



CHAPTER 1

Cheesy Trailer

This place is awesome!” Abby said.

“I can’t believe what’s here,” Clara said.

Abby and Clara smiled at each other. They were best friends. The girls had been besties since forever. They had met in kindergarten. Their houses were across the street from each other in Largo Bay.

Largo Bay was a fun beach city. Over the years it had grown. Weird things were known to happen there. The oddest things happened at night.

Abby was curious by nature. She wanted to be in the action. Whenever something weird happened, she would investigate. Somehow, Clara always tagged along.

It was Saturday. The girls were at Crazy-Con. They walked around the main floor. Today was all about fun.

Crazy-Con was the ultimate event. It celebrated pop culture. The show featured movies of all kinds. Horror. Science fiction. Comic-book heroes. Crazy-Con also highlighted pro-wrestling and gaming. If it was popular, it was at Crazy-Con.

Famous people would come. They would promote their movies. Other stars came to push their TV shows. People could meet them. The stars would sign autographs. Fans waited in long lines.

Crazy-Con was in San Diego. Clara's mom drove Abby and Clara. Abby's parents were out of town. They were at a meeting. It was for Abby's dad's business.

Abby's dad owned a solar power company. He was very successful. His employees loved

him. Just use solar power, he'd say. The world would be a cleaner place.

Abby's dad also loved movies. He was a big fan of Roger Corman. Corman had made scary films. Her dad had always wanted to go to Crazy-Con. He'd promised to take Abby next year.

Abby's mom worked at a bank. She loved numbers. Abby would find her mother working on math problems. For fun!

Abby's mom was very organized. She also loved going on trips. For this business trip, she'd planned many activities. The meeting was in Ohio. Abby knew nothing about the Midwest. But her mom found tons of cool things to do.

Two people walked past the girls. One was dressed as Chewbacca. He was a creature from *Star Wars*. The other was dressed as Wonder Woman.

“Did you see them?” Abby asked. “They look amazing.”

Many people wore costumes. Some dressed like Captain America. Others dressed like Black Widow. There were too many Hulks to count.

Abby wore her usual T-shirt and jeans. Her black jeans made her light-colored T-shirt pop.

Clara wore jeans too. She had on a yellow Pikachu T-shirt.

They came up to a small hall. There was a blue *B* next to the entrance. A poster was in front. On it was a picture of an old house. A white van approached the house. Across the poster it read, “*Scream Night 2 Trailer—World Premiere.*”

“Omigod!” Abby took out her phone. She snapped a picture. Clara did the same. “This is going to be the best,” Abby said.

The hall was filled with chairs. It was packed with people. A large screen was in

front. Abby and Clara got lucky. They found seats up close.

“I feel like watching *Scream Night* right now,” Abby said.

“I have it on my phone!” Clara held it up.

Scream Night was an old movie. It was made in 1981. The film was about a group of teenagers. They went to an old house to study. The teenagers drove there in a white van.

Then a killer showed up. He’d gone to the same elementary school as the teens. Kids had been mean to him every day. They had stolen his food. Sometimes they beat him up. Once they had put him in a trash can.

The killer wore a simple mask. It had a big plastic nose and glasses. The mask also had a small mustache.

The killer had slicked-back hair. He wore a white suit. It was a milkman’s uniform. He also carried a meat cleaver.

He was out for revenge. The killer chased

the teens through the house. Then he disappeared. It was odd. No blood was spilled.

“The first one was so cheesy,” Abby said.

“Don’t say that too loudly.” Clara motioned to the audience. “These people loved the movie.”

Abby and Clara loved *Scream Night* too. They liked how silly it was. A horror movie where nobody died. Whatever!

Adam Rojas stepped out. He had directed *Scream Night*.

The director was bald. He wore a black suit. Underneath his jacket he wore a white T-shirt. It read, “*Scream Night 2*.” The man still looked hip for an old dude.

The director never made another movie. *Scream Night* was his first and last. There was a rumor going around. Rojas was working on a top-secret project. Nobody knew what it was.

Then information for *Scream Night 2* appeared online. Abby and Clara were thrilled.

“Welcome,” Rojas said, smiling. “I won’t

waste your time. Here's the trailer for *Scream Night 2*."

The audience cheered. The hall went dark. The trailer started. A white van appeared on the screen.

The crowd went nuts.

The white van drove up to an old house. Some teens stepped out of the van. They walked into the house. The actors looked the same. Were they the same actors? Wow! They still looked young.

The audience loved it.

The killer suddenly appeared. He wore the same mask. The uniform was the same too. The killer chased the teens around the house.

A title scrolled across the screen. It read, "*Scream Night 2 ... Coming Soon.*"

The audience was thrilled.

Abby and Clara looked at each other. What? They rolled their eyes.

“It looks like the same movie,” Abby said.

“Everybody loved it,” Clara said.

“It looks as cheesy as the first one. I guess that’s a plus.”

“You think it was cheesy?” A man glared at Abby. “It was great!” he said.

“It wasn’t cheesy!” another person said.

Some people started to yell at her. The girls couldn’t believe it.

“It’s so *not* cheesy. Get out!” someone yelled.

“Who thinks *Scream Night* is cheesy?” Rojas asked. “Why do you feel that way?”

The director stood in front of the girls. He held a microphone. All eyes were on Abby. Rojas tilted the mic toward her mouth.

“Well,” Abby said nervously. “Nobody ever dies. And *Scream Night 2* looks just like the first one.”



CHAPTER 2

64K Cinema

Abby,” Clara sighed. The girls were still at Crazy-Con. They walked the main floor. “Why couldn’t you just lie? You should’ve said the movie was great.”

“Clara!” Abby said. She was shocked. “I wasn’t going to lie. The trailer sucked.”

Clara rolled her eyes.

After Abby dissed *Scream Night 2*, people booed. Loudly.

The director answered more questions. But the audience didn’t ask any. They picked on Abby instead. Some called her a hater. Some called her a troll. Others said she simply didn’t get the ’80s.

“I guess—”

“What?” Abby snapped.

“Don’t say everything that comes into your head.”

Did she do that? Abby had never realized it. Clara never did that. The girls were best friends. Yet they were so different.

Abby loved books. She was always reading. Archery was her fave sport. Her curiosity was a plus. But sometimes it got her into trouble.

Clara was reserved. She was a dedicated swimmer. A schedule ruled her life. And unlike Abby, she loved heights.

“I was just tired,” Abby said. “My brain stopped working.”

It was almost four. The girls had been walking all day. They had been at the show since eight that morning. It was time for a break.