tomorrow is December 21st and Billy has started seeing the apparition of a dark, scary man in his room. (*To WILLIAM*) Does that sound like a ghost story to you? Tell us about Zachariah Jackson. Be as detailed as you can.

WILLAIM

As the story goes Zachariah Jackson was a local farmer. He was a good and kind man until tragedy struck and he lost his wife and daughter. After their death's he became a hard, unpleasant man except where his son was concerned. His son was all he had left that he truly cared about. He was hard on the boy but there was no doubt he loved him deeply. He was his whole world. Then during the smallpox outbreak here in the village the boy got sick. The doctor at the time was my forefather Jeremiah Henderson. At that time there were only two ways to protect yourself from smallpox, quarantine or inoculation. The idea of inoculation scared most people. The ordinary person at that time could not comprehend the idea of intentionally infecting an otherwise healthy person with a potentially fatal disease. Jeremiah inoculated his three sons, but Zachariah, like many of the other villagers, refused to get themselves and their families inoculated. When the epidemic hit the village those who had not been inoculated became infected with the smallpox virus including Zachariah's son. Jeremiah did all he could for the boy but in the end it wasn't enough and he died.

SILAS

(*To ABIGAIL*) As the rest of the story goes Zachariah became enraged with Jeremiah because his boys lived and Zachariah's son did not. He also blamed Jerimiah for his wife and daughters death.

WILLAIM

It was then he vowed the Henderson family bloodline would be wiped out of existence by his own hand. But soon after losing his son Zachariah himself succumbed to the smallpox virus and died.

SILAS

Which brings me to my next thought; Is it possible the dark, scary man Billy is seeing is the ghost of Zachariah Jackson?

ABIGAIL

The Henderson Hall Horror

Could be, rage is a strong emotion. It is one of the classic emotions that could keep a person's spirit here on Earth. That coupled with the idea of unfinished business is a strong anchor to keep a spirit here.

WILLIAM

What are you saying? That the dark, scary man Billy is seeing is Zachariah Jackson?

SILAS

It's a possibility (*Suddenly a child screams from another part of the house.*)

WILLIAM

Billy! (*He rushes off stage.*)

SILAS

(*Starting to follow WILLIAM off*) Abby stay here, try to contact the ghost girl Sattie see what more she can tell us if anything. Maybe she can even help us find a way to stop him. (*He rushes off after WILLIAM.*)

ABIGAIL

(*Calling out*) Sattie, can you hear me? Are you here? I'd like you to come out and talk to me, I'm not going to hurt you, in fact I'd like to be your friend if you'd let me.

SADDIE

(*Entering. She is dressed in a white dress similar to one worn by young girls during the Revolutionary war period.*) Here I am; who are you?

ABIGAIL

My name is Abigail.

SADDIE

That's a pretty name.

ABIGAIL

Thank you. I like yours too.

SADDIE

Thank you. How come you can see me and talk to me, other grown-ups can't.

The Henderson Hall Horror

ABIGAIL

Because I'm not like most grown-ups. When I was a little girl about your age I started hearing voices in my head that I couldn't shut out then I started seeing things no one else could.

SADDIE

Wasn't that scary?

ABIGAIL

At first it was. I thought I was cursed somehow, but then I learned my Grandmother and mother also had this ability. They tried to keep it hidden from me hoping it would skip a generation but it didn't. So they taught me how to control it, now I use this ability to help the living and the dead find peace.

SADDIE

It's Kind of like I'm doing for Billy; that's why I can't stay very long. I have to protect him from the bad man.

ABIGAIL

I think you can stay and talk to me for a while. Billy's daddy and my friend are with him, they'll keep him safe.

SADDIE

Not like I can. I have been protecting the Henderson boys for a long time. *(She turns to exit)*.

ABIGAIL

And yet they still died. In the end you couldn't protect them any better than those of us living.

SADDIE

(Turning back to ABBY) That's a mean thing to say.

ABIGAIL

But it's the truth, just like it is also true you're not really a young girl ghost, you're much older.

SADDIE

How....?

ABIGAIL

The Henderson Hall Horror

My sight allows me to penetrate the spectral veil put up by ghosts and spirits.

SADDIE

You're right, I'm not I only take on this form to keep the boys from being frightened.

ABIGAIL

Then who are you?

SADDIE

Saddie Henderson, Jeremiah's wife. I died giving birth to our third son.

ABIGAIL

Why didn't you move on?

SADDIE

I couldn't leave my sons without their mother, not even in death. I still wanted to protect them, keep them from harm. But he got to them anyways.

ABIGAIL

Who?

SADDIE

Zachariah Jackson.

ABIGAIL

Is he the ghost Billy keeps seeing, the scary bad man?

SADDIE

Zachariah isn't a ghost. Not like I am.

ABIGAIL

Then what is he?

SADDIE

He's a Shadow Man, a dark entity who one day of the year takes on physical form to steal a person's soul. For Zachariah that day is.....

ABIGAIL

The Henderson Hall Horror

December 21st, the day his son died.