

Outdated Costumes - Rayne, Year 10, NSW

Valerie awoke, looked at the clock on her grey wall, then decided since it was six in the morning that she'd start fixing, sewing and stitching the old vintage 1960s clothing she and the gang found at the second-hand shop for their Halloween costume for Hill's Eye High School's Halloween party.

Pulling out her sewing machine and her thousands of multi-coloured threads, Valerie got to work. As she went to pick up the two wheels of white thread, a stitching needle pricked her finger, causing droplets of her blood to fall and soak into the thread. She didn't notice since somehow, like magic, the dark crimson red of her blood didn't show.

Four to five hours and eleven cups of coffee later, Valerie finished fixing the vintage clothing and decided to walk to Casey's house instead of driving, because Casey's mansion wasn't too far from Valerie's. After doorbell ditching the clothes on Casey's front doorstep, Valerie went straight back home and to bed. She was too exhausted, her fingers looked and felt like they were in a war.

The next morning, she awoke, a golden wave filling up Valerie's room from the morning sun. Valerie sat up in bed and saw a reflection in the mirror that showed--

"A GHOST?!"

Valerie stumbled back, gobsmacked by the ghost's reflection in the mirror. The reflection belonged to a teenage girl who seemed to be from the 1960s, guessing from the ghost's appearance, starting with the pale white skin with a trail of freckles over the girl's face, to the medium curly auburn hair and red and white polka dot dress. The same dress Valerie had gotten at the weird thrift shop.

"There's a ghost.... in my room.... looking at me through my mirror..."

The ghost looked into Valerie's eyes from the mirror's reflection, a smile on her face to seem more friendly. Violet-the ghost told Valerie her story about her and her friend's criminal wannabe boyfriends and what has and is going to happen. Valerie had a feeling she could trust Violet, so she took the white and red polka dot dress she had set out and put it on like Violet said.

After possessing Valerie, Violet left Valerie's house, rushing over to the second-hand/antique shop. *DING, DING* went the second-hand shop's bell above the door.

"Hello?" Violet called out, looking across from the counter towards the half wall.

"Coming," said the shopkeeper as he showed himself from behind the wall and walked over to the counter.

Violet looked at the tall young man with his brown pencil moustache, his black and white pencil suit with his jelled-back black hair.

Violet took a deep breath. "I was hoping you'd have something to help? With a gh—"

Violet blinked, and then he was gone. Only the sounds of something falling, glass breaking and a few grunts told her she wasn't alone.

A minute later, Michael reappeared, plopping onto the counter an old leather-bound book, a bag of salt and a Black tourmaline crystal.

"Here is what you need for the ghost problem."

Violet was stunned. "How'd you kn—"

"You don't have enough time to chat." Michael packed the items into a bag and handed it to Violet. "Free of charge for a first customer."

Violet, still questioning what just happened, left the shop, heading towards the high school. Bursting through the doors, Violet found an empty classroom, drew the pentagram using the bag of salt like the book instructed, and then headed out to find the girls. Violet's friends from the 60's were now possessing Valerie's friends. The two girls entered the high school and, without warning, were dragged into a classroom by Violet.

"Violet? A girl named Tiffany said to come here," Taylor spoke, a hint of confusion in her voice.

"Same with me, the girl I'm possessing for some reason said the same thing."

The girls wanted to know what was going on, but they didn't have very long.

"I'll try and be quick, but we don't have much time." Violet quickly filled the girls in on the plan. As Violet made sure the girls knew the plan, the three now-possessed boys entered the school. Buckley was now Brite, Brune was now Benjamin and Krane was now Keilith. The girls approached the possessed boys cautiously. The boy's faces curved into sinister grins.

"Hello, ladies." Benjamin took a taunting bow.

"We meet again, beautiful," Brite spoke in a mockingly sweet tone as he approached Violet. Keilith put his arms around Carla and swayed with her.

"Us ladies were hoping we'd be asked to dance?" Carla spoke sweetly.

"We thought you'd never ask." The boys pulled the girls close, the girls felt goosebumps as the knives in the boys' pockets poked the girls. They led the boys into the classroom and the salt pentagram while handing the boys a cup of water that the girls dipped with the crystal. The girls made sure to keep the boys' attention as they drank the water, so they wouldn't notice the salt pentagram on the floor the boys were standing in.

The girls quickly left the pentagram and cast the spell causing an invisible wall to surround the boys, blocking their exit of the pentagram.

"Ladies, enough. Let us out," Benjamin spoke, glaring at Taylor with a smile.

Keilith looked over at Carla with a pleading smile. "Baby, Come on! You know I love ya! I didn't WANT, to kill you, it was the guy's idea!"

Brite gave Violet a warning smile. "We'll just come back again."

Violet froze, looked at Taylor and Carla to see if they were on the same page, and then chanted the spell, causing the boy's ghosts to evaporate from the boys' bodies. The boys were unconscious, but back to their old selves. The girls soon collapsed as the other ghosts left their bodies.

Valerie awoke with an audience surrounding her. A student asked what happened and Valerie responded with "Happy Halloween."