

THEY GET IN

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Age 14

It was Monday morning and the class called the Brighton were on a trip to go camping in the woods. In the woods there were tangled thorns, bone like trees and a ridiculously boiling sun high in the sky.

The female scouts were all dressed in their scout outfits with bags full of camping equipment. Their teacher's name was Mrs. Paxton, she was a middle-aged woman with blonde hair and blue eyes. Her best scout was a girl called Amanda she was quite tall with goldish brown hair, green eyes and wore tall black hiker boots. Her outfit was full of badges so she knew what she was doing.

The other scouts had about 2 or 3 badges each, but there was one girl who didn't have a single badge and she didn't look like a normal girl scout. She had long black hair with a purple streak, blue eyes, headphones hung on her neck plugged to her phone and used chewing gum on her bag. She looked at the trees with a disgusted face and put her headphones on her ears, Amanda was looking at her curiously and walked up and said "hey what's your name" "Sally", "Sally Jones, why?" she said abruptly "because I noticed you don't have any badges, are you like new to this?" said Amanda curiously "no I just hate being here, I'm only here because my mum is on vacation so I am stuck here". Amanda turned and walked quickly to Mrs. Paxton and said "Mrs. Paxton she doesn't have a single badge

on her and she said she hates being here she can't come on the trip." "Why not? I mean I know she doesn't have any badges but it doesn't mean she can't become a girl scout" said Mrs. Paxton calmly "but" "come on Amanda give her one chance, can you do that for me?" Amanda sighed and nodded, Mrs. Paxton gave her a pat on the shoulder and said to everyone "alright scouts grab your equipment and follow me."

Everyone was put into teams of four, Amanda was with Sally, another girl with curly hair and a pinkish red jacket named Rose and Amelia who had a stripy t-shirt and long hair. Everyone started to set up their tents but Sally was leaning against a tree, crossing her arms while chewing her gum. "Hey we could use a hand here," shouted Amanda. Sally took the chewing gum out of her mouth and put it on her bag zip and said "no way I am not getting my hands dirty anyway I'm listening to my music" "come on" "sorry can't hear you, music's too loud" she said proudly. Amandas eyes grew deep with anger as if she wanted to throw her hammer but she remembered Mrs. Paxton's words and calmly lowered her hammer and continued making the tent.

The night grew dark and mysterious with the glowing moon behind the boney trees. The entire class were sitting on logs blackening their marshmallows against the roaring fire, Rose had an ice pack to help with the poison ivy she fell in earlier while Sally was listening to her music. Mrs. Paxton was telling them a camp fire story so the class huddled together to listen and Sally put down her headphones to hear "So there's a story

of a class called the Maddens who came to this forest years ago and when they were walking in the woods, they saw something strange but before they could investigate one by one, they started to lose their minds. Their minds were lost in a void and they all vanished in the night like ghosts, their camp site was left deserted, forgotten to the forest but whatever this thing was it's lurking in the shadows waiting for their next prey, no one knows what it is and maybe no one will ever find out." The entire class were chattering their teeth uncontrollably, the merciless wind knifing through them except for Sally who thought it was an awful story then she put her headphones back on and started listening to her music paying no attention.

Shortly after a bush started shaking giving the class a fright, Mrs. Paxton, crept slowly towards the bush and pushed her way through the leaves but then something pulled her in and there was a loud scream. All the class huddled together tightly for protection but then they heard footsteps and each step became louder and louder. Then out of the shadows came a monster stalking its prey, it was blue with teeth like a shark, inhumane eyes that looked as if it could cut a person in half, the entire class took a few steps back while the monster approached roaring so loudly that all the birds flew away but then it started to laugh everyone soon realizing it was actually Mrs. Paxton dressed in a costume "oh man I got you so good." all the class were shocked but laughed except for Sally who paid no attention to the prank.

The fire was slowly dying and Mrs. Paxton asked Amelia to get more fire wood, Amelia nodded and went into the woods while the class went into their tents to get some rest. Amelia walked deeper into the woods but the deeper she went the more trees seem to appear making the forest into a maze. She got a pile of wood in her hands but when she looked back, she realised she was lost in mother nature's prison, fear started to take over, the black clouds clutched the moon light and the sky grew darker increasing Amelia's terror. She heard branches snapping around her, losing her nerve she ran away without looking back but as she ran, she tripped over a tree root and twisted her ankle. As she lay there crying, a strange purple bushy plant caught her eye. It glowed in the dark and after admiring it a loud irritating ring sounded inside her head it was so loud then she was scratching her ear uncontrollably.

The next morning the class got up at 6.30 as instructed just as the sun started to warm. Mrs. Paxton called the register before embarking on the nature walk to look at wild animals and plants. However, when she called "Amelia" there was no response "where's Amelia?" she said, everyone searched the camp but there was still no sign. "She said she was going to get wood she must have got lost" said Amanda "she's probably dead" said Sally sarcastically.

Ok everyone we need to split into groups. Sally and Rose go with Amanda the rest of you come with me. Amanda and her

crew searched for what felt like hours through the dense trees “Amelia” they shouted. “We’ve been walking for hours we’re not going to find her anywhere maybe we should retrace our steps and go back to the camp” Sally said “come on maybe we should split up more because we could scout the area and find her” said Amanda “we’re never going to find her” Amanda shouted Sally “well moaning at me isn’t going to help because lucky for us I have an orienteering badge what do you have?” “Lucky for you, these” she was talking about her music and she put her headphones back on.

Amanda walked ahead got her binoculars and peered through them. As she looked back at the group, they were all scratching their ears uncontrollably trying to get something out and Sally saw them as well. “What are they doing?” said Sally. Before she could answer Amanda saw Mrs. Paxton standing staring over at the distance unmoving. Amanda turned back to the group but they’d stopped scratching their ears and stared at Amanda and Sally hungrily like they wanted to bite them. They all started humming a creepy tune at the same time which made them both a bit scared. Amanda said “let’s get out of here and ask Mrs. Paxton what to do” “Amanda, wait” said Sally “she’s behind you”. Amanda turned and sure enough Mrs. Paxton had made her way over but was humming the same tune and she had dark blue biofilms dangling out of her left ear while leaning her head against her shoulder.

Sally, Amanda and Rose seemed unaffected and ran off together into the forest. "What was that" said Amanda "I don't know but whatever this thing is, it's contagious so we can't stay around or we will be next."

As they ran, they came across a deserted camp site. There was a guitar with broken strings, camping bags but all the equipment was strewn on the ground, the tents could hardly stand up and no one was insight. "What is this place?" asked Rose, Amanda went towards a flag on a tree and said "wait I know this flag it's the missing Maddens scouts". They decided to look around "Come on guys they could be here any minute" said Rose "don't worry we'll protect you," said Sally. "Rose, keep a look out and shout if they come back" Amanda and Sally went into a tent to look around, they picked up a journal and looked through it. It had information on animals such as a robin and a butterfly but as they got to the end the words all seemed jumbled until the last pages in block letters just said "they get in" over and over. "They get in? who is they?" Amanda turned a page but it was blank "That's it there is nothing else."

Rose was quickly bored and went to look around, there was a cute teddy bear and there was a pink tub with 'Do not open' written on it. Rose opened the lid slowly to find a curious purple bushy plant. Rose heard a noise something stuck in her ear she pulled at the biofilm stuck to her and screamed. Sally

and Amanda both heard the scream and flew out of the tent to see Rose holding her head. Sally squealed “Amanda look, do not open is written on the tub”. “The noise it’s so loud” yelled Rose blue biofilm hanging out of her ear “what’s happening to me Amanda?” Amanda did not answer as Rose got on her knees and tried to get the tune out of her head but the biofilm had overwhelmed her and finally the same tune came out of Rose’s lips. Amanda and Sally both ran out of the camp site as fast as they could.

After a short time, they stopped to take a breather “it’s like they have lost their minds” said Sally “rule number 1 alert an adult and if an adult is not present then blow your whistle rule number...” “what are you doing?” said Amanda “reminding myself of the protocols in case of emergency “well I have a better way of getting help,” said Sally. She got her phone out “ah no signal” “I could’ve told you that”. Sally put her headphones back on and started walking away from Amanda but Amanda said “at least I’m trying all you want to do is listen to your stupid music” she went to her and took her headphones away from her. “Hey, give them back” “not until you apologise” Sally grabbed her headphones back but they unplugged from the phone, loud music blasted out and Amanda covered her ears from the noise. Sally plugged her headphones back in “oh chill out it’s not that bad”.

Listen said Sally “that lot back there are gone, game over so everyone for herself” she turned and walked away “Sally please help me” Sally turned at the word “help” a blue biofilm dangling from Amanda’s left ear. “It started back at the camp but I suppressed it” “why didn’t you say anything?” “I’m the best scout here I can stop it” she put her hands on her head “I can’t drown it out”.

It was too late Amanda was one of them Sally ran away and realised they were back at the drop off point. She ran to the bus yanked the door open once inside she managed to lock it and put a suitcase against the door for extra insurance. Feeling a little safer Sally looked out of the window in horror at all the scouts glaring at her, hands started to slam against the windows. A loud creak made Sally realise she hadn’t locked the emergency exit which opened allowing the infected in making their way towards her. Sally stumbled and knocked the headphones out of the phone once again, the loud blast flew through the air and the scouts on the bus covered their ears but Sally moved towards them and got them out of the bus. A long slimy blue biofilm came out of Amanda’s ear and burned in the boiling sun to a crisp on the floor. Sally explained to Amanda that the music destroyed the biofilm and together they worked through all of the troop until every biofilm lay on the floor burned.

Everyone seemed confused about what happened including Mrs. Paxton so Amanda and Sally went through the whole tale. My goodness you two have been brave, Amanda unpeeled a badge and said “your first badge, the bravery badge”, Sally took it with a happy face and put it on her shirt. “I’m’ glad that’s all over” said Sally, Amanda looked at her and said “yes time to go home”.

P.S. the Maddens were never found so be careful next time you’re camping and remember DON’T LET THEM IN.