Scary Photo Prompts

by Creative Writing Now

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Halloween's almost here. To celebrate, we challenge you to write a truly frightening story or poem. Can you write something so terrifying that your reader will be afraid to sleep with the lights off?

Some ideas:

- Remember one of your nightmares and turn it into a story or poem.
- Think of a place that gave you a creepy feeling. What might have happened in that place? Write about it.
- When you're home alone, do you ever hear strange noises? What are you afraid that the noises might be?
- Have you ever gotten lost at night?
- What are some of the fears you had as a child? What if one of them came true?

In this booklet, we've collected some scary photo prompts to inspire you. How does each picture make you feel? What stories does it bring to mind?
What – or who – is hidden inside?

Your character stares longingly out the window at the bright spring day …

If you find this doll in the park, you’d better not bring it home…

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What would it be like to get lost in this forest?

During the day, this graveyard is quiet. But at night…

When your character rented a vacation home over the Internet, this is NOT what he or she was expecting!
Who lived in this room?

What happened in this basement?

Do these owls have a message for your character? Will your character listen?
Why was this hotel abandoned?

What will happen when the mist thickens?

What's at the end of the tunnel?
Happy Halloween – and happy writing!

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