

Ghost Hugs

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Cast of Characters

Scarlet: Twin sister of Shay. Not coping with her death well.

Shay: Deceased twin sister of Scarlet. Appears as a ghost.

Note: While they are intended to be identical twins they do not have to be cast as identical twins, as long as they resemble each other.

AT RISE: The room is dim. A girl sits on her bed with another empty bed next to her.

LIGHTS UP: Another girl that looks almost the same as the other appears and sits on the empty bed.

SHAY

Hey Scarlet.

SCARLET

Hey...

SHAY

What's the matter?

SCARLET

I miss you, Shay. I miss you so much.

SHAY

What do you mean silly? I'm right here.

SCARLET

Are you though? Or am I just going crazy?

SHAY

You aren't crazy. You're grieving.

SCARLET

You're right, I'm grieving, grieving something I will never be able to get over. It should have been me.

SHAY

Stop it with the survivor's guilt.

SCARLET starts to sob.

SCARLET

How? How can I not be guilty that my twin is dead? That you were gonna do amazing things with your life but yet I'm here trying to fill in the huge shoes you left. I've always been nothing more than your twin, I don't know how to live on my own!

SHAY

Hush now sister, it will all work out.

SCARLET

(Whipping her tears) Ok...

SHAY

Just breathe, sis.

SCARLET takes a couple of deep breaths.

SHAY

See doesn't that feel better?

SCARLET

To be honest, not really.

SHAY

Well you aren't balling your eyes out.

SCARLET

I guess that's true.

SHAY

I told you so.

SCARLET

Hey now, don't get too cocky.

SHAY

(Sarcastically) Never-

SCARLET chuckles lightly.

SCARLET

That's the sense of humor I'll miss most of all.

SHAY

Guess you'll just have to be the comedian now.

SCARLET

Haha, I guess so.

SHAY

You can do it, sis. You got this.

SCARLET

I hope you're right.

SHAY

(Sarcastically) Aren't I always?

SCARLET

I guess so. Yeah, I just don't want you to be gone.

SHAY

I won't ever be fully gone, only my body has left. My spirit is still here.

SCARLET

I know, but I can't hug you, or chase you around when you steal my hairbrush. Just things like that, I am going to miss.

SHAY

Yeah, I will miss those things as well.

SCARLET

Why did you have to go? I shouldn't have let you go to that stupid party...

SHAY

Don't blame yourself, it wasn't your fault. It was my choice to go there. I didn't know that someone would come speeding down the small town road at least 30 miles over the speed limit. I didn't know I would be lying on the ground, lungs filling with blood, wishing you were there to hold my hand as I drowned in my own life force. I didn't know I would be declared dead when the ambulance arrived. I didn't know that despite the best efforts to perform CPR, my body would never breathe again. I just didn't know.

SCARLET

I know how awful it must have been but how *could you have known?* It was that stupid drivers fault, he should have been paying attention. I hope he gets mangled by wolves and left to be eaten by vultures. He didn't even try to help you, he only wanted to save his own pathetic hide and sped off.

SHAY

Don't worry about him. The police may be lazy but they won't let someone who murdered a kid just walk away without some kind of fight.

SCARLET

Just trying isn't enough, they need to catch the bastard. Even if they do he probably will only get a couple years because it was an accident.

SHAY

Best not to worry about things you can't control.

SCARLET

Hell no, I'm not letting him get away with this. I'll track him down myself if I have to!

SHAY

Be careful, sis, bloodying your own hands won't help.

SCARLET

Who said I was going to kill him?

SHAY

Wouldn't you?

SCARLET

Yes, absolutely, I would strangle him with my bare hands if I could. Going to prison would be a mercy to him.

SHAY

Now, now, Scar, you know that wouldn't change anything

SCARLET

(Mumbling) It could keep him from hurting anyone else...

SHAY

He probably was just scared and ran. I don't think he meant to hit me. He was probably just drunk,

SCARLET

I don't care if he was drunk or high off heroin, he should have stopped the car and called an ambulance after he hit someone! Instead he left you to die.

SHAY

Yeah, you're right, but I doubt I could have been saved at that point anyways. Punctured lungs are not an easy fix.

SCARLET

Doesn't matter, it was his fault he hit you he should at least try to help you.

SHAY

Some people are just rotten, Scar.

SCARLET

Believe me; I know.

SCARLET begins to pace the floor.

SHAY

You're pacing again.

SCARLET

You know I can't help it. It's a nervous habit.

SHAY

Just don't wear a groove into the floor.

SCARLET rolls her eyes.

SCARLET

You always did have a sense of humor, even at the worst times.

SHAY

Well how else am I gonna cheer you up?

SHAY crosses her arms playfully.

SCARLET

I don't understand how you can be so optimistic even in death.

SHAY

Maybe that's just how I am.

SCARLET

Yeah, it's like you to always look at the positive side.

SHAY

Hey, it isn't so bad! I can still talk to you.

SCARLET

Can anyone else hear you?

SHAY

I don't think so, only those who we were bonded to most, I believe.

SCARLET chuckles.

SHAY

What's so funny?

SCARLET

I can see it now, "Who are you talking to?" "Oh just my dead sister." I'll be in a loony bin before the end of the month.

SHAY

Yeah, perhaps it's best to only talk to me when you're alone.

SCARLET

Agreed.

SCARLET plops back onto the bed on her back.

SHAY

Get tired of pacing?

SCARLET

Yeah, you know I'm not athletic.

SHAY

You play sports though-

SCARLET

Doesn't mean I'm energetic, especially right now.

SHAY

Yeah, that's fair.

SCARLET rolls to her side away from SHAY.

SCARLET

I don't want you to leave. Can you just stay by my side?

SHAY

Who said I'm going anywhere.

SCARLET

I don't know, can't ghosts only wander around Earth so long?

SHAY

I don't see any "How to Properly be a Ghost" handbooks lying around.

SCARLET

Yeah, I guess the stuff we think we know about ghosts is just speculation.

SHAY

I don't know what's out for me in the afterlife. It may just be this, watching over you. I can be your guardian angel.

SCARLET

You know I don't believe in that religion crap.

SHAY

Yeah, well neither do I, and hey, I'm not burning in a fiery pit for all of eternity.

SCARLET

Well, that's good news. I hate how forced it is on us; it's all just escapism and subliminal brainwashing.

SHAY

Yeah, just imagine how mad they would be if I could tell them they wasted their whole lives worshipping a fantasy.

SCARLET

Somehow I think they would still not believe it, even if it comes right from the horse- well ghost' mouth.

SHAY comes up behind SCARLET and hugs her.

SHAY

It's a ghost hug, you can't feel it, but it's there.

SCARLET

Actually, I can feel it, but it's really light, like just a brush of hair, and a bit cold.

SHAY

I guess our connection is really strong then.

SCARLET

Was there ever a doubt that it wasn't? We're twins after all.

SHAY

Connected through spirit, and by birthday.

SCARLET

Cheers.

SHAY

Now get some rest, sis. It's late.

SCARLET

Will you be here in the morning?

SHAY

I would never leave you for good without saying goodbye.

SCARLET

Ok, then, goodnight Shay. Even as a ghost, I will love you forever.

SHAY

Goodnight, Scar. I'll see you in the morning.

The lights dim. SCARLET closes her eyes and drifts to sleep. SHAY watches over her as the curtains close.

LIGHTS OUT