

“I explained everything to her at school today. She knew you were all coming here.”

“But why didn’t you invite her?” asked Melanie.

“A séance can’t be held when one of the participants **disapproves**,” said Jamie. “Andrea was very **sceptical** at the meeting,” he said.

“We all know about Andrea,” said Zack. “She’s very **conservative**, and she’s not too much fun sometimes. I don’t understand how you’re so patient with her. You seem to like her a lot, but she isn’t very nice to you.”

“Come on, Zack,” said Elaine. “You should be more tolerant. We all know that life hasn’t been easy for her since her mother died in a car accident when Andrea was young.”

They were all silent. Then Jamie said, “My mother also died in a car accident when I was young. I knew there was a special connection between Andrea and me! And Zack, I’ll be patient with Andrea and maybe she’ll begin to like me.”

They all began to relax. “OK, I think everyone feels a little calmer now,” said Jamie. “Let’s begin the séance.”

CHAPTER 9

THE SÉANCE

Everyone sat at the round table and held hands. Jamie was the medium – he would direct the séance and speak to the visiting spirits.

“First, I’d like to speak to my mother,” he told the group. “We have to call her. So I’ll say the words first, and then you will all repeat them together.”

Jamie looked up and said slowly, “Our dear spirit, Mary Taylor, ...” Jamie waited, and the group repeated the words.

“Talk to us, Mary Taylor, and move among us ...”

Then Jamie was silent and the rest of the group was silent, too. For two minutes, there was silence.

Then Jamie spoke again. “Are you with us, Mother?” he asked. “There’s so much I want to ask you.”

For another two minutes, there was complete silence. Then suddenly, there was a strange noise.

Everyone except Jamie was surprised. “What was that?” asked Elaine.

“That was the wind in the trees outside,” said Jamie.

Again, the group was silent. After two minutes, Jamie spoke again. “Mother, are you here? Give us a sign if you hear me.”

Everyone listened carefully, but nothing happened. There were a few more noises outside in the street. They sat in silence and waited. Jamie closed his eyes and concentrated hard. The rest of the group looked at each other doubtfully.

Finally, Melanie said very quietly, “Jamie ... Jamie?”



Jamie closed his eyes and concentrated hard.

Zack spoke quietly and **sympathetically**. “Jamie, this isn’t working,” he said.

Jamie opened his eyes. “Let’s try someone else,” he said with a worried look. “Has anyone else got someone they’d like to call?”

Stephen said, “Well, I’d like to say hello to my grandfather.”

The group repeated the call. And again, nothing happened. Then Melanie wanted to talk to her grandmother, but they