

XAVIER JUNIOR HIGH, DEER LAKE, NEWFOUNDLAND

# Spirit Seeker:

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A Screenplay by Class 8-2

English Language Arts

4/25/2013

2<sup>ND</sup> DRAFT

This original screenplay involves bullying. A central character commits suicide, but comes back as a ghost to save others from bullying. Characters learn that it takes true friends to help victims of bullying by speaking on behalf of the victims.

**1 EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING**

EMMA walks to school. She is very nervous to face the bullies. NATASHA and RACHEL meet her at the front door.

NATASHA

Hey EMMA, what's up?

EMMA

Guys, how do you know if you're depressed or not?

RACHEL

Are the bullies giving you a rough time again?

EMMA

(EMMA'S lip begins to quiver)

RACHEL and NATASHA hug EMMA.

EMMA

It's awful. They're unrelenting. Day after day, month after month, year after year. They started when I was in grade four. First it's little things: leaning on my desk, taking my pencils. But then this year it's personal attacks. They tell me I'm short and I'm a nobody.

NATASHA

You know I'd help you, but they picked on me one year too and I don't want to go through that again.

RACHEL

They don't pick on me but they scare me. I just try to be invisible. You should too.

(whispering)

You need to toughen up before it gets too rough.

EMMA

What? How do I do that? How do I toughen up? You can't just turn toughness on.

RACHEL

Well, if you don't come up with something you're in for a lot of pain.

EMMA walks into the school, up the stairs and to her locker.

**2 INT. XAVIER HALLWAY - MORNING**

EMMA goes to her locker to get something. BRITTNEY and ROBYN go up to her and start tormenting her. EMMA is standing with her locker door open getting something out, when BRITTNEY and ROBYN come up and slam the door closed on her.

ROBYN

Hey loser!

BRITTNEY

What are you still doing here? Nobody likes you! Can't you see that?

EMMA

Leave me alone! I've never done anything to you before!

BRITTNEY

Oh shut up! You are a loser and don't deserve to live.

ROBYN

(leaning in and smelling her)  
What is that smell? Do you even own a shower?

EMMA tries to defend herself but she can't. She gets fed up and storms out of the school. EMMA pushes ROBYN away and runs out of the school, fed up with BRITTNEY and ROBYN.

**3 EXT. NICHOLSVILLE - MIDDAY**

NATASHA

Hey Larry! Have you seen Emma? We've been looking for her all recess and all of first half of lunch. We even

phoned her mom but she said she wasn't home.

LARRY

Her mom doesn't care if she's not in school.

NATASHA

That doesn't matter right now, I need to find her.

LARRY

The place I saw her, Robyn and Brittany were walking past her and she stared to go pale. Then, she ran for the bathroom. Robyn & Brittany followed her. From how she looked, she didn't know that they were following her. Have you tried the bath room?

RACHAEL

No but that's where we're going next. Because the last time we saw her, she was having recess. She did turn up to third period. I texted her like 10 times.

(Rachael's phone goes off)

It's Emma. She said, "I'm done. The water looks cold. How quickly do you think the underwater current will drown me?"

NATASHA

Text her and tell her we will be there in five minutes. And hurry up!

RACHAEL

K

LARRY

Is she serious?

RACHAEL

Sounds like it! We better hurry! But wait, how we are going to get down there? It will take an hour and a half to walk.

NATASHA

Hmmmmmm. I don't know. Do you have your bike?

RACHAEL

Yes, how about you?

NATASHA

Yeah! Larry, tell our fourth-period teacher that we're gone to get Emma.

LARRY

Alright.

NATHASA

Let's go!

RACHAEL & NATHASA go to Nicholasville.

EMMA walks slowly through Deer Lake. There are many dissolve scenes as she approaches the Humber River. She stands there staring at the dark water (near Nicholasville Bridge). The camera pans up and we hear a splash. The camera pans back down to reveal an empty river bank. EMMA is gone. Camera tracks back and we see NATASHA & RACHAEL arrive too late to save her. They are distraught.

RACHAEL

Oh no! We're too late!

NATASHA

Who's going to tell her mom?

RACHAEL

No!

NATASHA

No, it's all right. I will tell her the news.

**4 EXT. GRAVEYARD - EVENING**

Friends, stricken with grief, walk up to EMMA's grave. CAMERA follows them from the road but then moves to a close-up after they are close to the grave. You can see they are sad. A camera pans down to the tombstone, on it

reads "Emma Hallisy, 1999-2013". Her friends kneel down to the grave and place a rose in the soil.

In the background LARRY and RAY come into focus. The CAMERA follows them.

They pass by the CAMERA and you hear them talking,

LARRY

...Dude, I got a sick kill feed before school yesterday. I got three escort drones.

The CAMERA pans left as they pass. The bullies are standing by the trees watching them pass by. The expression on the bullies' faces is a slight smirk and cold eyes.

CAMERA pans to RAY, LARRY, and FRANK.

FRANK

...yeah but at least I have a good processor, yours can't run black ops two.

RAY

Hey well at least I don't have an early curfew.

FRANK

We should agree to disagree.

RAY

Yeah I guess we should. So what are you guys doing after school?

LARRY

Well, maybe I'll play a little Xbox and then I .....

**5 EXT. XAVIER PARKINGLOT - 2:00 PM**

RAY & FRANK see the bullies so they tell LARRY that they are going to Needs.

RAY

Well I'm thirsty. So, I think me and FRANK are going to go get a slushy at Needs.

BRITTNEY & ROBIN have a go at Larry.

ROBIN

What geeky things are you talking about now?

LARRY

None of your business!

BRITTNEY

Probably something stupid like you.

LARRY

Just leave me alone!

RAY & FRANK walk back from Needs and start talking about how LARRY is probably being bullied.

RAY

You do know that LARRY is probably being bullied at this moment.

FRANK

Yeah, I know. We have to do something. Follow me.

RAY

Okay.

RAY & FRANK hide behind the bus to avoid the bullies.

RAY

Look! There they are!

The ghost of EMMA appears behind the bus in front of RAY & FRANK.

RAY

Oh my God! Frank, do you see this?

FRANK

What?

EMMA tries to talk but she can only mouth the words.

RAY

What is she trying to say?

FRANK

What are you seeing?

EMMA disappears.

FRANK

What was that all about?

RAY

I don't know. I think I saw Emma!

FRANK

What? How could that have been Emma?  
Isn't she dead?

RAY

Yeah she is. I think it was her  
ghost.....

FRANK

What!? A ghost!?

RAY & FRANK hear the end of the conversation with the bullies as they make fun of LARRY's geeky gaming. LARRY cries.

RAY

He is crying. We need to do something  
now.

The bullies leave. RAY & FRANK approach LARRY to comfort him.

FRANK

LARRY, are you okay?

LARRY

No.



(He sniffs)

RAY & FRANK don't know what to do.

RAY  
We're sorry we weren't there to help  
you out.

**6. INT. RAY'S HOUSE- NIGHT**

EMMA creeps up next to RAY and taps him on the shoulder. After RAY doesn't respond EMMA taps on him again. RAY slowly wakes up then jumps when he spots the ghost of EMMA.

RAY  
(Startled)  
W-who are you?

EMMA  
I am the ghost of EMMA. Don't be  
startled RAY. I am only here to help  
you.

RAY  
H-H-how are you supposed to help me?

EMMA  
They bullied me too.

RAY  
W-who bullied you?

EMMA  
Your friends RAY... they are the key.

RAY  
The key to what?

EMMA  
To beating the bullies... you need to  
unite.

RAY  
Can't you tell me more?

EMMA  
Good-bye RAY.

EMMA vanishes and is nowhere to be found. RAY looks around rapidly as he cannot believe what just happened. He doesn't get any more sleep throughout the night.

**7 EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING**

RAY is still freaked out. LARRY gets on the bus. He sits next to RAY.

RAY  
(Scared)  
Hey, man. I need to tell you something.

LARRY  
Yeah, what is it?

RAY holds onto his book bag tightly.

RAY  
While I was in my room sleeping last night Emma appeared in my bedroom and told me to help you from being bullied by Brittany and Robyn.

LARRY  
How could that be? EMMA killed herself?

RAY  
But it was her! I know it.

LARRY and RAY get off the bus and go into the school.

LARRY  
What did she say exactly?

RAY  
She said "Hi Ray, I need you to help Larry from Brittany and Robyn before they push him over the edge like they did to me."

LARRY  
Should I be scared?

RAY  
No, Larry. You'll be fine. I promise.

They enter the cafeteria.

**8 INT. XAVIER CAFETERIA - MORNING**

RAY walks into the cafeteria to join LARRY and FRANK.

Ray  
Hey Frank. I, I've got something to  
tell you. It's crazy.

FRANK  
What is it?

RAY  
Last night I saw the ghost of Emma.

FRANK  
You still believe in ghosts? What are  
you? Two?

RAY  
Please believe me. I'm not lying.

The ghost of EMMA appears, unable to be seen by LARRY and  
FRANK.

RAY  
There! She's right behind you!

LARRY  
Dude? You need some rest. Maybe you  
should go home? Take a nap or  
something.

FRANK  
Yeah, I agree. You look a little pale  
anyways. Go take a nap. Ghosts aren't  
real neither is Emma. She's gone Ray,  
never coming back.

RAY  
(Angrily)  
No. She is real. She was there. I  
know. I saw her! You can't get me off  
the story. I saw her. She was there.

LARRY

Okay, Ray. Just calm down. You do need rest. Ghosts aren't real! Even if it told you to help me against Robyn and Brittany, it was an epiphany.

RAY

Okay. Sure. I know what I saw and I will see her again. And you tell her you don't believe in her. Maybe she won't help you... And maybe she will.

FRANK

Okay, okay maybe you're right, Ray. Maybe you saw her. But don't tell her we don't believe in her. We all miss her. Tell her we send our condolences if you must.

(Finish with a Smirk)

LARRY

Yeah, tell her that. I think I heard the bell. We should get going.

**9 INT. XAVIER HALLWAY - AFTERNOON**

LARRY shows up at school and the bullies have another go at him. The geeks intervene and save Larry they psychoanalyze the bullies.

BRITTNEY

What's up four eyes?

ROBYN

That's a face only a mother can love.

RAY

Leave Larry alone! Haven't you picked on him enough?

FRANK

Yeah why don't you bullies leave him alone already?

RAY

Why do you bully him all the time?

BRITTNEY

It's fun to pick on somebody that can't stand up for themselves.

FRANK

It's fun? You think it's fun?

RAY

If you think it's fun then you're the ones with the problem. Lives have been lost from bullying.

ROBYN

Well, who would think that would happen?

BRITTANY

Yeah? They're just weak!

FRANK

It's not weakness! You know full well what you are doing and you haven't learned anything from Emma's death. You caused her death!

RAY

You both did! Frank is right. You both caused her death. You are both to blame!

**10 EXT. PARK BENCH - AFTERNOON**

LARRY walks up and sits next to RAY and FRANK on a park bench. He picks up a stone and tosses it into the water.

FRANK

(Tossing a stone into the pond)  
How are you doing Larry?

LARRY

Much better. It's nice to be able to walk down the street and not be worried about the bullies.

RAY

(Smiling)  
Yeah. Takes a lot off your mind.

LARRY

Yeah. Thanks for standing up for me.

RAY

Anytime you need help, come to us and we'll help you!

LARRY

Thanks guys! You are the best.

RAY

Yeah, we know.

FRANK

You guys want to come to my place to watch Star Trek?

LARRY

Is your mom going to make those awesome cookies?!

FRANK

I think so.

RAY

What are we waiting for? Let's go!

All run off over the bridge. Camera turns back from the bridge to the bench to see Amber sitting on the bench smiling.