



# THE BASEMENT

Troy and Justin were friends on a road trip. Troy drove Justin in his car. They wanted to see their friend Cash.

Cash lived in another city. He was having a New Year's Eve party. They never made it to the party.

The snow was falling hard. It was the worst storm in years. Troy had taken a shortcut. They were lost. They only saw farmland.

The small road was full of ice. Troy almost hit a deer. The car left the road and hit a tree.

Troy and Justin were saved. Ross and Martha drove by and found them. They drove to Ross and Martha's farmhouse.

The snowstorm grew worse. They were trapped in the house.

"You both can sleep down here," Ross said.

Troy and Justin stayed in the living room.

Ross and Martha slept upstairs.

Troy and Justin needed more firewood.  
The fire was almost out. The living room  
was cold.

Troy went to the basement for more  
wood.

The basement was dark and cold.

Troy found a pile of wood. He felt  
around. They needed more firewood.

*Is that wood?* he thought.

No! It was a human leg. Then he felt an arm. This was a body. A dead body.

Troy jumped back. He fell down. He had to think fast. *How did this body get here? Do Ross and Martha know?*

Troy had to tell Justin. They had to come up with a plan. He heard the living room clock. Five dings.

*Is it five o'clock?* he asked himself.

Troy got up. He ran upstairs. He had to talk to Justin.

Troy came back into the living room.