

# HIDE AND SEEK

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aged 12

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Scene One: Emily and James Calaholt are in the van, on the way to their new country house.

Emily: Don't you just love the sweet smell of the fresh country air? It's like a dream come true, and Mum and Dad are so happy. I really think that we can make a fresh start here!

James: (Lets out heavy sigh) that's what you think! I have a right mind to go back home! I'm missing my friends already, and Nan's apple pie. At least one person is normal in this family! And who gives a toss about fresh country air; I'd rather stink of pollution than smell of daisies and what not!

Emily: (Looks out of the window, chuckles under breath) Totally egocentric.

Scene Two: The Calaholt family have arrived at their new country house.

James: This is a right old dump, no wonder it was sold for like the price of a carrot! I'm not even a teenager yet and I'm already poor?

Emily: Well I am, and I say that with a few fix ups here and there, I reckon that this place will be as good as new!

James: A few fix ups? It's gonna need a good old knocking down!

Emily: Oh just shut up and help with the unpacking would ya?

James: Are you joking? I'm off-to explore this dirt ground. Are you coming then or what?

Emily: (yawns and sighs) well I guess the unpacking can wait just a little while. But no monkey business, and if there shall be any then you'll get the nastiest room!

James: Hey!

Emily: So what do you want to explore first?

James: Uh, how about hide and seek? That way we're having fun and exploring at the same time! But you're not allowed to leave the fields. And count to 50.

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Emily: Yeah, yeah calm down, whatever! I'll count first, GO! 1 2 3 50! Ready or not, here I come! Now...Where is that boy? (Trips over diary) OUCH! What's this? This must belong to the old owners. (Flicks through book) Property of Louise Longside. That's great, there's not even a mark in this book. Humph! (Smacks book down on the floor)

Louise: Hey, that's mine!

Emily: Oh, Ja-ames, I can hear you!

Louise: Oh. Him. Yeah, he's in the stables. Just down the hill, to the left.

Emily: Who... J-James, where... where are you... stop messing about! C-come on!

Louise: Don't be daft; he's in the stables, stupid! It's me, duh! I am Louise Longside. Used to live in this cottage. Well, that's until the mine work stopped. Daddy and I worked there. Now you Calaholts have taken over this place, I'll have to find a new place for my dad and me! Those were the good days. I still don't know why they've closed down the mine! It's been a good 17 years now. And that diary! My mum gave it to me. On my 13th birthday. Just before she took off. Anyway, you know, there had been a lot of viewings for this old place. A lot of rejections too. So, how 'bout yourself?

Emily: I- I, who are you?

Louise: Girl, weren't you just listening to that whole speech? Every time, every time I give that speech and no-one listens!

Emily: Oh, no, no! It's not like that, it's just that, well, I've never actually met a ghost before. I didn't believe in them, but, I'm sorry, I guess I'm just shocked.

Louise: (Mutters under breath) Hmm. They all are.

Emily: So, um, you were saying that there were a lot of rejections to this place. Would you know why?

Louise: Yeah, the usual. Sit down. You see, I have been here for a long, long time and I just didn't wanna have my home taken over, you know? And then, whenever anyone came for viewings, I would do my bit of scaring them and then the estate agent or whoever was taking the viewing, did the rest.

Emily: The rest?

Louise: Yeah. They would go off telling them the whole story about the mine and how the house is on top of the mine and everything. And I thought that it was her job to sell it, not put it down! I just wanted the house to be in good hands. And no-one seemed right!

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Emily: So our... or your house is on top of a mine? But that's not safe is it?  
Louise: Absolutely, that's why the viewers rejected it apart from your posse. That didn't stop you lot though. Anyway, you better go find your brother before he gets too bored of hiding. I'll see you around.  
Emily: (Stands up) Yeah. Sure.

Scene Three: Emily is out on the fields, looking for her brother, to tell him about Louise.

Emily: James! Come on out! I need to tell you something!  
James: (Comes out of hiding) so do I. Sis, I don't know how to tell you; but I've just made friends with a man ghost. Now don't be shocked be-  
Emily: -I know. It was probably Louise's dad. Did he talk to you? Tell you about him and the mine and Louise. Yeah I was with Louise.  
James: I didn't understand much 'cos I'm only ten and all, but I've pretty much got the picture now. I'll go and tell ma and pa.  
Emily: NO! We'll have to move out then! And besides, even if you do tell 'em, they're not gonna believe us anyway.  
James: But we have to move! Don't you understand? Our house is on top of a mine place. It could fall through anytime!  
Emily: I know, but Louise and her dad will sort it out I'm sure. Unless you have a better idea!  
James: (Shakes head) Nope. Not a thing.  
Emily: We could just stay friends with them!  
James: Sure, but what are we gonna say when ma and pa catch us talking to oxygen?  
Emily: Boy, you are cleverer than you look! Well for now we're just gonna have to put up with it and see what happens. I'm hungry, you?  
James: (chuckles loudly) Yeah but stop tickling me!  
Emily: Not me. Louise?  
Louise: (smiles kindly) Yes, it's me. Look I have had a word with my father and he agrees with me. We thought that after meeting you guys, we knew that you would keep this house safe. It's time for my father and me to move on, find another place, now that this ones in good hands. Thank you. Oh! And yes, the house is completely safe and I wouldn't expect it to fall through! Your parents are real nice too. I think they'll believe you. Well, I better be off. I will visit though. This means so much.  
Emily: Oh no, it's our pleasure. We'll keep this place in tip top shape! Have a safe journey! (Waves wildly)  
James: Well that was strange. Saying hello and goodbye to a ghost in one day!  
Emily: (smiles at the sky) They'll be back soon. They'll be back.