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Hide and Seek

written by

Catherine MacPhail

published by

Barrington Stoke Ltd

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Hide and Seek

by

Catherine MacPhail

Based on the blurb by Becky Wright

Barrington Stoke Teen title

CHAPTER 1 – The New Girl

“Is this school really haunted?” the new girl asked.

Nicola looked at her and smiled. “Sorry, I’ve forgotten your name again,” she said.

“Destiny,” the new girl said. “My name’s Destiny.”

Of course Nicola hadn’t forgotten at all. How could anyone forget a name like Destiny?

What had her parents been thinking of when they gave her such an odd name? This new girl, Destiny, was pale and plain and boring. She was in none of Nicola’s classes. She had only started in the school this week. Nicola had spotted her walking from one class to another as if she was lost. Or stupid. Nicola didn’t know which. Mmm ... perhaps the name did fit her. There was something odd about her.

Nicola kept on smiling. “Sorry, what were you asking, Destiny?”

“Someone told me this school was haunted. Is that true?”

Nicola had heard the stories too. That in the dead of night, floor-boards creaked in empty class-rooms, chairs were lifted and dropped. Doors that had been locked suddenly opened. People said some evil spirit lurked in the dark of one class-room. 1C.

Nicola didn’t believe any of the stories. They were all rubbish. But she wasn’t going to tell Destiny that.

Instead, she whispered to her, “They say if you dare to stay in here all night, the evil that lurks here will come to you.”

Destiny looked ready to explode. Her pale eyes grew big. “Has anyone ever done it? Stayed in the school all night?”

And as soon as Destiny said that, Nicola began to think of a plan. And Destiny was going to walk right into it. “I wouldn’t have the nerve,” Nicola said quickly. Then, after a moment she added, “Would you?”

Before Destiny could answer, Danny came across to talk to them. Nicola tried not to let her heart skip. But it was hard. He was so good looking. Thick floppy dark hair and the brownest eyes she had ever seen. She was sure he must like her too. She was just counting the moments till he asked her to the school disco.

He smiled, and her heart did flip then. She couldn’t stop it.

“Hi!” he said, with a grin. “What’s going on here?”

“Destiny wants to stay the night in the school. I’ve told her people think there’s a ghost. Isn’t she brave?”

Nicola stepped behind Destiny’s back and winked at Danny. He was as quick as she was. He knew right away what she was up to. They both saw things the same way. Oh, they were meant to be together, her and Danny!

Destiny went red. “Oh, but I never ... that’s not what I ...” she tried to say.

Danny cut in. “But that’s a great idea. I’ve always wanted

to find out if those stories are true.” He shouted over to his best pal and another girl who were walking past.
“Sanji, Marianne – want to spend a night in a haunted school?”
Marianne jumped at it. “I’d love it!” Of course she’d love it, Nicola thought. Marianne was after Danny too. She was always fluttering her eyelashes at him, and giggling at every little joke he made. Well, any trouble from her and Nicola would find some handy locker to shut her into. Good way to get rid of her.
But the chance to spend the night in the school with Danny? It was a dream come true. And if Nicola had to fake that she was scared so that Danny’d put his strong arms round her, so what? She’d put up with having wimpy Marianne there too. She’d think of a way to lose her.
“I can say I’m staying over at Soo’s,” Marianne said, and called her best friend, Soo, over.
Nicola was annoyed, Danny, Marianne, Sanji and now Soo. How many more people were going to be there? This wasn’t what she planned at all. “Are we inviting the whole school?” she said crossly.
Danny winked at her. Her heart flipped again. “No, just us ... and Destiny, of course,” he said.
Destiny’s face was still brick red. She must be so chuffed that she’s with a cool crowd like us, Nicola thought. She wouldn’t dare say no.
At last, Destiny smiled. “OK,” she whispered.

Nicola slipped an arm around her as if Destiny was her new best friend. Boy, they were going to have some fun with the new girl.