

Ghost Girl

When Artie sees a ghostly figure in his family's barn, he can't believe his eyes! Ghosts aren't real, are they? But the ghost girl explains she's not dead or a ghost — she's a time-traveller from the future! But she lost her tour group and can't find her way back home... and if she doesn't get back to the future soon, she could disappear! Can Artie and his sister, Casey, find a way to help her?



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This book is Grey Band/Level 13

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'Ghost Girl'

An original concept by Katie Dale

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Chapter 1

“Ninety-eight... ninety-nine... one hundred! Ready or not, here I come!” Artie cried, uncovering his eyes and rushing out of the kitchen into the sunny farmyard.

Where could Casey be hiding? He looked inside the stables, behind the tractor, then held his nose and checked the cowshed, but Casey wasn't there either. He hurried over to the barn, opened the door quietly and tip-toed carefully along the rows of hay-bales. Suddenly he heard a rustle in the next row! He grinned, then leaped around the corner.

“Gotcha, Casey!” he yelled triumphantly.

But it wasn't Casey. Instead, Artie found himself face to face with... a ghost!



“ARGH!” Artie screamed. He ran out of the barn, raced across the farmyard, and slammed the kitchen door behind him, his hands trembling. The ghost couldn’t get him in here, could she?

“Artie?” said a voice.

Artie screamed again and whirled round to face the empty kitchen. “Who... who said that?”

“Me,” Casey said, crawling out from underneath the kitchen table. “Are you okay?”

“Casey!” Artie cried. “I saw a-a g-ghost!”

Casey’s concerned frown turned to a glare. “Very funny. Is this your way of cheating at hide-and-seek? Because I still won.”

“No, I’m not cheating!” Artie insisted. “There’s a g-ghost in the b-barn!”

“Yeah, right, Artie.” Casey folded her arms. “You can’t frighten me.”

“What’s going on?” Mum asked, walking into the kitchen.

“Artie’s making up ghost stories to try to scare me,” Casey said, scowling.

“I’m not making it up!” Artie insisted. “I’ll prove it! Come on!” He raced out of the kitchen.

Casey and Mum looked at each other, then shrugged and followed.

“Wait,” Mum said, hurrying over as Artie reached the barn. “Let me go first, just in case there is something—or someone—in there.” She stepped tentatively into the barn. “Hello? Is anybody in here?”

Everyone held their breath and listened carefully, but there was no reply.

They searched the whole barn, but there was still no sign of the ghost girl.

“See?” Casey said triumphantly. “No ghosts.”

Artie frowned. He hadn’t imagined the ghost, had he?



Chapter 2

After lunch, Artie decided to search the whole barn again to see if he could find the ghost girl. He took Sausage, their dog, with him to help him look. But there was still no sign of the ghost girl. Artie sighed heavily. Maybe he had imagined her.

“Woof!” Sausage barked suddenly, sniffing at a hay bale. “Woof! Woof!”

“What is it, boy?” Artie said, as Sausage scampered through the barn, sniffing the floor. Sausage led Artie out through the barn door, then suddenly broke into a run, yanking his lead free.

“Whoa, boy!” Artie cried as he chased after Sausage.

“Sausage, stop!”

But Sausage didn’t stop. Instead, he raced across the farmyard, startling all the chickens and knocking over a bucket.

Then he ran past Casey and into the stables.

“Oh no! He’ll scare the horses!” Casey cried.

The horses stamped their feet and whinnied anxiously.

“Woof! Woof! Woof!” Sausage barked.

“Sausage, shhh!” Artie hissed, peering around the stables. “Where is he?”

“Over here,” Casey said, spotting Sausage’s wagging tail poking out of a stall.

“Woof! Woof! Woof!” Sausage barked.

“What are you barking at, boy?” Casey said, hurrying over to him.

Then she froze. For Sausage was barking at... the ghost girl!

Casey screamed—and the ghost girl screamed too!

