

The Redbird Orphanage
Chapter 1#: The Redbird Orphans

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. REDBIRD ORPHANAGE, FRONT LAWN: NIGHT

The Redbird Orphanage, a once lively and prosperous place full of children laughter, now sits alone and abandoned. Twenty-five years of foliage and moss cover the sides of the three floored mansion, giving it an eerie vibe that's hard to miss.

A high-rise fence surrounds the building, though their size is nothing compared to the massive iron gates in front.

GIRL [O.S.]

Jesus, this thing is heavy...

GIRL 2 [O.S.]

Will you shut up? Someone might hear you!

GIRL [O.S.]

Who the fuck's gonna hear me?!

Approaching the gates are **HOLLY HOLMES** and **KRISTIE JAMES**, two eighteen-year old blonds from the city. Kristie, the older and blonder of the two girls, is carrying a rather heavy looking box.

KRISTIE JAMES

(STRUGGLING)

Fuck. This.

Giving up, Kristie finally allows the box to slip from her fingers and fall with a loud THUD to the ground. Holly, the younger and spoiled one of the two, whips around.

HOLLY HOLMES

What are yo-?

KRISTIE JAMES

I'm not carrying that fucking thing another inch. It's your turn.

HOLLY HOLMES

Oh, come on.

KRISTIE JAMES

"Come on," nothing! I've been carrying it for the last three miles, I think you can handle carrying it the last ten feet.

HOLLY HOLMES

Have you seen my arms?

Kristie rolls her eyes, regretting more than ever agreeing to partaking in this stupid prank. She runs a hand through her sweaty hair before looking up at the orphanage. She freezes...

KRISTIE JAMES

Someone's already here...

HOLLY HOLMES

Huh?

Holly follows Kristie's gaze...and gasps in surprise.

There, in first floor window closest to the entrance, sits a lit candelabra.

KRISTIE JAMES

Who the hell could it be? No one ever comes out here.

Though she tries to hide it, Holly can't help but break out into a mischievously coy smile. Instantly Kristie's shock is replaced with even annoyance.

KRISTIE JAMES

Holly, what did you do?

HOLLY HOLMES

I may or may not have invited Susie Jay and Cody to help out with the prank.

KRISTIE JAMES

Holly!

HOLLY HOLMES

What? Don't act like you haven't been crushing on Susie since the first grade.

KRISTIE JAMES

That's exactly why I don't want her here! You do realize she has a boyfriend, right?

HOLLY HOLMES

Details, details. Now come on! Maybe we can convince Cody to be the macho man he is and carry the box the rest of the way.

KRISTIE JAMES

You know I hate you sometimes,
right?

HOLLY HOLMES

That just means you love me the
rest of the times, and that's all
that matters.

Holly winks almost flirtatiously at Kristie before hurrying forward to the iron gates, which have been left slightly ajar. Susie shakes her head before smirking herself and hurrying after Holly.

CUT TO:

INT. REDBIRD ORPHANAGE, FOYER: NIGHT

Holly's pushes open the front door and steps inside, Kristie not far behind. Both are immediately taken aback by what they see. Even after twenty years of negligence, the place is still a sight to behold:

The room is outlandishly large, with a marbled staircase at the center that goes all the way to the third floor. There's a giant set of wooden doors to the left, and three smaller wooden doors to the right.

A stained glass window showing the Virgin Mary hangs from the ceiling, it's colors faded and sheets cracked.

KRISTIE JAMES

They weren't kidding when they said
this place was a dump...

HOLLY HOLMES

I don't know, I kinda like it. It's
like "Twilight" meets "The
Haunting".

(BEAT)

The original, not the remake.

KRISTIE JAMES

Ugh, if I see any sparkling
vampires around here I swear I'm
shooting myself.

Holly laughs before walking off to the wooden doors to the left; there's a plaque on each though it's too dark to read either. Holly tries the door on the left and is a bit startled to see just how easily it opens.

HOLLY HOLMES

Guys?

She pushes it open and peaks inside.

HOLLY HOLMES

Hello, hello, anybody in--?

Just then she catches sight of something that stops her mid-question. She stares at it a good three seconds before letting out an ear piercing, bone shilling scream.

Kristie rushes to her.

KRISTIE JAMES

Holly, what's-- oh, my God.

Holly turns and runs off, leaving Kristie to gawk in shock at the sight before her:

There, in the middle of the room, hangs the body of **ZACHARY BUTLER**, a multimillionaire in his mid 40s. It's clear from his gray skin and frail, white hair that he's been hanging here for awhile.

Kristie covers her mouth in shock as she locks her baby blues with his milky whites.

She finally can't help it: she SCREAMS before turning and hurrying off, her sneakers sliding across the dusty floor.

CLOSE UP:

On the hanging corpse.

An aged envelope's been pinned to the pocket of his pin-strip jacket. On it, written in big swirly letters, are the words, "**TO: THE REDBIRD ORPHANS.**"

As we linger on the words, we can't help but notice we can still hear Kristie and Holly's screams in the background...

CUT TO:

THE REDBIRD ORPHANAGE