

Lights Out

By Sadie Pattison

“Lights out” can mean many things. It can mean a mother telling her kids to go to sleep. It can mean a set bedtime for a group of Girl Guides out camping. However, it can also be used right before you knock someone out, and take them away from what they know.

It’s 8PM on a Friday night. Ms. Danvers is tucking her children into bed. Her daughter, Alice, and her son, Jeremy. Neither have school tomorrow, but they have a special family instead. Had they not, they would have been able to stay up later. She goes into her daughter’s room, kisses Alice on the forehead, and tucks her in.

“Lights out. Sweet dreams, darling.” Ms. Danvers says. She exits the room, and closes the door. She heads over to Jeremy’s room, and sees him on his iPad. “Dear, it’s lights out.” She says, the young boy puts his iPad away, and kisses his mom good night. She turns off his lights, and heads to her own room. Lights out for the night.

It’s 10PM on Friday night. The group leader, Toadstool, walks to each cabin, reminding the girls to go to bed. As she walks away, she hears giggles from the girls, knowing they wouldn’t be asleep for a while. Toadstool paid no mind, and decided it was time for lights out for herself. The girls however stayed up much later, telling stories about ghosts that haunt the camp. They tell of a man, with long fingers and pointed teeth, who kidnapped people in the camp. And before killing his victims so he could eat them, he would always say the same words: “Lights out.” Some of the girls began to believe in the stories of the pointy toothed man, others not so much. But soon they all became tired, and decided it was best for them to stop telling ghost stories, and save some for tomorrow. After all, they still had to have something to do on Saturday night as well. Lights out for the 43rd Guelph Guides.

It’s 11PM on Friday night. Tyler Meyerhall walks the streets of downtown Guelph. He’s in the middle of trying to convince his friends over the phone to come out with him as he wanders around town. Eventually he hangs up, and puts his phone away. Most of the stores are closed, but he loves the city at night. As he wanders the streets of the old city, he hears rustling. *Probably just an alley cat*, he thinks, trying not to worry. But every time he hears that rustle, his heartbeat speeds up. It becomes constant, until it turns into footsteps. Tyler picks up his pace, sprinting in an attempt to get somewhere. Yet as he ran, he could hear the pace of whoever was behind him match his own. He runs and runs, and after ten minutes he realizes: his pursuer has disappeared. Tyler pauses to catch his breath, and with a sigh of relief, begins to look for a sign as to where he is. But just as he began to look around, *WHAM!* A heavy baseball bat collides with his head, and two men step out of the shadows. Tyler slowly begins to lose consciousness as the men approach. However he manages to hear one thing before slipping away.

“Lights out, Tyler Davidson.”

“Lights out” can mean many things. It can mean a mother who is exhausted from work, and just got her kids to bed so she could sleep too. It can mean a time for a Girl Guide troop to take a break from telling

ghost stories so they can sleep at night. But for the unfortunate, it can be the last thing you hear before getting knocked out, and taken away from what you love.

It's 7AM on Saturday morning. The Danvers family is just waking in their comfortable home, waiting for breakfast to be ready. The last of the 43rd Girl Guides are finally waking up, and getting ready to start the day. But poor, Tyler Davidson is confirmed missing, and hasn't been heard from since Friday night.