

If You Go Down To The Woods

Cover Image



Synopsis

If You Go Down to the Woods is a ghost short with a running time of approximately 10 minutes.

W2, M2

Impressionable celebrity ghost host, Laura Morante, ventures deep into Grin Low Woods with local man, Jack Otter. She's looking for spooks; he's got another agenda entirely.

If You Go Down To The Woods (extract)

by

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a short screenplay, running time 10 minutes

Cast:

Laura Morante – a celebrity ghost hunter

Jack Otter – an older local man

Harry Mycock – Laura's ex-husband

A Nurse – working at the local hospital

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EXT. SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - NIGHT

Laura paces around the old stone tower, using her phone as a flashlight. She's wearing black.

LAURA

Jack? Ja-ack? Hillooo?

She sits down for a second, then gets up again and continues to pace. A low RUMBLE sounds from down in the woods. Laura instantly turns towards it but sees nothing.

LAURA

What..what was that?

SILENCE resumes and Laura continues to pace. As before, Jack arrives quietly and approaches Laura from behind. He TAPS her on the shoulder.

JACK

Now then lass.

LAURA

(squealing loudly)

Oh my God, you have got to stop doing that.

JACK

Hush woman. And shut that light off.

Laura stows her phone.

LAURA

Yes, sorry. Listen, I heard something..down there..

JACK

Aye. Prob'ly.

LAURA

So..uh..shall we, er, stay here and listen a bit more then?

Jack is already walking down the hill towards the woods.

JACK

Swing by me, lass, tha'll be fine.

EXT. GRIN LOW WOODS - NIGHT

Jack and Laura have been swallowed up into the woodland. The absolute silence feels like a physical presence. Suddenly, a flicker of light shows up ahead.

LAURA

There! Jack - light! Did you see?

JACK

That's never a Will o' the Wisp. Prob'ly kids, messin'. Come on.

He starts to tread softly towards the light, Laura follows. Behind her, she hears SOMETHING MOVING. She turns but sees nothing. When she turns back, she can't see Jack either.

LAURA

(trying to scream quietly)
Jack..Jack?

After an endless pause, Jack's VOICE comes out of the dark.

JACK

Oh for pity's sake, woman. Keep up.

She scurries towards his voice, clutching at his arm when she reaches him. The two of them have reached the very heart of the wood when suddenly, the flicker of light DISAPPEARS.

LAURA

Oh!

JACK
Bloody kids.

He stops short. Laura bumps into the back of him but doesn't care to move away at all.

LAURA
Now what?

JACK
Just turn around a couple of times, very quiet, like. See what's about.

Almost back-to-back, the two rotate. There is a low but distinctly feline ROAR from some distance off. Laura reaches behind her to grab at Jack but she finds nothing.

LAURA
Jack? Jack, where are..?

There is another low ROAR, nearer now.

LAURA
(no longer quiet)
Jack!

Yet another ROAR, very close now.

LAURA
Jaaaaaaack!!

EXT. GRIN LOW WOODS - NIGHT

On the far side of the woodland, Jack is striding down the hill, back towards town. He has his mobile phone to his ear. There is now a large torch in his other hand.

JACK
John?..Johnny, it's me, Dad.
Tell Harry - 'tis done.

INT. WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL - DAY

Laura is sitting curled up in a hospital arm chair. Her eyes, enormous and frightened, continually sweep her little room but appear to take in nothing. She says nothing.

HARRY MYCOCK is sitting on the bed, next to Laura. He has a hold of her hands, stroking them with tender concern. Occasionally, he kisses them.

A young NURSE sticks her head around the door.

NURSE

Mr Mycock, visiting time is over
in five minutes.

HARRY

Ah, OK, thanks.

The nurse hesitates on the threshold.

NURSE

I'm..I'm so sorry about your
wife. I really love her show,
she's great, isn't she?

HARRY

Thank you. Yes, she's very good.

The nurse comes a little further into the room.

NURSE

She's the best thing in it. You
always get the feeling she
really believes.

HARRY

I think she really does. That's
why it works so well.

NURSE

Anyway, like I said. I'm so
sorry. I hope she recovers.

HARRY

Thank you.

The nurse goes out. Harry gets up to go but leans over
his ex-wife solicitously for one last word.

HARRY

(very softly)
That'll teach you to cheat on a
Mycock, you little slut.

He leaves.

END