

A HALLOWE'EN STORY FROM A GHOULISH PERSPECTIVE.

There is a land far, far away, over the hills and along the mountain streams, a land where no human has ever been, a place called GhostLand. In GhostLand there is a very special day, which occurs once a year, when all the adult ghosts, who have been practising their 'Ooooooohs' and 'Aaaaaaaahs' all year, travel over the hills and along the rivers, to HumanLand. That day is called Halloween.

It is a special day for the ghost children too, one they look forward to all year, as they are able to play and have fun while their parents are gone. Just as human children look forward to Christmas and their parents' present, the ghost children looked forward to Halloween without their parents present.

The young ghosts of GhostLand grow up, hearing stories of the great ghosts of the past, such as Gilbert the Ghoulish, who defeated the Ancient Egyptians, and Suzi the Spooky, a fearless heroine, who, so legend has it, outshone Cleopatra for her beauty and poise.

When young ghosts reached the age of 16, they would sit school examinations in subjects such as: Screamology, Eye-poppology and, for the more practical, Sheet-smoothing, before entering GhostLand College to study Spookology or Spectral Studies. This was examination week.

Rupert, like many ghost teenagers, was awoken by the sound of his mother yelling a mighty 'Whoooooooooooo!' up the stairs, disturbing Rupert from his nightmare, a nightmare which had featured humans laughing and joking in the sunshine, smiles on their faces, something which all ghosts, young and old, knew to be a very disturbing thing.

Rupert, in his naivety, was still blissfully unaware of the irony that someone who was not much more than a sheet himself, would go to bed covered by other sheets. It was like asking to humans to sleep with a bed full of manikins, but, then, some of them probably did. But Rupert was only just starting to learn about that sort of thing.

So Rupert, gathering together all his things, set off for GhostLand Secondary School, where he knew he would suffer another day of teasing and abuse by the GhostLand bullies, who were convinced that their screams and howls were far superior to anything that Rupert could produce.

Then it happened.

Just as Rupert was walking down the street, his eyes, that he had practised opening as far as he could, in true ghost-like fashion, espied Katrina, a young ghost girl, about 16 herself, on her way to school.

At that moment their eyes, both out on stalks, as was considered polite in ghostly circles, met for the first time.

'Hello Rupert', Katrina said, as she raised her face to meet his. 'Would you like to walk to school with me? I am feeling a little nervous.'

Had Rupert been human, his heart would have melted, but because he was a ghost, it froze with happiness.

That was the day that changed the rest of Rupert and Katrina's lives. Although they did not know it then, Rupert and Katrina would spend the rest of their days together, blissfully frightening humans out of their wits as they brought up the next generation of young ghosts, teaching them to be courageous and always to 'float up' in the face of adversity, especially when faced by that most feared of humans, The Ghostbusters!