

Scene One – The Car Breaks Down

The middle of nowhere

*Props: Free standing door of Gothic house with Pulley bell.
Car, side view only.*

Lights: Low

Narrator: It is late at night and the Hatchard family are driving back home from a trip in the country. When lightning strikes, their car suddenly runs out of power.

Lightning, thunder

Polly: Hey, what happened to the music?

Dad: What happened to the power?

Mum: The car's packed up.

Michael: *(Frightened)* Oh no, we're in the middle of nowhere. I don't like the dark.

Mum: Don't worry, we'll soon get it fixed! Who's got the mobile?

Polly: *(Worried)* Er! The battery's run out.

(Everyone groans.)

Sarah: Huh! Well that's not surprising. You've been on it all day.

Mum: Look! There's a house over there, perhaps we can ring the AA

Michael: *(Frightened)* There aren't any lights in the windows.

Sarah: They're saving electricity like good environmentalists.

Mum: Maybe they're in bed.

Polly: Maybe it's a spooky place.

Dad: *(To Polly)* Listen, dearie, you've been reading too many horror comics.

Mum: I'm going to have another go at getting this car started.

Car engine turning over

Lightning & thunder

Mum: It's no good. We'd better make our way over to the house.

(Everyone groans!)

Dad: Give me a hand to push this car over to the side of the road.

(Everyone helps Dad push the car.)

Mum: Come on everybody, we can't hang around in this rain. Let's go over and knock on the door.

Michael: You go, I'm not coming.

Dad: Come on, we're all going together.

Michael: Ok.

(Everyone gets out of the car and runs over to the house.)

Polly: You're just a big baby. I read about these kind of places all the time with spooky, nasty things like ghosts, skeletons and vampires.

Michael: *(Screams)* She's frightening me.

Dad: *(To Polly)* Shut up, there's no such thing as ghosts and vampires. They're just things you hear about in stories.

Polly: Oh yes there are! My teacher said.

Dad: Your teacher knows nothing.

Polly: I'm telling her when I get back.

Michael: If we ever get back. *(Clinging to mum)*

Dad: *(To Polly)* Will you knock it off, 'cos you're frightening him.

Polly: *(To Michael)* Ok, puny. He's such a cry baby.

Sarah: Actually, ghosts do exist, but anyone who's seen one is regarded as a crank.

Dad: Thank you very much, Sarah.

Sarah: Hey look at that thing over the door, it moved!
(Michael screams)

Mum: No, it didn't.

Polly: Yeah! It did, mum. I saw it too.

Mum: Listen, you kids are driving me nuts. The sooner we get an answer from this house the better.

Lightning & thunder

Michael: I'm frightened.

SONG : I'M FRIGHTENED

(The family go up to the door.)

Michael : There's no bell or knocker.

Dad: What's this?

Polly: It's one of those old fashioned pulley-bells they have in Dracula movies.

Mum: It does look a bit weird. *(She pulls the bell.)*

*Old bell rings
Door creaks open*

(Michael moans.)

Maria: Good evening, we've been expecting you.

(The children jump back in shock).

Dad: I think you must be thinking of someone else, actually.

Mum: Yes, our car's just broken down over there and we wondered if it would be all right to use your phone to ring the AA

Michael: *(To mum)* I don't want to go in there. She's a witch.

Mum: Sh, be quiet!

Maria: Come in my dears, we've been expecting you.

Polly: Crikey, she's like a Zombie that keeps repeating itself.

Dad: *(To Polly)* Shut up! *(To Maria)* Thank you very much, come on everyone, let's go in.

Lightning/thunder

Lights dim

Link up music - I'm frightened.

Scene Two – Let Me Out!

Catherine's Cosy Cottage

Props – Couch, table with flowers on, chairs TV, telephone. Tray with tea things on it that gets dropped. Newspapers and books to look at. 2 lots of candelabra (to be brought on). Book of Secret of Granard Tower and Map. Dustpan & brush

Lights: Full

Narrator:	Maria shows the family into the house. She leads them into the dining room where Catherine, the owner of the house, is lying upon a couch..
-----------	--

Maria: Catherine, your guests have arrived.

(The woman on the couch begins to wake up.)

Maria: Catherine, your guests have arrived.

Catherine: My guests, Maria, what guests? I'm not expecting anyone.

(The family enter like intruders.)

Catherine: Oh, hello there. *(She gets up and goes over to greet them.)*

(Dad and Mum shake hands with her.)

Mum: I'm really sorry to disturb you but our car has broken down...

Dad: Yes, we hoped we could use your phone to ring the AA

Mum: We'll pay of course.

Catherine: Of course you can. Look it's over there. *(She points to the phone.)*

Maria: I will leave you, Catherine. *(Maria exits)*

Catherine: Thank you, Maria. *(She looks at the scared children)*
Don't you take any notice of Maria; she's a funny old thing, very peculiar. You help yourselves to the phone over there.

Polly: Phew, this places looks really strange from the outside.

Michael: We thought it was...

Dad: *(To Michael)* Be quiet. *(He goes over to the phone.)*

Catherine: Oh it's all right, dear, lots of people think that. It is a peculiar house, isn't it?

Sarah: The architecture seems Gothic to me.

LIGHTNING/THUNDER

Dad: The phone's... The phone's not working.

Catherine: Isn't it? Oh dear. I hope we haven't been cut off. I didn't realise the weather was so bad. Here let me have a listen.
(She goes over to the phone)
He's right you know. There's no line. How strange.

Mum: Oh, what are we going to do? We need to get the AA to get home.

Catherine: Well, it's quite a way to a phone box from here, love, and I don't drive. I tell you what. Why don't you make yourselves at home and I'll get you a nice cup of tea and something to eat.

Mum: That's very kind of you. Thanks.

(Maria reappears)

Maria: Would you like me to bring some refreshments, Catherine?

Catherine: Thank you, Maria, you must have read my mind. That's very kind of you. See if I have any cakes for the children, can you?

Polly: *(To Catherine)* Can we watch the telly please?

Catherine: Yes, it should be time for Neighbours.

Michael & Polly: Great.

Sarah: Could we watch the news?

(Michael and Polly groan.)

Lightning/thunder

Polly: It's not working either.

Dad: It looks like a real electrical storm, this.

Sarah: It's just a discharge of electricity that causes the illumination. We did it in science. Personally, I prefer thunderbolts. They're a fascinating phenomenon, don't you think?

Catherine: She's a bright girl, isn't she?

(The parents nod, politely. Polly and Michael grimace.)

Well, why don't you help yourselves to the newspaper or some of the books, then you could have a read to pass the time away. I'll see if anything else has gone off.

(She leaves the room.)

Lightning/thunder

Lights: Blackout

(Everyone screams. Maria comes in with a candelabra. She puts it down and goes out without speaking.)

SONG: THIS PLACE

(Catherine returns)

Catherine: Oh dear! It looks like you're here for the night, my dears.

Michael: Mum, I want to go home.

Narrator:	The family introduce themselves properly to Catherine and then everyone settles down to look at the books and papers.
-----------	---

Mum: Here, listen to this!
"Police are still trying to trace the source of the late night parties that residents complain are keeping them awake at night. They say the noise is deafening."

Dad: Oh, imagine being kept awake all night with that racket.

Sarah: It couldn't be any worse than that dreadful row that she plays.

Polly: Mum, tell her!

Narrator:	Polly finds a long thin book in the bookcase. She pulls it out and sits down to look at it on her lap. As she opens it, a picture and a map fall out onto the floor.
-----------	--

Polly: Oh look! There's a picture and a map in this book.

Catherine: Is there, dear, what's it called?

Polly: It's called "The Secret of Granard Tower".

Catherine: Granard Tower, well that's the tower at the back of this house. *(She goes to have a look.)* Yes, look, here it is in the picture. I often wondered about that place. It's a bit spooky. I never fancied going in there myself.

Michael: Have you lived here very long?

Catherine: About 20 years, lovey. It used to belong to my brother-in-law. He was Rumanian. My husband used to be so close to him until he married for the 2nd time. Then we seemed to lose touch. They're both dead now. Poor dears! Anyway, I can't tell you how surprised I was when I found out he'd left me this place in his will. It was on the condition that I lived in the house and looked after his wife and little boy. Maria was his wife.

Michael: Where's the little boy?

Catherine: Ooh, he's not little anymore, dear. He's 21.

Polly: What's his name?

Catherine: Vam.

Michael: Vam????

Lightning/thunder

Sarah: Is he around?

Catherine: No, he stays in bed all day long. You know what these young people are like?
He's a funny sort of a lad really. I don't know, he always looks a bit on the pale side to me.

(Maria comes in with a tray of food.)

Maria: Your snacks, Catherine.

Catherine: Oh, thank you. Put them on the table, dear, will you!
Look, Maria, what Polly has found! It's a book called "The Secret of Granard Tower."

(Maria drops her tray and looks startled.)

Maria: (Shouting) Don't touch the book! Leave it alone! Leave it alone I tell you!

(She rushes out of the room. Mum and Catherine clear up the mess,)

Catherine: Whatever is the matter with her? Show me the book, dear!

Michael: She said "Leave it alone!"

Catherine : Sometimes, I don't think she's all there. She doesn't know what she's talking about. Let's have a look at this map.

Narrator:	They open the map. It's just like a maze with some strange clues. At the bottom it says "You can find the Secret of Granard Tower, if your heart is pure."
-----------	--

Polly: Isn't it exciting. A secret.

Catherine: Yes, imagine it's been here all that time and I didn't know. How about visiting the tower tomorrow before you go?

Polly & Sarah Yeah, can we?

Michael: I want to go home now, mum.

Catherine: Ooh, not frightened of a little bit of adventure are you?

SONG : The Secret of Granard Tower.

Catherine: I know, let's play a few games together before bedtime. Then you can get your heads down for the night.

Mum: You're very kind. Thank you.

Michael: (To mum) Must we stay, I don't want to, please?

Dad: Come on, you'll be ok.

Polly: I'm really looking forward to visiting the spooky tower in the morning.

Sarah: It's probably just a damp empty tower with bats in it.

Lightning/thunder

Lights: BLACKOUT

LINK-UP MUSIC

Scene Three – Trouble!

Granard Tower

Props: Coffin. Candelabra
Light: Red flow

Narrator: Catherine and the family play a few games and then it is time for bed. Meanwhile, Maria is very troubled. She puts on her coat and races out of the back door to the old Granard Tower, tearing through the secret passages that lead to the room where her son Vam is. He is asleep in his coffin.

Lightning/thunder

Maria: Wake up, Vam! Quick, get out of there, we're in trouble.

(The coffin opens and out steps Vam.)

Vam: Hi, Mom, what's the problem. You look like you've seen a ghost.

Maria: Why are you still in bed? It's been dark for ages now. Come on I've got something really important to tell you!

Vam: Go ahead, I'm all ears.

Maria: There's a family in the house. Car broken down or something. They've discovered the book.

Vam: What book?

Maria: Margaret's book, stupid, that I lost and couldn't find. The Secret of Granard Tower.

Vam: So?

Maria: It's all about you, Vam. If they discover you're a vampire they'll destroy you.

Vam: How can they? This place is a maze. No-one could find their way around here, and anyway you can get the book off them.

Maria: *(Thinks)* Yes, I must do that. I must do that now.

Vam: Listen, mum, I can't worry about this nonsense. I'm having a party tonight and I've invited some of the girls from

the local schools. I've got to get things ready.

Maria: Forget the party! This is serious. You will make so much noise you'll wake the whole neighbourhood up.

Vam: Mum, what is life if not to party? Relax! Don't be so serious. You worry too much.

(Vam climbs back into the coffin.)

SONG : BEING A VAMPIRE'S MOTHER AIN'T NO FUN

Lights: Blackout

Scene Four – Where's The Book?

The Bedroom in Catherine's Cottage

Props: *Beds for the family. Bedside lamp.*

Lights: *Full*

Narrator: Maria goes back to find the book, but the family are already in their bedroom for the night, and Polly has taken it with her.

Michael: This room is nice, not at all spooky like that old tower in the book.

Polly: Can we really stay tomorrow and look in the tower, dad?

Dad: I've got to get back to work.

Sarah: Oh dad, don't be such a kill-joy. Catherine is such a nice person, you don't want to disappoint her after she has been so hospitable.

Michael: Well, I don't want to go in that spooky tower.

Polly: That's because you're such a scared drip.

Michael: Mum, tell her!

Mum: Come on everyone, let's get some sleep. I'm exhausted. We'll decide in the morning.

Polly: Please?

Mum & Dad: Goodnight!

Narrator: The family goes to sleep, but the book has stirred memories in the house and there is someone, apart from Maria, who is very interested in what is going on. It is Margaret's ghost.

Lights: *Dim*

(Enter The Guide)

(The Guide): Well, at long last, someone has come who has the power to end the evil that exists in the tower.
What a clever girl Polly was to find the book I placed in the bookcase before I died. I will guide her through the maze to find the secret golden key that will unlock the mystery.
Why my father married you, Maria, I will never know? He was so good and kind. He never knew your secret.
I will speak to them through their dreams. Then they will wake up ready to serve my cause.
I hope your heart is pure, Polly.

SONG: THE GUIDE'S SONG

Narrator:	In the morning the family find that they have been affected by their dreams.
-----------	--

Polly: I had the strangest dream about the tower. It was weird as if someone was whispering in my ear.

Mum: That's funny, I dreamed about the tower as well.

Everyone else: So did I.

Door creaks

(*Maria puts her head round the door.*)

Mum: What do you want, Maria?

Maria: Nothing, nothing at all, no, nothing, (*She disappears*)

Michael: Boy, she's weird. She gives me the creeps.

Sarah: Can we investigate the tower, dad?

Dad: Yes, I think we should. I hope we're not letting ourselves in for anything horrible.

Polly: Now, where did I put that map? Ah, it's under my pillow.

Mum: We'd better get up. Catherine was very excited by our visit last night. I bet she's glad she's got some company.

Dad: She's probably organising our expedition right now.
We'll need some torches I suspect.

LINK-UP MUSIC - THIS PLACE

Lights: Blackout

Scene Five – There’s Nothing Quite Like An Adventure

Granard Tower

Props: Clue Cards: 1, 2 and 3. Moving Wall. Secret of Granard Tower book with picture & map. Rucksacks (with packed lunch in for children). Torches. 4 cupboard doors. Free-standing board with curtain on it covering a picture of The Tower of London. Raven with small silver key in its beak on wall.

Lights: Full

Narrator: They go off to find Catherine and have some breakfast, and afterwards she shows them around her side of Granard House that she had converted to a bright, cheery cottage. They also look around the garden. They like it very much. Then they get ready for the adventure and Margaret, their Guide, joins them. She is tuned into Polly. Through her, she leads them to the dark tower at the end of the garden.

Creepy music

Catherine: Well, Polly, what does it say we must do in the book?

(Polly opens the book)

Polly: It’s some sort of riddle. I’ll read it.

**1. AT THE EBONY DOOR, YOU WILL FIND NO LATCH
SO YOUR THOUGHTS MUST MAKE IT SWING
THEN THE SUNLIGHT WILL CAST A PATH
YOU MUST TREAD WITHOUT SAYING A THING.
AT THE END OF THE PATH, WHERE IT SHINES NO MORE,
YOU MUST TURN YOUR HEADS AROUND.
A KEY HANGS ALOFT THAT WILL OPEN THE DOOR,
BUT REMEMBER, DON’T MAKE A SOUND!**

Mum: Gosh, it says without making a sound. You lot can’t be quiet for five seconds. We’ll never discover the secret.

Michael: I can be quiet.

Dad: Really! We’ll see. Come on everyone! Let’s will that door to open.

(Everyone tries hard to think about opening the door.)

Narrator: They carefully follow the instructions until they are inside the dank, dark tower full of cobwebs. They proceed quietly, lit by their torches until they enter a room. There is nothing inside but a row of cupboards. On the door of one of the cupboards is a sign.

Mum: Amazing. You all managed to keep quiet!

Sarah: Look, I think that must be the next clue, because the book doesn't say anything else.

Sally reads it out

**2. IS YOUR HEART PURE? HAVE YOU TOLD THE TRUTH?
OR HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO HIDE
THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAD SECRETS AND LOCKED THEM AWAY
BECAUSE OF FOOLISH PRIDE.
YOU MUST OPEN THE DOORS, TILL YOU COME TO THE LAST
AND IF THAT CUPBOARD IS BARE
IT WILL SHOW THAT YOUR HEART IS PURE ENOUGH
FOR MY SECRET WITH YOU TO SHARE.**

Michael: I don't want to open the cupboards. There might be something scary in them.

Polly: Oh come on, let's get on with it. I'll open them.

Sarah: Be careful, it says that the last one you open must be bare. Which one can we open first.?

Guide: *(To Polly)* Leave the second door until last.

Polly: I am going to open the first, third and fourth doors.

Catherine: Oh good! I always pick 1, 3 and 4 in my lottery numbers.

Mum: Have you won anything yet?

Catherine: Yes, a couple of £10s.

Dad: Go on then, Polly!

Narrator: She opens up the doors one at a time and inside each cupboard is a skeleton. She leaves the second door till last.

(As the doors opens 3 skeleton's walk out Everyone stares at them .)

Skeleton 1: Cor! You took your time.

Skeleton 2: We've been in here for over 20 years.

Skeleton 3: It's really cramped inside that cupboard.

Skeleton 1: Yuk, I've got cobwebs all over me.

Skeleton 2: I need to have a good stretch.

Skeleton 3: Yes, what about a little dance?

SONG : THE SKELETON SONG

(The Skeletons get back in the cupboards.)

Catherine: *(To Polly)* Have you got any skeletons in your cupboard?

Polly: What do you mean?

Sarah: She means, are you hiding any dark secrets?

Polly: Well I did break one of mum's best plates and hid it in the wardrobe.

Mum: *(Shocked)* So that's where it went.

Dad: Anything serious to report, Polly?

Polly: No.

Catherine: Then open the door!

(She opens the door and the cupboard is bare except for a note on the inside of the door.)

Mum: Look! *(She takes the note and reads it.)*

**3. YOUR HEART IS PURE, SO YOU CAN PROCEED
TO THE CURTAIN THAT HANGS ON THE WALL.
DRAW IT BACK AND BEHIND IT A PICTURE YOU'LL FIND
OF A PLACE YOU MAY SURELY RECALL.
THERE IS SOMETHING, THEY SAY, THAT CANNOT MOVE AWAY
FROM THIS PLACE, YET ONE HANGS FROM THIS WALL.
AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO SEEK, YOU WILL FIND IN ITS BEAK
THE PATH YOU MUST TAKE TO THE HALL.**

Michael: Quick, pull back the curtain.

(Polly pulls the curtain back)

Dad: Oh Look! It's the Tower of London.

(Everyone looks at it for a while.)

Sarah: I know. They're talking about the ravens. They mustn't leave the Tower of London or it will fall down. So in order to prevent it they clip the birds' wings. I think that is really cruel, don't you?

Mum: So where's the raven in this room?

Guide: *(To Polly)* It's over there.

Polly: Look, it's over there.

Catherine: It's got a small silver key in its beak.

Michael: Oh look at it. It could fit a million doors.

Mum: It's too small to fit much. It must be something tiny.

Guide: *(Leads Polly to a small picture. It has a keyhole in it.)*
Polly, look up at the picture. There's a little door in it.

Polly: I've found it. It's in this picture.

(Dad turns the key in the lock and a panel opens to let them through.)

Polly: Look, here's a secret door!

Catherine: Wow! This is exciting

Michael: None of my friends will ever believe me when I tell them about This.

Catherine: You'd better find a souvenir to take with you so that you can show them.

Michael: Can I have that little silver key? We have stories at school about magic keys and that one might be magic as well.

Polly: Come on everyone, let's go through!

(Polly and Sarah exit. As Michael exits the door slams.)

Door slams

(Everyone screams)

LIGHTS : BLACKOUT