

Sue's Spooky New House

It was crisp October day when the Zuki family pulled their car into the driveway of their new home.

"Sue, I think you're going to like it here!" Her mom said, smiling at her daughter in the backseat.

"I doubt it", Sue mumbled. "I already miss my friends, and this new house is old and creepy looking!", she said, crossing her arms over her chest.

"Oh don't be like that, Suzy Q" her dad replied. "Just think of this move as a fun adventure".

"Yeah right" Sue said under her breath. She was determined to hate it here no matter what.

"I think it's awesome!" said Sue's brother, who was sitting next to her. His name was Beauregard. He was named after his great-grandfather, but everyone called him "Beau" for short.

The Zukis got out of the car and walked toward the front door of their new house. Right when Dad was about to reach for the doorknob, the door opened slowly on its own with an eerie creak (**CREAK NOISE**).

"Okay.. that's a little strange" Dad said, scratching his chin.

"See! I told you it was creepy!!" Sue muttered as they entered cautiously.

As the Zuki's settled into their new house, Sue started to get used to things, but it was still pretty creepy, especially at night. Sue often heard whispers in her room when she was trying to sleep (**WHISPER/WIND NOISE**). Sue would jump out of bed and run into her parents room, but every time they would tell her,

"Sweetie, it's just the wind whistling in these old windows." Sue wasn't so sure about that.

The Zukis had been in their new home for almost a month now, and despite some generally spookiness, Sue had yet to find a single thing to actually be afraid of. It was Halloween day, and she knew if there was ever a time to find scary stuff in the house, Halloween was that time.

"Mom and Dad say it's just my imagination, but I know there's something going on," Sue said to Beau when she asked him to help her look for clues.

"Personally, I think your just a wuss," Beau said with a smile, "but I'll help. It might be fun!"

They searched the basement first. It was dark and smelly, but they didn't find anything too scary. They did stumble upon a few tiny mice looking for food (**MICE SQUEAK NOISE**). Sue ran to the kitchen and got a little cheese for the mice to eat. They took one more look around, but there was definitely nothing scary in the basement.

"Too bad!" Beau said, slightly disappointed, as they climbed the stairs back to the first floor.

The kids searched the first floor high and low and couldn't find anything there either, except a few dust bunnies under the couch, and even Sue wasn't afraid of those. Just then, their mom saw them snooping around.

"What are you two up to?" She asked suspiciously.

"We're looking for evidence that this creepy house is haunted", Sue declared.

"Well kids, if you're really looking for something scary, you might go check the pool. I'm pretty sure I saw a shark in there this morning." Mom said with a smile.

"Really? A shark in the pool?" Sue cried.

"Yes, but not just any shark... a ghost shark!" Mom said, her smile growing bigger.

"COOL!!!" the kids replied, running for the back door!

"You don't think there's REALLY a shark in there, do you?" Sue whispered to Beau as they approached the pool. They knew it was dangerous to get too close to the pool, shark or not, so they were extra careful as they crept towards the water. Sue thought she saw something move in the pool but wasn't sure. The kids leaned a little closer, holding their breath, and suddenly there was a ripple on the surface of the water (**SHARK NOISE, TEACHER**). Beau and Sue both screamed "SHARK!!!" as they ran back towards the house. They stood for a moment catching their breath, and Beau noticed it had started to rain.

"Sue," he said, *"I don't think it was a shark that caused the water to ripple. It's the rain!"* They both looked at the pool and noticed the tiny raindrops making rings on the surface of the water (**RAINDROP NOISE**). They breathed a sigh of relief and headed back into the house. They met their mom, who was sitting at the kitchen table giggling to herself.

"Not funny mom!" they said, walking past her toward the stairs. They could still hear their mom laughing as they reached top stair.

The upstairs was the last place they had to look. After all this searching, they were ready to actually find something, even if it was a little scary. First they searched Sue's bedroom, then Beau's, and also the bathroom and the laundry room, but they didn't find anything. Mom often said the messes in their bedrooms were the scariest things she'd found in the house, and they were starting to think maybe that was true.

Just when they were about to give up, they heard a rustling coming from the closet at the end of the hall. The Zuki kids stood silent for a moment, looking at each other, eyes wide.

“Did you hear that?” Beau asked, his bravery suddenly gone.

“Do you think it’s a monster?” Sue asked, clutching Beau’s arm.

Reluctantly they moved closer to the noisy closet (**HEARTBEAT, TEACHER**). With each step, their hearts beat faster and faster. When they got close enough, Beau reached for the closet door and flung it open. THEN THEY SAW IT!!!! (**SUSPENSE TREMOLO**).

“WHISKERS!!!!” Both kids exclaimed in relief as the family’s black cat walked proudly out of the closet. Sue reached down and petted him as Whiskers meowed sweetly (**CAT MEOW**). Sue and Beau both laughed at how silly they had been.

“Okay. So maybe the house isn’t that creepy after all!” Sue said.

“Maybe not, but it was still pretty fun investigating” Beau answered, smiling. Just then, Sue’s mom called from downstairs,

“Come on kids. Time to put your costumes on. It just stopped raining and it’s almost trick or treating time!”

“YES!” Both kids cheered as they ran for their costumes.

That night, Sue and Beau both filled an entire pillowcase while trick or treating. It was officially the best Halloween ever.

“You know what”, Sue said to her family, as they sat, sorting through their mountains of candy, *“I think I might like living in this spooky old house after all.”*

THE END

NOISES REVIEW

CREAK NOISE - Rub bow against back of violin

WHISPER/WIND - Bow while gently running a finger over the string

MICE SQUEAK - Bow on the string above the bridge

RAINDROP NOISE - Gently pizzicato open strings

SUSPENSE TREMOLO - Move bow quickly back and forth on string

CAT MEOW - Bow string and drag finger slightly down string