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The Hollow Bell

Among tons of stories heard from their grandmas, none scared the childrens of Canterbury more than the story of the Hollow Bell, it says that there is an abandoned church deep in the woods of Lark valley which rings it's bell at midnight, though no one is there to ring it. Those who hear it are said to vanish without a trace.

It was a day before Halloween and the city whirled in a festive mood.

Emily was already getting late for her school and hence tried to swallow her pancake in a single gulp. Though she started choking after this and had to drink some water, she managed to reach her school on time.

The School was decorated with Carved Pumpkins and the canteens were crowded with candy stalls. As soon as the lunch bell rang, students started rushing towards the canteen to devour different flavours of pumpkin pie, marshmallows and mints.

So did Emily and her group-Jason, Maya, Ryan and Zack. Zack was overexcited for the upcoming day. He said "Guys, let's hangout today at my place, we'll play truth or dare and the one who fails to complete the dare needs to do our assignments till next week, I bet it'll be Jason".

The rest of the day went quite boring ignoring the screams and howls of the Janitor after he got his head struck in a carved pumpkin.

In no time, the five teens were at Zack's house playing Truth or Dare.

"I'll go first" said Jason.

"No I will" protested Zack.

"Can you guys stop fighting for a second?" said Maya in a trembling voice.

"Alright then, go on, spin the bottle yourself" replied Zack. His gingerly face turning red.

All eyes were on the bottle as it spun, spun and spun. Then it stopped, it's two ends pointing towards Zack and Maya.

"Truth or Dare?" asked Zack. "D-Dare".

“Alright, so I heard a story named the **Hollow Bell**, that talks about a haunted abandoned church somewhere in the woods of Lark valley. All I want you to do is find that place”.

“ARE YOU CRAZY ZACK?” yelled Ryan with a frowning face before Maya could say anything.

“Yeah, why would she go alone? Is this another stupid prank you made to put her in trouble!” Scowled Emily and Jason together.

“Guys, chill! I’m sorry okay? But what if we all go and find it?”.

The thought struck in everyone’s mind. And as expected, they all agreed to do this on Halloween ‘s day.

Emily knew that her mum would never allow her for this stupid and risky adventure, in fact she can clearly hear her mum bellowing “You Will Be Grounded For a Week If you Sneak Out with those scumbags again Emily Watson” if she tries to even imagine it. Nevertheless, she knew she had to sneak out again.

So, the journey begins. *Five friends riding bikes, armed with flashlights*. Not to mention a piece of parchment in Jason’s pocket that looked like a map he found online.

“Look we found it!”

“Zack are you an idiot? We are yet to enter the woods.”

As the sun goes down and the moon comes up, they enter the woods.

“Jeez it’s so dark! I think we need our flashlights now”. The journey goes on.

“This is it! The Map was correct” said Jason peeking at it through his horn rimmed spectacles. It was a Massive Old Church beside a graveyard.

“Can you guys hear those whispers?” he said.

“Yeah, it’s a bit creepy” replied Zack in a concerned voice.

As they approached the door, it started opening with a creaky sound.

“There is nothing to worry about, it’s just the wind” panted Zack.

“Yeah” replied the others.

It’s Just The Wind...

Inside the church, they find an old rusty bell.

“Ha! See it’s the Hollow Bell I was talking about”. And **CLAP!** Their flashlights goes out with a flicker.

“I think we ran out of batteries”, “Yeah” said everyone. Zack continued

“It’s nothing to worry about- Wait **Where is Jason?**”.

They hear a loud scream and everything goes silent after that.

DING! The Bell rang.

“Guys I think we should not panic and find Jason” said Ryan.

Emily saw a ghostly hand grab Ryan’s neck from the back and he went out of sight in the blink of an eye.

DING! The Hollow Bell rang again.

“It’s all my fault” cried Zack.

“No it’s not! We are in this together and all of us would escape together- OUCH! **What’s that?**” squeaked Emily before stumbling upon an old diary.

The Whispers were getting louder and louder.

Emily can see strange eyeless figures lurking in the shadows out of the corner of her eyes. A Cold Sensation trickled down her body.

“Oh no, Someone is Closing the door” said Zack. Terrified.

DONG! The Bell tolled one last time.