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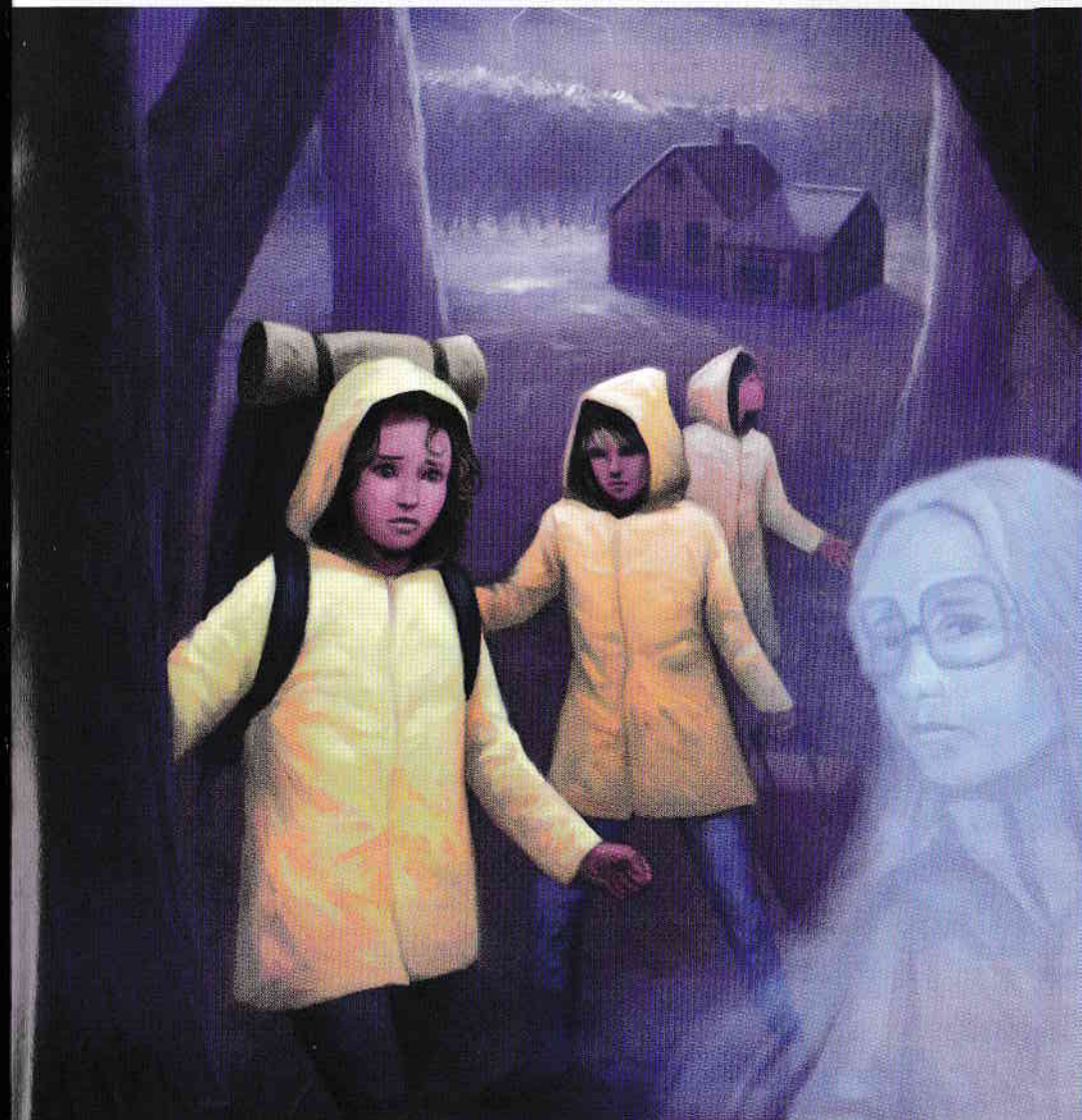
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Andrea M. Hutchinson

# *A Message from a Ghost*

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<b>end</b>		



## CHAPTER ONE

## Sometimes things happen

'It says in my guidebook that York is the most haunted city in England,' I read to my two bestfriends.

'What did you say?' shouts Elise. 'I can't hear you!'

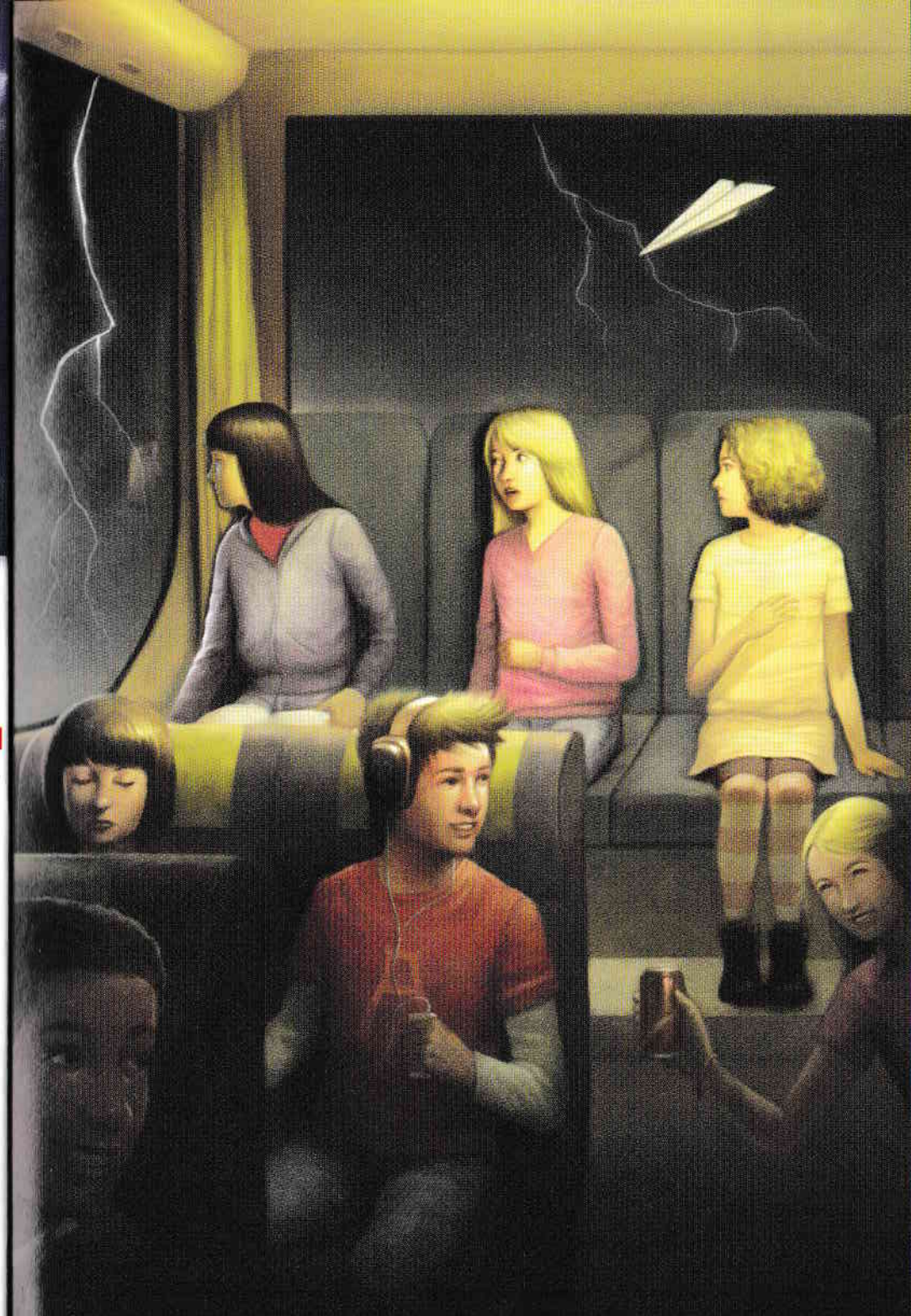
We are sitting next to each other on the back seat of the coach but it is very noisy. Everyone is very excited about this school trip. Around me students are singing, telling jokes and laughing. Even Mrs Hall, the history teacher, is giving students sweets with a big smile and she never smiles.

Why can't I relax and have fun?

Everyday I find something to worry about. It's mostly things like have I got the right textbook for Chemistry? Or, have I got matching shoes on? (I went to school once wearing one brown shoe and one black shoe!)



track 02



But tonight, it's dark and thundering<sup>1</sup> AND we are going to the most haunted city in England. Tonight, I don't worry. I panic.

'My book says that York is full of ghosts,' I shout back. 'You don't think it's true, do you, Gracie?'

'Of course it is,' says Gracie, smiling at Elise.

'Really? Elise, what do you think?'

'You should relax and have fun,' Elise says, checking her make-up in a small mirror. 'That's what I think.'

'You shouldn't believe everything you read,' says Gracie, taking a photo of herself with her mobile phone.

'I don't!'

'Yes you do! You stopped eating pizza, because you read in a magazine that eating tomatoes gives you a headache,' says Gracie.

'It was cheese, not tomatoes,' my face starts to turn red. 'And it's true! Every time I eat too much cheese, I get a bad headache!'

My face is so red that I now look like a tomato! It's not pretty.

Gracie sees that I'm embarrassed and quickly takes another photo. She shows it to Elise and they both laugh even more.

I look out of the window, trying not to think about photos of me and my red face on some social network, but all I can see is the reflection of my worried face.

'Come on, Bella,' says Gracie. 'We're only joking!'

'This is our first school trip. One whole week without our parents. Seven days of fun fun fun,' says Elise.

'You're right,' I try to smile.

But if she's right, why am I so nervous?

1. **thundering** : when the sky is thundering, it's making a loud sound and it's usually about to rain as well.

I always worry too much, I know I do, but sometimes I get a feeling. It's often nothing, but sometimes things happen.

And those things that happen are never good.

I close my eyes and try to relax. 'There's nothing to worry about,' I tell myself. 'Nothing at all...'

The coach stops and Mrs Hall stands up.

'The road to the hostel is closed because of bad weather. We're going to walk from here,' she shouts. 'Now it's already late. Hurry up, everyone!'

As I climb off the coach the wind is cold. It is raining and in the distance I can still see lightning. I concentrate hard, taking the steps one at a time. But behind me, Elise shouts, 'Boo!' and I fall off the last step and onto Gracie. Everyone starts to laugh.

Everyone except Gracie.

'I'm sorry, Gracie,' I apologise while Mrs Hall tells everyone to follow her.

'Look what you've done!' Gracie shouts back, looking at the floor. 'That was my new mobile phone!'

'Sorry, but...' I can see the front and back pieces in the mud between her feet and pick them up, but I can't see the battery anywhere.

I look under the coach, Elise looks next to our suitcases and Gracie stands there shouting at us.

Then after what seems like a long time, we find it.

But when we look up, everyone has gone and we are alone in the dark.

**1 Comprehension check**

Re-order the words to make sentences. Then tick (✓) T (true) or F (false) for each sentence.

- |                                                                               | T                        | F                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 the / excited / Only / history / is / the / about / trip / teacher / school | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 photos / mobile / likes / her / phone / Gracie / with / taking              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 is / Bella / of / not / ghosts / scared                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 on / school / go / Elise's / trip / the / parents                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 hostel / at / They / morning / the / arrive / in / early / the              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 coach / When / windy / the / stops / is / it                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 new / because / is / mobile / broken / is / phone / Gracie / angry / her    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Elise and / for Gracie / wait / Bella                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2 Email**

**A Complete this email. Choose the correct word for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).**

(0) For ~~Dear~~ Charlotte,  
I am going (1) *on/to* a school trip next week. We (2) *are/am* going to York for a (3) *seven days/week* and we will (4) *stay/staying* in (5) *a/an* youth hostel. I am looking forward (6) *about/to* learning about the Vikings and (7) *have/having* fun with my friends. Would you (8) *want/like* to come to my house when I get (9) *return/back*? I can't wait to show you the photos and (10) *talk/tell* you about my trip!

Bella

**B Now write an email to Bella telling her about the last school trip you went on.**

- Where did you go?
- How long did you stay?
- What did you see?
- What was the favourite part of your trip?
- Was there anything you disliked?

**3 'I always worry' – adverbs of frequency**

Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens. Match the adverbs of frequency (1-5) with their definition (A-E).

- 1 always    2 usually    3 often    4 sometimes    5 never
- A  something that happens many times  
 B  something that does not or will not happen at any time  
 C  something that happens most days  
 D  something that happens every time  
 E  something that happens on certain occasions but not all the time

Now answer these questions using full sentences.

How often do you

- brush your teeth? .....
- watch TV? .....
- wear a hat? .....
- use the Internet? .....
- play football? .....
- sing in the shower? .....

**T: GRADE 3**

**4 Speaking: your best friend**

Elise, Gracie and Bella are best friends. Talk about your best friend. Use the questions below to help you.

- 1 What is your best friend's name?
- 2 How old is your best friend?
- 3 Where and when did you meet?
- 4 What does your best friend look like?
- 5 What does your best friend do?
- 6 How often do you see each other?
- 7 What do you like to do together?