



The Case of the Giggling Ghost

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Mary-Kate and Ashley are excited to attend their town's annual Halloween Carnival. Every year, the carnival's proceeds go to charity -- but this year, few people are riding the rides or playing the games. That's because there's a ghost at the carnival that's scaring all the kids away!

The girls must figure out who or what the spectre is -- and how to get rid of it -- or the carnival doesn't stand a ghost of a chance!

The Case of the Giggling Ghost Details

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From Reader Review The Case of the Giggling Ghost for online ebook

Lacie Kronfeld says

Great series. The Trench coat Twins need to find out who took the missing carnival prizes, and find their friend who disappeared! Let's just say I would love to visit a haunted carnival

Sweet's Family Bookshelves says

Short read. Perfect for a 2nd - 3rd grader.

Someone is trying to make everyone at the carnival think there is a ghost.

Andrea says

This is in Mary Kate's POV, just like the Screaming Scarecrow. I was hoping this would be in Ashley's. The author pointed out, as in the Screaming Scarecrow, that Ashley does everything logically, while Mary Kate goes with her gut feeling. It was especially redundant after recently reading the other book, and I wondered if every book starts out with the same thing. It would get really old. I assumed this would be by the same author, and didn't realize this series has different authors, so I was really put off that the same wording would be used that another author used.

Their town was having a Halloween Carnival and Mary Kate and Ashley and their friends were going to run the booths. There was a group of angry people yelling to close the carnival down, called OOH, which sounded like a joke. It's the Organization Opposed to Halloween. These people have a problem with the noise level and sugar, and kids getting scared. They didn't even care that the money goes to the animal shelter.

Rachel's cousin, Billy, told the group that strange things were happening and that he thought the haunted house really was haunted. Patty put a quarter into the fortune-telling machine and it spat out a card that said those who don't believe in ghosts soon will, signed by the giggling ghost. It had an added layer of creepiness because they had just been talking about not believing in ghosts, so the timing was really suspect--and too quick for my liking. This was followed up by giggling that Mary Kate couldn't tell where was coming from. She ruled out all of her friends, and the machine, so the mystery was on.

The pages had 5 mean-looking pumpkins on the bottom, but it would have been more appropriate to have a ghost, since the title is about a ghost.

It really bothers me how so many authors and TV shows and things think that ghosts aren't real, and the culprit always ends up being a real person. Ghosts aren't some crazy, supernatural being like an alien or monster. They're spirits of people--real people--who have died. It's our soul that goes on to live when our bodies have died. Idk what's so hard to understand about that. So it really annoyed me how literally no one believed in ghosts except scaredy-cat Rachel, who gets afraid of everything, even Jello. It makes a mockery of the whole thing. Oh, and Daisy, the girl at the information table who also ran the machine. She happened

to be in college and was studying ghosts, how they linger on earth because of unfinished business or they're mad about something. Eric, Patty, Tim, Ashley and Mary Kate didn't believe in ghosts at all, and it was oh so condescending how they kept insisting that ghosts aren't real and there was another explanation.

All of the goldfish in Patty and Eric's booth had been swapped out for plastic fish, and purple goo was left on the bowls. Mary Kate and Ashley decided to look in the haunted house for the suspect. A talking head on the dinner table had them both afraid, and when Ashley bumped into Mary Kate and knocked her down, someone helped Mary Kate up from behind and she actually thought it was the ghost. I was shocked that she believed in it for even a moment.

It turns out Daisy had touched her, following them to find a real ghost for her paper. She pointed out a room was cold and that means ghosts are present, and Mary Kate thought that doesn't mean a ghost is there, and questioned herself does it? I for one was glad that she believed in her.

I found it way too convenient that they found the fish so quickly. Rachel had had the idea to look for the fish in a haunted house, because that's a good place a ghost would go. So when they went into the cemetery room, Ashley decided the coffin would be a good place to put the fish. I get that it was convenient for the culprit to bring the fish to a nearby location, but also unlikely that the person would have kept them at the carnival. This was also only the second room they searched in, and to make it worse, Ashley found a clue. Oh, the childish mysteries where there's always a clue at the scene of the crime. A pizza crust was inside the coffin with the fish bowls, which proved that it was a person and not a ghost. But Daisy spotted the same purple goo and insisted a ghost was there because they emit ectoplasm.

Just as I knew it would, the container of goo they were going to test was taken. Mary Kate suspected Byron Adams, the OOH member. Byron had had a wet spot on his shirt, which reminded Mary Kate of what had happened when Daisy picked the fish tank up, making her sure of his guilt. Ashley wasn't so sure, said the water could have come from something else, and they needed more proof. They ran through the clues and Ashley admitted Byron could have done that because he was at the carnival early.

But Ashley's logical side really fell apart as it was Mary Kate who added Daisy as a suspect, and Ashley questioned her motive and pointed out how nice the girl is. If that isn't going off a feeling I don't know what is. Mary Kate explained that Daisy needed a ghost to write about. Mary Kate seemed like the logical one and Ashley the one led by her feelings. It's important to keep characters consistent.

I was shocked when Mary Kate added the giggling ghost onto the suspect list.

Patty brought a newspaper article to their attention, where the carnival was reported as haunted and Daisy was referenced as a ghost expert, and Byron was quoted as saying the carnival should be shut down since it's haunted. The girls set off to nab the culprit, but ran into a delivery guy carrying pizzas to the OOH. He shared that Byron doesn't eat the crusts and he had to take them all off.

They also spied Daisy eating a slice and she tossed the crust into the trash, so they were both equally suspicious. They asked her to show them how cards were loaded into the fortune-telling machine, and all she did was open the back, no key at all, so they realized anyone could have slipped that card in. Ashley was smart enough to pretend she wanted Daisy's autograph, because of her fame from the article, to compare it with the handwriting on the card.

They saw Byron spill water and everything else on himself, probably accounting for the water spot that day. It all tied together and I liked how the author explained away every detail to clear someone.

All of a sudden it hit Mary Kate that Eric and Patty would have motive because they liked to scare Rachel so much. They set off for their booth to get handwriting samples and noticed a sign, which was Eric's writing

and not a match. But Patty volunteered that she can do all sorts of writing. She displayed similar styles but not an exact match. Ashley asked her to go for pizza and Patty said she doesn't eat the crust, making her move to the #1 suspect spot.

Mary Kate found a keychain that was a black box with a red button and I just knew it contained the audio for that creepy giggle. It was so obvious. And it belonged to Rachel, who I thought originally could have been a suspect with the motive to get back at Eric and Patty but ruled her out because of how scared she was of the ghost and haunted house.

Mary Kate and Ashley wanted to go back to the haunted house to search for more clues, and Tim and Eric went with them. Patty and Rachel were the only ones not there. While there, they found the scientist's laboratory room and heard the giggling. The lights went out and when they came back on, Tim was gone.

It turns out he hit a section of the wall that flipped it around and put him in another room, which had a slide that took him out of the house. Rachel screamed which caused all of them to go running back to her, where she pointed out purple goo in their booth. Ashley found a note from the Giggling Ghost demanding that Patty and Eric be left at the cemetery tomorrow night if they all wanted to be left alone. Very obvious. It could have only have been her who wanted that and her who could have left the goo and note. It further amplified her guilt when she asked if they were going to give Patty and Eric over, saying the ghost would keep haunting them if they didn't.

They checked the writing on the fortune card and the note, and they matched, which I didn't understand why they would check because obviously they're going to match because the same person would have written both. Ashley said Patty could have done it, and it took Mary Kate to point out that Patty wouldn't have requested herself to be brought to the cemetery, she would have put Rachel. They deduced it was more confusing but to me it was so obvious and I was bothered that they didn't think of Rachel. She was the only person who would have singled out Patty and Eric and it didn't make them look too smart that they didn't get that.

They brought a container of the goo home and put it in the fridge, but their dad ended up eating it before they could test it. He proclaimed that it was grape Jell-O. Ashley remembered that's what they'd had at their school Halloween party and Mary Kate remembered that Rachel had brought it. Ashley wanted to check their Halloween cards and it skipped to them at the carnival with a plan. I personally don't like being out of the know and I want to know what the characters do, so I don't like this device, but it does allow readers to be surprised.

Ashley and Mary Kate announced to their friends that the only way to solve the crime would be to bring Patty and Eric to the cemetery, but they went with them, and brought Clue and Emily. Rachel announced that she couldn't go because her mom was picking her up, a dead giveaway.

A ghost appeared at the coffin, and Mary Kate sent Clue after it. Clue bit the sheet and there was Rachel. It's always the victim in the story...I'm noticing a pattern in this series and it isn't good. Mary Kate explained that they figured out the rest easily, that Billy was the one who put the card in the machine because he'd gotten at the carnival before them, and that he took the fish and placed the goo. Idk how they came to that conclusion, but it wasn't "easy."

The girls also have a keychain that has a tape recorder, so that's how they recognized what Rachel's was. They had checked and found one on the fortune teller machine and on Eric and Patty's booth. And in the haunted house, Billy had played the giggling over the speaker. Billy wanted to help Rachel, claiming no one could tease his little cousin but him. They hadn't meant to hurt the carnival and were going to confess.

The creepy giggling could be heard and some of them started to believe in the ghost again, because Rachel

said it wasn't her. And then Mary Kate revealed her keychain and Ashley had a recorder. They wished them a happy Halloween and that was how it ended.

I really didn't like that Rachel was the "ghost." I don't like when the victim ends up doing something as bad as their tormentors. I guess this series is their friends messing up and them having to catch them. It's awkward to discover their friends are doing bad things and I hope their friends aren't always the culprits because that would get old. I've noticed that there are 2 strong suspects, and a possible 3rd that isn't as strong, and it's always that person, so now that I've noticed a pattern they are really predictable and I hope the other authors have not followed this pattern or else I'm going to guess it every time.

I enjoyed The Case of the Screaming Scarecrow more because at least there were a couple funny quotes. This didn't try to be funny, except for many one line about Byron always spilling something on his shirt.

Angela says

Great series for girls! Nothing too weighty, like Nancy Drew for today's generation.

Alex says

Yet another cute one!

Hiba says

Fun to read

Parneet says

that of course there`s no such thing as ghost! Or should I say giggling ghost?

Chioma olapade says

i think marykate and ashley is the best story book ever

Farah says

loved there books when I was 12-13,This one was realy good

Heather says

I had this on my to-read list, and my sister read this for Halloween this year. She noticed it was on my to-read list too, and passed it along to me. I had to squeeze it in last minute with all the other Halloween books I had planned. I read this in one evening, and blew through it, just wanting to finish tonight. I don't think I've ever charged through a chapter book so fast.

At least I can say I've read it, and I got done before the book I have planned for tomorrow.

I read some Mary Kate and Ashley books as a kid, but that was a really long time ago, and I don't remember anything about them.

It turns out even though they look alike, they're very different. Ashley is logical and Mary Kate goes with her gut.

It was a little hard keeping up with the characters at first. I had to go, ok this is princess Patty, she's spoiled, Rachel is the one who's scared of everything, Eric goes with Patty, Tim is the twin's friend. Billy is Rachel's cousin.

I wish the mystery was a little more in-depth. And I wish the clues were scarier. I mean, it's a giggling ghost, for goodness sake. Giggling isn't very scary.

I noticed that the protester's organization spelled OOH, which was fitting in a ghost book.

At times, the titles of the chapters gave away things. Like ch 6 titled The Goo is Gone! So then I knew someone was going to steal the goo that they were saving as evidence and were gonna inspect.

The goldfish get taken, and their idea is to look in the haunted house. That was a random place to me. It was very convenient that the fish would be there. It was very random for them to be in the cemetery room, in a coffin. Why would someone put them there?

When they went to think of suspects, I thought it was way too soon for that. They just got to the carnival a short while ago. I wish the story had eased into the mystery, and actually built up real suspects and clues before they make a suspect list.

It didn't even make sense to suspect Daisy, saying she created a fake ghost so she could use it for her homework. When Ashley tells Mary-Kate she's smart to think of that, I was thinking, actually no, that's not smart at all. Why would you create a fake ghost when you need to write about a real ghost for your class?

They find a piece of pizza crust in the coffin. Byron doesn't like crust on his pizza, but to have more suspects, Daisy conveniently doesn't like crust either. Not to rule out their new #1 suspect, Patty also doesn't like crust. I've never known so many people who didn't like pizza crust, and all in one place, too.

It was ridiculous when they suspected Patty, and she became the #1 suspect just because she could write in different ways.

Just because Patty said she wanted pizza with no crust, they announce that she's the ghost, just like that. Without even knowing.

Rachel screams while they're at the haunted house, and they go running to find...some purple goop. It was so lackluster, and not scary at all. Goo is not scary, even if they thought it was the ghosts' ectoplasm.

The plot became too centered on the mystery, & I wanted them to do something else. Have fun at the

carnival, go places, do something else!

It was funny when Rachel asked if they're going to give Patty and Eric to the ghost.

I was so irritated when they took the second sample of goo home, were about to examine it, & it was gone. At least this time it wasn't the 'ghost' who took it, it was their dad who ate it because it turned out to be grape jello-o. I wondered how they were going to inspect the goo, what they could possibly know of analyzing something. You'd have to have a microscope, and then know what to do with it, of compounds and things like that. It's very far fetched.

The second they mentioned Rachel bringing jello-o to the Halloween party, I knew it was her. And then mentioning the key chain, I knew it was the cause of the giggling. It turned out to be a remote for a recorder.

Rachel had reason to get back at Eric and Patty for scaring her, but I didn't see that coming at all. I didn't suspect her at all, and I don't like when the culprits end up coming from left field, and you hadn't suspected them at all. I like them to be in the running. I thought it would be someone obvious like Byron, and I even suspected Billy. Billy did turn out to be an accomplice though.

I didn't like that they never suspected Billy, or told us readers that he was a part of it, until all of a sudden they say Billy is the one who stole the goldfish and left the goo all over everything. It leaves you wondering when they put it together, and thought it was fact without actually having real clues to know it was him. It was a hunch at best, that you wouldn't know unless he confessed.

Then the protesters just fade from the story. What did they do after? Just give up on Halloween, knowing they hadn't stopped the carnival?

This wasn't too good. It was too paint-by-the-numbers, wasn't scary in the slightest, and the story was just too simple. Besides some humorous moments in here, and the friendships in here which I liked, there wasn't much going for this. I was disappointed by this. It makes me hesitant to read any more in this series if they're all this simple.
