

"A Place of Whispers"

by  
Mark Newton

Current Revision:  
Dated February 15, 2011 09:48:54 AM

FADE IN:

1 INT. MILL KITCHEN - NIGHT

A dimly lit room. We can hear the howling wind outside and heavy rain drives against the windows. Three people, one man (Mike) and two women (Helen & Jenny), are sat around a table. Mike has a bottle of beer in front of him, as does Helen. Jenny has a glass of wine. There are other empty wine and beer bottles on the table. In the centre of the table is a large candle. Other candles are also dotted around the room. There are pumpkins with varying faces cut in them, fake cobwebs, a devils fork and other Halloween novelties decorating the room. Helen and Jenny are both wearing witches' hats and Mike has one of those fake plastic knives through his head.

HELEN

You promised us the scariest night of our lives tonight Mike.

JENNY

Yeah, let's hear this super scary story then.

The girls giggle in amusement. Mike takes a sip from his bottle of beer.

MIKE

Don't rush me. I can't blurt it out just like that. These things take time.

HELEN

Well you've got five minutes to get started or we're leaving.

JENNY

Yeah, just as soon as I've finished my wine.

Mike clears his throat.

MIKE

Well, it all started one stormy Halloween night in 1899.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

JENNY

Did they have Halloween then?

HELEN

No, I don't think they did.

MIKE

Do you want me to tell you my story or not?

Pause.

JENNY

Sorry.

HELEN

Yeah, sorry. Carry on.

Mike takes a second or two to compose himself then continues. His voice low and deliberate.

MIKE

Halloween night 1899. It was the worst storm in many a year.

(points his thumb  
towards a window)

Much worse than tonight! There was thunder, lightning; they say the wind was so strong that night that it even uprooted trees like they were matchsticks.

He mimics the act of snapping a twig with his hands. He leans forward for dramatic effect before continuing. His eyes flick between the two girls.

MIKE

My great grandfather, who was the owner of the mill in those days, was preparing to lock up for the night. All of his workers had gone home leaving him alone in the mill.....or so he thought!

Helen and Jenny look at each other.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

HELEN & JENNY

Whooooo!

MIKE

Very funny. You won't be laughing soon.

He takes another sip of his beer.

MIKE

What you don't know is that my grandfather had a reputation for being a hard taskmaster. It's said that he even drove some of his workers into an early grave.

The girls look on wide eyed. Mike takes a deep breath before continuing.

MIKE

Well, he was just finishing off his paperwork when he heard footsteps  
(points to the ceiling)  
from above.

He taps out the sound of the footsteps on the table.

MIKE

He went to the bottom of the stairs. "Who's up there?" he shouted. He didn't get a reply but he could hear someone, or something, moving around up there.

The two girls look at each other and giggle. Mike shrugs then continues.

MIKE

So, very slowly he begins to head up the stairs. As he gets closer to the top he starts to hear a voice, whispering softly.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

JENNY

What was the voice saying?

MIKE

I don't know.

JENNY

You don't know! What's the point in telling the story when you don't even know what the voice said?

Mike sighs heavily.

MIKE

Well, I wasn't there was I so how would I know?

(beat)

Anyway, he gets to the top of the stairs and what he sees there literally scares him to death.

The girls look on wide-eyed.

JENNY

(with forced excitement)

And what did he see?

Mike doesn't answer.

JENNY

You don't know that either, do you?

MIKE

Well, no but.....

HELEN

Do you think it was one of his workers?

Pause as Mike leans in for dramatic effect.

MIKE

Who knows?

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

Helen swallows hard.

Pause then Jenny bangs her glass down on the table and stands.

JENNY  
That's the worst scary  
(does the inverted  
comma's sign)  
story I've ever heard.  
(beat)  
Where's the loo in this place?

MIKE  
Just upstairs, in the far corner  
on your left.

Jenny turns to head for the stairs. Just as she reaches the bottom Mike calls after her.

MIKE  
But I wouldn't go up there alone  
if I were you.

As she puts her foot on the bottom step she calls back.

JENNY  
(sarcastic)  
And why is that?

Mike takes a sip of his beer.

MIKE  
Because, what I do know is that  
the ghost of my dead great  
grandfather still roams the  
upper floor of the mill.

Jenny pauses briefly then continues up the stairs.

MIKE  
Okay, but don't say I didn't  
warn you.

HELEN  
Wait, I'll come with you.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

Helen heads after Jenny and both girls head up the stairs. close up on Mike who smiles cheekily and takes another sip of his beer.

CUT TO:

2 INT. MILL - UPPER FLOOR - NIGHT

Dark and silent. We hear footsteps climbing the stairs then both girls appear in the gloomy moonlight spilling in through a dirty window, along with the occasional flash of lightning. We can hear the howling wind raging outside. We hear the girls fumbling around.

JENNY

I can't find the light switch.

More fumbling.

HELEN

There probably isn't one.

JENNY

Great! I knew I shouldn't have drunk so much wine.

HELEN

Yeah, whatever.

The two girls start to feel their way across the room. Helen suddenly stops.

HELEN

What was that?

JENNY

What?

HELEN

That sound? I heard something.

JENNY

It's just your imagination.

Helen grabs Jenny by the arm.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

HELEN

No really, I heard a voice.

Helen stands there, listening intently.

JENNY

Don't tell me you believe him?  
It's just a story; and a stupid  
one at that.

(beat)

Come on, I'm bursting.

They continue to fumble their way towards the far corner  
of the room.

JENNY

There, I think I can see a door.

A few seconds later we hear a door slowly creaking open.  
Jenny reaches her hand through the door and a couple of  
seconds later a light flickers into life. The light  
spilling out from the toilet casts an eerie glow into  
the mill.

JENNY

Wait here, I'll go in first.

HELEN

No way! I'm not waiting out here  
on my own.

(beat)

I'll come in with you.

JENNY

What's wrong with you?  
(tuts and shakes her  
head)

Come on then.....chicken.

Both girls step into the toilet and close the door. Once  
again the mill descends into darkness.

CUT TO:

3 INT. MILL KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mike is still sat at the table sipping his beer. He

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

pulls the fake knife from his head and throws it on the table. He glances at his watch.

MIKE

How long does it take to use the toilet?

CUT TO:

4 INT. MILL - UPPER FLOOR - NIGHT

The door to the toilet opens and the two girls step out. Jenny reaches in to switch off the light.

HELEN

No don't, leave it on so we can see where we're going.

JENNY

Okay.

They leave the light on and head back towards the stairs. We see them begin to go back down.

CUT TO:

5 INT. MILL KITCHEN - NIGHT

We hear footsteps then both girls appear at the bottom of the stairs. They head back towards the table. Helen stops dead in her tracks and Jenny almost walks into the back of her.

JENNY

What the.....

HELEN

Where's he gone?

JENNY

He's probably gone to the loo as well.

Helen looks back towards the stairs.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

HELEN

So how come we didn't see him?

JENNY

I don't know. He's probably gone outside; you know what guys are like.

Helen shrugs her shoulders. Then:

HELEN

How come we didn't hear the door then?

JENNY

(exasperated)

I don't know.

(beat)

What's got into you?

Pause.

HELEN

Nothing, I guess it's just.....

Helen's words are left hanging in the air as a scream drifts into the room.

JENNY

That sounded just like...

Pause then:

HELEN

Mike!

Pause, then Jenny lets out a laugh.

JENNY

Very funny. Does he honestly think we're gonna fall for that old chestnut?

HELEN

Maybe he's really in trouble.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

JENNY

Yeah right.

Jenny begins to pour another glass of wine.

HELEN

I'm gonna go see if he's okay.

Helen heads towards the door; Jenny doesn't follow.  
Helen reaches the door then turns back.

HELEN

Jenny!

JENNY

God!

(takes a large swig of  
wine)

I'm coming.

She places the glass back on the table then follows  
Helen out of the room.

CUT TO:

6 INT. MILL - NIGHT

A dark and dingy corridor. We hear a door creak open and  
the two girls step through.

HELEN

Are there no lights anywhere in  
this place?

JENNY

Wait, I've found a switch.

Jenny flicks the switch. The light briefly bursts into  
life then goes out.

HELEN

Well, that's just great.  
(beat)

Mike!

No reply.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

HELEN

Mike!

JENNY

I wouldn't bother, he's not gonna answer. He's probably hiding in the corner waiting to jump out on us.

GHOSTLY VOICE

Leave.....Here.....

HELEN

Shit, did you hear that?

JENNY

Yeah, I heard it.

(beat)

Come on Mike, Helen's getting really freaked out now.

GHOSTLY VOICE

Leave.....Here.....

JENNY

Mike, I said that's enough. It's not funny anymore.

The two girls are startled as the door to the corridor slowly opens once more. They turn around as a faint light spills in from the room beyond. They see Mike stood in the doorway.

MIKE

What you doing in here?

HELEN

Looking for you! Where did you get to? We came back down and you were gone. Then we heard you scream.

MIKE

Yeah, I nipped out back for a smoke. On my way back in I hit my knee on the doorframe. I'm

(MORE)

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

MIKE (cont'd)  
gonna have a right bruise.  
(beat)  
When I got back all the lights  
were out.

JENNY  
I think the fuse might have  
blown when I switched the light  
on in here.

MIKE  
I thought as much, the fuses are  
always blowing.

Pause then:

JENNY  
So, how did you do it then?

MIKE  
Do what?

HELEN  
You know what she means.

JENNY  
Of course he does, he's trying  
to scare us.  
(turns to Mike)  
And it's not working!

MIKE  
I've no idea what you're talking  
about.

HELEN  
I'm getting out of here.

JENNY  
Just calm down. It's nothing.

Mike raises his hands to his mouth and blows on them.

MIKE  
Is it just me or did it suddenly  
get colder in here?

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

They stand there in an uneasy silence which is eventually broken by Jenny.

JENNY  
Don't be stupid.

HELEN  
No, he's right. It is colder.

JENNY  
Where's the fuse box? We need to get the lights back on before she blows a fuse!

CUT TO:

7 INT. MILL KITCHEN - NIGHT

Helen, Jenny and Mike are back in the kitchen. All they have now is candlelight.

JENNY  
Where's the fuse box Mike?

MIKE  
I think it's in the cellar.

JENNY  
You think?

HELEN  
Forget the fuse box and let's just get the hell out of here.

JENNY  
There's no ghost Helen. It's just Mike messing with your head.

MIKE  
I've told you, it wasn't me.  
(beat)  
And besides, we can't get out unless we reset the fuse box. The doors automatically lock when the power goes off.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

JENNY

Great.

(beat)

Okay, grab a candle each and let's go have a look in the cellar.

(to Mike)

I guess you at least know where the cellar is?

MIKE

Of course I do.

HELEN

I'm not going to the cellar.

Jenny starts gathering up candles.

JENNY

Fine, stay here then

(to Helen)

on your own.

HELEN

Well, when you put it like that.

CUT TO:

8 INT. MILL CELLAR - NIGHT

We see faint candlelight dancing down the steps as Mike, Helen and Jenny descend into the cellar.

HELEN

Right, let's just get the fuse box sorted and get the hell back upstairs. It's creeping me out down here.

Jenny runs her hand along the wall and locates the light switch and flicks it on.

MIKE

That's not gonna work, is it?

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED

JENNY

I know that! But when you switch the fuses back on the light'll come on.

MIKE

Good thinking. Okay, I think it might be.....

He turns around quickly.

MIKE

(startled)

Something just brushed up against me.

JENNY

Oh, pack it in Mike.

He grabs her by the arm.

MIKE

How many times do I have to tell you? It's nothing to do with me.

HELEN

(screams)

He's right, I felt it too.

JENNY

Do me a favour. it's.....arrrgh, what the hell was that?

GHOSTLY VOICE

Leave.....Here.....

The three of them wave their candles trying to see whatever might be there. Panic is beginning to set in.

JENNY

Mike quick, find the fuse box!

Mike scrambles around trying to find the fuse box. The two girls stand there, huddled close to each other. Their breathing now heavy with fright.

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED

HELEN

Hurry up for God's sake.

MIKE

Okay, got it.

He flicks the switch and the light flicks on. It so dim it hardly makes a difference.

JENNY

Right, let's get out of here. I need a drink.

Mike and Jenny head for the steps. Helen remains rooted to the spot, staring into the corner of the cellar.

JENNY

Helen, come on.

She still doesn't move.

MIKE

I thought she didn't want to come down here and now we can't get her out.

He walks over to her and puts his hand on her shoulder. She still remains motionless.

MIKE

Helen, what is it?

He notices that she is pointing into the corner of the room. Jenny approaches and she and Mike both follow the line of Helen's finger into the corner of the room and see what Helen is seeing. Stood in the corner is what looks like a dark, shadowy figure. Mike and Jenny slowly begin to step away. Mike grabs Helen by the arm and begins to pull her along with him. Mike and Jenny begin to quicken their pace when suddenly the figure emerges from the corner and, arms raised, reaches out to Helen and grabs her. Helen lets out a scream. Jenny moves back in as Mike moves away. The figure lets out a ghastly laugh as it flicks on a torch it's holding and points it under its own chin.

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED

FIGURE  
Ha ha! Gotcha!

Jenny pushes past Helen so she can see the figure.

JENNY  
John, you idiot.

Helen is still stood there, whimpering.

MIKE  
(laughs)  
Told you this would be the  
scariest night of your lives.

Helen slowly turns and faces Mike.

HELEN  
Mike, that wasn't funny.

She heads towards the steps and makes her way back  
upstairs.

JENNY  
(smiling)  
She's right, it wasn't funny.

JOHN  
Then why are you smiling?

JENNY  
Okay, it was a little funny.  
Didn't convince me though.

MIKE  
Yeah right.

They head back upstairs.

CUT TO:

9 INT. MILL KITCHEN - NIGHT

The four of them are sat around the table drinking wine  
and beer. Helen has calmed down but still looks a little  
shaken.

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

JOHN

That was great. It worked a treat.

JENNY

You guys planned this all along.  
(beat)  
Men.

MIKE

You said you wanted a scary night and that's what you got.

HELEN

How did you manage to get from the corridor down into the cellar without us seeing you?

JOHN

Corridor? I've been in the cellar all the time. I haven't been in the corridor.

JENNY

Give it a rest now guys; you got us good and proper. The joke's over now, okay.

Mike and John exchange a nervous glance.

MIKE

He's right. When you girls went to the loo I let him in and he went straight into the cellar.

HELEN

(louder)  
We heard a voice out in the corridor. It must have been you. If it wasn't, then who was it?

Pause then:

MIKE

John?

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

JOHN

It wasn't me. I was in the  
cellar, you know that.

HELEN

I'm leaving. Jenny, you coming?

JENNY

Yeah come on, let's get out of  
here.

The girls stand to leave.

JENNY

You guys coming?

The guys exchange a glance and shrug their shoulders.

MIKE

Yeah, let's go.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. MILL CAR PARK - NIGHT

The door to the mill opens and Helen, Mike, John and Jenny exit and head towards their car. Above the mill door we see a small window. As they climb into the car we see a dark figure appear in the window, holding a candle. They don't see it as they take their seats and drive away. The figure remains stood in the window for a few more seconds then slowly moves away.

FADE OUT:

11 ROLL END CREDITS