

The experiment

I got up on an island. I was alone. I started to walk. I am Mark. I did not know why I was there. I just remembered that I was with my friends. After that all is confused. Suddenly I heard someone asking for help. I ran towards the voice. I saw a man trying to swim. It was John, one of my friends with whom I was before arriving on this island. I jumped to the sea, I caught him and I pulled him to the shore. He was alive but frozen. He did not understand why he was in the sea. Then we heard someone shouting: "Mark! John! Are you here?" We saw Carol and Natty running toward us. They were tired looking. "Where are we?" Natty said.

"We are on an island but I do not remember how we came here." I replied
"We were also with Matt." Carol added.

"We were supposed to go on holidays together!" I remembered.

"We saw a tower when we were looking for help" Carol remembered.

"Why don't we explore this island and find this tower, there must be someone who can help us." John proposed.

They entered the forest and they walked for a few hours. They were disturbed because they did not understand how and why they had arrived here. The forest was in a fog. The air was getting colder. They were following a well-trodden path. The night was falling, the forest was becoming darker. Suddenly Carol saw a body on the ground. They recognised Matt. Natty rushed to him and helped her friend to stand up. A few minutes later Matt was fine but shaking. Natty explained they were lost on an island. They took again the path and continued. Later on they arrived in front of a big castle. The tower they saw in front of them was part of it.

"What are we going to do now, it is night we cannot see anything." John said
"Maybe we should explore the castle and warm up ourselves..." Natty added
Natty stopped talking because a light had just appeared in a window and a second later it had disappeared.

"Did you see that?!" Natty exclaimed, shocked.

"Everybody saw it" Matt replied perturbed.

"Mark, come with me in the castle!" John ordered.

"Let's go!" Mark said.

"We are going to wait here" Carol said anxiously.

John knocked on the huge door of the old building. The door opened. We entered a big room. The door closed violently and everything became dark. I felt my heart beating faster.

"John, are you fine?" I asked.

No answer. I yelled: "John!"

I heard no sound, it became very strange.

"Stop joking John, they are waiting for us" I whispered.

Nothing. I instantly felt unsafe in this big castle where I could not see anything.

I turned and ran towards the door, I touched a cold wall. I heard a shout. The light of a candle appeared and a few seconds later disappeared. There was someone in the castle. I groped for the handle of the door, I quickly opened and ran out of the castle.

Natty, Matt and Carol were looking at me surprised. I was breathless.

"Where is John!?" Natty shouted

"I do not know, I...I lost him, he disappeared!" I stammered.

"What!?" Carol yelled.

"Strange things happened here, and everything was dark." I said.

"We can't stay here, we have to go in the castle and find John" Matt suggested.

They entered the castle. This time, there was light. Mark saw that in front of the door there was a huge staircase. They could easily see that the building was occupied. The group started to climb the staircase. Suddenly all the lights were switched off. Carol screamed. The light reappeared, and Carol had disappeared. They searched all around but they did not find anything.

"They can't disappear like that!" Natty exclaimed.

"We have to find them!" Matt agreed.

I was lost in my thoughts. Natty and Matt were gone. I tried to breathe slowly and started walking. There was a little spiral staircase. I was really scared and I had a headache. I arrived in a cold little room, in the tower. I saw a window and the silhouette of a man was standing in front of it. I walked towards the stranger silently. Because I was afraid, my vision was blurred. I was close to the man. I was trying to say something when a spark came from the ceiling. I panicked. The man turned and saw me. I thought he was going to strangle me but I did not realize what he was doing. I just pushed him and he fell from the window. I heard him scream and then I heard him crash on the floor. At my feet, there was a camera. I closed my eyes. Natty was calling me. I killed a man. Who was trying to kill me. Or maybe he did not want to kill me. I ran out of the castle. Natty joined me and at the bottom of the tower, there was Matt's dead body. Natty was crying and she was talking to me. I could not hear her.

"Stoop! We stop the show here, it can't continue! Why did this camera fall! Because of this camera he killed a candidate! Seeing what friends do when they

are lost is very interesting but if they kill each other we can't show that on TV, that is terrible!"

The producer of the reality TV show "The experiment" was very angry! His goal was to show to the audience what people did when in a specific situation. He erased part of the candidates' memory, placed them in a big studio with a lot of hidden cameras. Then he made things happen and watched how the candidates reacted. But this time, it had gone too far...

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