

The Day That Made Middle School. A Little Less Boring
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Middle school was really boring until our field trip to Laffin' World Amusement Park.

My best friends, Tristan and Jill, sat with me on the bus on the way to the park. We were a group today, so we had to stay together for everything.

Laffin' World was one of those parks that was a big hit in its day, 20 years back. It was old and rickety, and if you stepped in one wrong spot, the whole place would crumble.

Once everyone got their ride bands on, we were free to go on every ride we wanted as many times as we wanted before we had to leave. Tristan, Jill, and I went to the park's main attraction: Laffin' Screamin' Haunted House, a little drive through haunted house.

When we got there, Tristan smiled at the ride operator, which was a little weird, but he followed me and Jill into a car on the ride.

The operator started up the ride. "It's cheating if you close your eyes!" he said as we descended into the dark haunted house.

But rides like this didn't scare me. Even when you mysteriously get stopped half way through. I took the chance to laugh at how puny it was.

I turned on my phone flashlight and looked around. The haunted house was so fake. Everything was behind glass or in a cage so that kids didn't climb out and touch it, and half the masks were ripped, revealing blue stuffing. Couldn't they at least make the inner layers red?

I hopped out of the car after about five minutes. "I'm finding the way out," I said, "This place isn't worth it."

I got out of the car and began walking to the exit. Jill and Tristan nodded. "Probably wise," Tristan said.

Jill and Tristan turned on their phone flashlights to help illuminate the way.

Near the exit I heard a voice that wasn't my friends. "Watch your step!!!"

Before I could react to what they said, I fell through the floor because of broken floor boards, and fell to what I thought would be my death.

"ELIZABETH!!" my friends screamed.

I landed with a hard thump on the floor, which knocked the wind out of me, but I was fine once I got my breath back.

"ELIZABETH! ARE YOU OKAY!?" Jill called.

"Yeah. I'm fine!" I managed to yell. "But I don't know how I'm getting out."

I looked around. "I can't find my phone. I need light." Tristan shone his flashlight down at me. No. Jill's? There were three lights but only two phones.

"Catch!" Tristan said, as he tossed down his phone. I caught it, and used the light to see where I was. In a basement. A musty one.

But what I also noticed was a ride much like the one above my head. There were cars and a track. A track with a ramp that led up to ground level.

I took my chances and hopped on the ride, despite my friends' cries. I didn't answer their many questions as I tried to figure out how the car worked.

I found a small switch by my right leg that lit up the lights on the car, and then found a lever. I pulled the lever and the car started to move. Backward. I pulled the lever again, the

other way, and the car went forward. I leaned back as the engine grumbled and the wheels turned and squeaked.

I was carried around the basement and then up the ramp to the main floor. The ride on the ground level had not yet started back up.

I hopped out of the little car as it started to fall backward down the ramp. I think I was supposed to pull the brake.

I ran over to the cage with the witch and a black cat where my friends should have been, but they weren't there. The only thing that remained was Jill's phone. I picked it up.

"JILL!!! TRISTAN!!! WHERE ARE YOU!?!?"

I yelled and shouted and screamed for my friends over and over and over, and my only reply was darkness.

I sat down, terrified. But if my friends were to come, I didn't want them to see how scared I was. If they knew me for something, it was that I was pretty fearless.

I shined the flashlights around looking for my friends.

In the shadows was something big. Tall. Two heads. With a green and blue body. And four arms.

It emerged from the shadows. In the creepiest voice, it said: "BOO!"

I felt my face go pale as I held in a scream.

The monster came closer, thumping its feet.

I ran out of the haunted house, despite my missing friends.

Ten minutes later, Tristan and Jill came out of the haunted house. I ran over and hugged my friends. And they started laughing.

I looked from Jill to Tristan and from Tristan to Jill. They just kept laughing.

"You should have SEEN your face!" Tristan laughed.

They laughed so hard tears were streaming down their cheeks and they were on the ground clutching their sides.

Then a stabbing pain of truth and embarrassment slammed into me. It had been my friends who'd scared me. Jill had been on Tristan's shoulders, and they had put on masks. They both had on green shirts and blue pants.

Jill handed me my phone. "You dropped this," she said.

I took it from her and stood up.

And then I started to laugh. I laughed at my foolishness and at the joke they'd played, and at the thought of a monster.

Tristan and Jill laughed with me and then we went to the Ferris wheel. My friends told me that the ride operator was Tristan's uncle, Joseph. They told me that the ride in the basement was for when employees went down to get stuff from storage so that they could ride back up. They told me that there was a hole in the floor because they were replacing the damage of a fallen cage but hadn't gotten the new flooring in yet. And they said that there had been a mattress underneath where I'd fallen or else I definitely would have been killed, but that the mattress was really old and had a lot of hard springs in it. They had covered it in dust and dirt.

On the bus ride back to school, I nearly fell asleep. I was so tired from the day I'd had.

From that day on, school wasn't so boring, knowing that I had some of the funniest friends around.

And the adventure I'd had at Laffin' World was the best and funniest adventure I'd ever had. And that was all thanks to my friends.