

DESERTED HIGHWAY

A short

by

George Willson

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A late model sedan drives along a light-free two lane road in the middle of no where.

INT. CAR

JOE RIPLEY, looking barely old enough to drive, stares at the road ahead of him. His passenger, RALPH GRIMLY, looks to be of the same age. He looks out the window at the passing nothingness.

JOE

So where is this thing, Ralph?

RALPH

Somewhere near here. I'm looking for the sign.

JOE

What does the sign say? Maybe I can help.

RALPH

Not a street sign, Joe, it's out there somewhere. I'll know it when I see it.

JOE

What is it?

RALPH

I told you. It's a surprise.

JOE

While I don't mind a good surprise, it's also going on ten o'clock. Curfew's in an hour, and I don't think we'll make it back in time.

RALPH

So you're a good boy going through town so you don't get caught.

Joe sighs.

JOE

How did I let you talk me
into this?

RALPH

You're a sucker for a good
ghost story.

JOE

So after you looked this thing
up on the internet, did you
check it out, or am I the
lucky guinea pig?

RALPH

No, I checked it out. It's wild.
Along this stretch of road,
you'll see a low green light
out in the field. If you stop
there, you'll see a ghost stand
next to your car.

JOE

I don't have to get out, do I?

Ralph looks out the window for a moment. He sighs. HE turns to
Joe and smiles.

RALPH

No. You can stay in the car.
No problem.

JOE

What's wrong, Ralph?

RALPH

Nothing.

JOE

Homelife ok?

RALPH

Yeah, it's fine.

JOE

Haven't seen you in a few days.
Beginning to wonder before you
just showed up on my porch.

RALPH

Well, it's ok. No problems.

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Ahead of the car, a green light appears in the midst of a field
on the passenger side of the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Ralph presses his face to the window.

RALPH

There! Joe, pull over!

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The car pulls over onto the shoulder of the highway.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Joe leans over and looks out the window into the field. The
green glow looks like it emanates from the ground itself.

JOE

That's pretty weird. Kathy
would've gotten a kick out
of this.

RALPH

Yeah, but going out with you
and your girlfriend is not my
idea of fun.

JOE

We wouldn't make out that
much.

RALPH

But I wouldn't want to drive.

JOE

So what's causing that?

RALPH

A girl.

JOE

What?

RALPH

She was kidnapped about thirty years ago and left out here to die. She found her way to this road and flagged down a car. But all the man in that car did was rape her and leave her here. She waited for a truck to rumble through and jumped in front of it. Killed her instantly.

JOE

So she's the ghost.

RALPH

Yeah. She's never forgiven that man or any other man who stops by here.

JOE

What?

Joe looks out the front window. A YOUNG GIRL stands directly in front of the car. She looks through Joe with hateful eyes. Her clothes are tattered and covered in blood. Her hair is a mess of tangles.

JOE

What the hell is going on, Ralph?

The girl approaches the car.

RALPH

It's the part that no one can put online. The reason I've been gone for a few days.

Joe looks at Ralph wide-eyed. He looks back to the road. The girl is gone.

JOE

What is it?

RALPH

I'm dead, Joe. She killed me.

JOE

Dead?

RALPH

I was cursed to bring another here for her to kill before my spirit is released to the great beyond. And now the curse is yours.

Joe's mouth is dropped open. Behind him in the car, the girl rises from the back seat.

JOE

But that would mean I have to-

Ralph nods.

RALPH

Forgive me, Joe.

The girl grabs Joe. He screams for a moment.

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The car is gone. The glow fades out. The field is now dark.

THE END