

Project G.H.O.S.T. Chapter 1- Possess

Mia Ray, a very kind young mother, has returned to her apartment from the grocery store as usual. The front door of her apartment closed behind her as the barrel of a gun was pointed at the back of her head. Mia slowly placed the bags on the kitchen counter and raise up her hands as the gun moved closer to her head.

The shooter spoke first, "Mary had a little lamb."

Mia smiled, "Its fleece was white as snow." The shooter lowered the gun as Mia turned around. "Maya! My goodness, I haven't seen you in forever."

Maya hid the gun in her clothes and smiled back. "Haha. You never change, do you, Mia. I'm taking a little time off of work so I can to visit my favorite sister."

Mia blushed. "Oh you. Please come in and make yourself at home. I know, let me make your favorite cookie." Mia moved into the kitchen as Maya took a seat at the counter. "Anyways, how have you been? Mom and Dad will be happy to see you again. Even Elliot wondered about you sometimes."

Maya stretched out on the counter. "My work has been killing me. I travel too much and meet too many people. I couldn't get any vacation time because my company didn't have enough international businessmen. Can't I be like you and work at a pet shop?"

"Well, I guess you had fun," Mia laughed. "I don't think you would like to clean up after animal. It can be a whole crap load of work."

Maya sat up and laughed. "Haha. You're probably right. So, how is everyone?"

"Elliot just turned 16 last month and he is in the top 50 of his class," Mia informed. "Mom and Dad are planning a cruise in the summer. The grandparents are still at the farm as always."

Soon, a young man entered the apartment. "Mom, I'm home," he called out.

"Welcome back, Elliot," Mia smiled. "Don't you remember Aunt Maya? She's here on vacation for a little while."

Elliot sat next to Maya and smiled. "Hey, Aunt Maya. How long are you staying?"

"About two weeks," she answered. "My gosh, Elliot. You had gotten taller since I last saw you. Now I can't call you a mouse anymore."

Elliot laughed. "I'm almost taller than you. Maybe I could beat you up this time."

Maya smirked. "Keep dreaming kid. Aunt Maya won't lose to a big mouse."

"Oh Elliot," Mia said. "Can you do the laundry for me? I'm busy cooking right now."

He nodded. "Okay, Mom." Then he moved into the next room.

"I'm surprised you raised him well without a man," Maya smiled.

"That's because I'm the older sister," Mia joked. "I got experience from you."

"Well, I'm glad to be your guinea pig," Maya laughed.

Mia took the tray of fresh cookies from the oven and placed it on the counter. She spoke in a soft voice, "But, Maya, is it true?"

"True about what?" Maya asked as she took a cookie from the tray.

Mia leaned closer. "About the... ghosts that are around you..."

Maya smirked. "Would you like to see?" Mia hesitated. "Don't worry. They won't hurt you. I promise."

“Alright,” Mia smiled. “I trust you.”

“Show yourself, spirits,” Maya commanded. Soon, three orbs of light appeared and surrounded Maya. Mia was speechless as Maya took a bite out of the cookie. “So you like it?”

Mia smiled again. “Thank you, Maya... But doesn’t it freak you out?”

“Nope,” Maya answered. “But you do.” Suddenly, Maya pulled out her gun and shot her sister in the head. Green ooze was spilling out of the body as it fell to the ground. Parts of the kitchen were covered in its green blood as Maya took another bite of the cookie. “You damn alien.”

Elliot ran out into the kitchen. “What happen? I heard a loud bang-” The sight of the body, the green substance, and the weapon in Maya’s hand caught his eye. “Mom...”

The orbs vanished as Maya turned to him. “She’s not your mother.” Elliot was shocked by her words. “This is an extraterrestrial. An alien I was ordered to kill.”

“So I have been living with an alien this whole time?” he spoke. “What about my mother?”

Maya shook her head slowly. “She died a week before your birthday...” Elliot dropped to his knees. “I’m very sorry, Elliot... I couldn’t save her in time. I can only save you.”

“Maya...” he began to cry. “Why didn’t you tell me sooner? She’s your sister, isn’t she?”

She sighed. “I was told to keep all of this a secret from the innocent people. You have to understand why I didn’t keep in touch for a while.” She moved closer to him. “But listen to me. Stay in your room and do not come out until morning. The C.I.A. are going to clean this up later. And do not speak any of this to anyone. There might be more of these freaks in the city.”

“What are you going to do, Maya?” he asked.

She frowned. “I got some unfinished business to take care of. Just listen to my instructions and you won’t get hurt.” She began to move to the front door.

“Maya!” he called out. “You can’t leave me like this.”

She smiled over her shoulder. “You’re a big boy now. I think you can handle yourself. Stay out of trouble, though.” Then she exited the apartment, leaving Elliot alone with the corpse.

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As the night fell upon the city, Maya arrived at the top of a tall building. She whispered in the night breeze, “You guys can come out now.” The three orbs appeared and each morphed into a human body. One was a buffed man and dressed in a battle dress uniform; another was a scientist in a lab coat and carried a laptop, and lastly a beautiful female with long bangs that covered her eyes. “Colt, can you analyze the green fluid from the apartment?” Maya asked.

The scientist nodded while he starts up his laptop. “Right away, Maya.”

The buffed man walked up to Maya. “Are you sure the kid will be okay?”

“You worry too much, Andy,” the beautiful woman smiled as she patted him on his back. “As long as Maya believes in him, there’s nothing to worry about.”

Maya folded her arms. “I wouldn’t believe in him just yet. He’s still a kid.”

“Then why would you leave him behind?” Andy asked.

Maya pulled out her phone. “Because I have my reasons. You can always return back and watch over him, Andy. But now I must contact the boss.” Then she turned to the woman. “Bina, you’re on look out.” The woman nodded and moves towards the ledge of the building and began to hum a tune. Andy sat on the ground as Maya dialed a number.

A man picked up at the first ring. “What’s your status, Miss Maya?”

“You’re right. There was one in this area, Dr. Malcom,” Maya replied. “A very ugly one, too. However, this one is very strange.”

“How so?” Dr. Malcom asked.

Maya explained, “Since these extraterrestrials can take the image of humans, they were easy to find. But this particular one has altered the memories of my sister and those around her.”

“A memory alternation? How can you be so sure that this is not a trick up their sleeves?” Dr. Malcom’s voice became serious.

She sighed. “Because my sister hates ghosts and she will never want to see one... Even her son doesn’t realize that it wasn’t his mother.”

The doctor paused for a minute. “Well, this is an important discovery. Good work, Miss Maya, and I am truly sorry about your sister. Keep me updated.” The phone call was ended.

Bina’s melody echoed in the breeze as Colt continued analyzing the data. Andy stood up and stared at Maya. “What did the boss say?”

“We are going to stay in this city longer than I expected,” she answered. “I fear that we are going to see the other members sooner, too.”

Colt glanced at Maya. “I think you should come and look at this.” She walked over to him and stared at the screen. “The substance is different than before. The DNA structure is rearranging itself as if-” Soon Bina stopped her singing and coughed violently to the point where she fell to the ground. Andy ran and helped her up.

“It regenerated,” Maya growled under her breath. “That little shit!” Then she turned to them. “We’re going back! Andy, possess me now.” The three transformed into orbs again and one flew straight into Maya. Her muscles grew bigger as her voice was combined with Andy’s voice. “Let’s go!”

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Elliot locked himself in his room, not because of Maya’s instructions, but from plain fear of what might happen next. He held his phone tightly and checked the time for the C.I.A men to come. It was nearly 11:45 at night and he hasn’t eaten yet. “This must be a dream,” he told himself. “Maybe, if I can wake myself up, then this will all be over.” He pinched himself over and over again. But he was still in the same position.

Suddenly, there was a light knock on his door which he nearly jumped out of fright. He moved closer to the door but remembered what Maya said. The knocked was heard again and a voice was spoken. “Elliot, you should eat your dinner... The food is getting cold.” Chills ran down his spine as he heard her voice. “Elliot...?”

He slowly backed away from the door and whispered in fear. “No... This can’t be real... You’re not my mother...”

Something tried to turn the doorknob but it was locked. “Elliot, open the door...” He didn’t move from his spot as the knocks grew louder each second. “Elliot, are you there? Please open the door.” Then the door shook violently as the voice got angrier. “Open this door right now! Elliot! Listen to your mother! Don’t make me come in there!”

Elliot moved back until he was against the wall while his heart was beating. The door stopped shaking and the voice got quiet. He took deep breaths to calm himself down. Then he grabbed his phone and dialed the police.

The operator answered. "Hello, this is the police. What's your emergency?"

Elliot panicked. "There's an alien in my apartment and it's trying to kill me!"

"I don't understand what you're saying, sir," the operator spoke.

He screamed louder, "There's a creature from outer space!"

The door was shattered open as the body of his mother smiled at him. Large tentacles grew out of her back as she walked in his room. "There you are, Elliot..." she smiled like a maniac. Elliot couldn't speak to the operator as he shivered in fear. "As punishment, you won't have your phone for a while." The mother took his phone from his hand. "Goodbye," she said to the operator and crushed his phone. The creature picked Elliot up by his shirt collar and growled. "Why didn't you listen to me? You don't love your mother anymore?"

Elliot tried to pull away from her hands but she was too strong. "L-Let me go..." he struggled to speak.

"I cannot do that," she told him. "The Queen won't allow any humans to live." She held him up higher as the tentacles wrapped around his limbs and began to pull him apart. The mother smiled. "One of our kinds will take care of your body. Goodbye, Elliot..."

Suddenly, a figure flew through the window and smashed against the alien as the kid was dropped to the floor. The figure grabbed Elliot and pulled him out the room as the creature rolled around in pain. "Elliot, get away from here now!" Maya shouted.

Elliot couldn't comprehend fast enough as he stared at his aunt who looks slightly different than a few hours ago. "Maya, what's going on?" he asked.

Maya glared at him. "What does it look like? We are having a damn tea party with a nice alien! Now run!" The creature leaped on top of Maya and pinned her to the floor. "Get off you ugly freak!" Maya shouted and kicked the alien off and flew across the room.

The alien hissed. "A G.H.O.S.T. soldier! How dare you interrupt me? Die you pathetic human!" Then the alien ran towards Maya.

Maya raised up her fist and punched the alien in the face with an incredible force that caused a few teeth fly out. She pulled out her gun while the alien struggled to get up. "Heh. Who's pathetic now?" Maya pointed her gun at it.

It growled as one of its tentacles knocked the weapon out of her hand in an instant and jumped on top of her again. This time all the tentacles held Maya down as the alien's hands grabbed onto her throat. The gun fell near Elliot as he was frozen with fear. "You are the very pathetic one!" the alien yelled in her face.

Maya shouted to Elliot. "Get the gun and shoot her, Elliot!" The kid snapped back into reality and stared at the gun by him. "Shoot her now!"

He grabbed the gun but his hands were shaking too much to aim at the alien. "I-I can't!" Elliot whined. "I'm too scared!"

"Damn it, Mouse!" Maya yelled. "Be a man and shoot it!" Elliot backed away slowly in fear. "You little shit!" Then she struggled to free one of her arms out of the tentacles and punched the alien again. The alien snatched her arm and twisted it until a loud crack from her bones was heard. Maya screamed Bloody Mary as the alien

continued to twist it even further. “Elliot! Shoot the God damn alien already!” she screamed louder. “Forget about that damn fear of yours! SHOOT IT!”

Elliot couldn’t watch her under extreme pain. He held his breath and stood firm as he pointed the gun at the alien’s head. The trigger was pulled, a bang was heard, and a second later, the alien was on the ground. “I did it...” A smile appeared on his face. “Maya, I did it! I killed the alien!”

Maya got up to her feet and grabbed the gun out of his hand. She shot a few more rounds at the corpse until the head is completely gone. “This is how you kill an alien,” she spoke as she put the weapon away. “And as for you, Elliot.” She turned to him and punched him repeatedly in the head with her uninjured hand. “When I say shoot, you shoot it! Stop being a little girl! Can’t you follow a simple instruction! You little shit! You cost me an arm!”

He rolled up into a ball. “I’m sorry! I’m sorry!” he cried. “This time I’ll listen!”

Maya stopped her punches. “You better, damn Mouse. The C.I.A. are coming here soon as well as the police.” She glared at him. “I have no choice but to take you with me.”

“Really? You are going to be my legal guardian,” Elliot spoke in surprise.

“Nope,” she smirked. “You are going to work for me until you pay off all the medical bills for my arm. But you can’t be a killer like me. You really suck at shooting in the first place. In fact, I have a better job just for you.” Elliot crouched in fear of the thought of horrible jobs she will force him to do. “Pack up, Elliot, you are now my new housekeeper.”

Project G.H.O.S.T. Chapter 2- Soul

Maya Ray roamed around in the night while holding her injured arm. She only wrapped a towel over her arm and hope it would not get any worst. Elliot followed behind her until they stopped in the back of a 5-star hotel in the middle of the city.

“What are we doing here?” Elliot asked. “Shouldn’t we go to the hospital first?”

“I hate hospitals,” Maya growled. “I rather fix it myself.” She unlocked the back door and sneaked into the hotel. “Anyways, we’re taking the stairs. It’s going to be a long flight.” They took about 15 minutes climbing up the stairs and Elliot was completely out of breath.

“Maya...” Elliot gasped. “Why are we at this hotel again?”

She smirked. “This is where I live for the moment. I got the biggest suite here at the top.”

“Wait. So I’m not working to pay off your medical bills?” Elliot pointed out.

“Nope,” She smiled. “I need someone to clean up the room. I don’t like the hotel maids touching my stuff.”

He whined, “You killed my mother so you can have your room clean.”

She nodded. “Pretty much. The suite isn’t that bad. I just don’t have time to clean up. And you seem like a perfect housekeeper, especially after what happened to me.”

Elliot sighed in defeat. “You’re an evil aunt, you know that?”

Maya laughed. “Cheer up, Mouse. We’re almost there.”

After a few more flights, they finally reached the 30th floor. The halls were empty as they walked down. Elliot got an uneasy feeling on this floor. Not even a single employee has showed up. “Is this really where you live?” he asked.

“There is a reason for me to choose this hotel,” Maya explained. “Even though it’s famous for its fancy decorations and celebrities’ parties, this hotel has many reports of paranormal activities.”

Elliot moved closer to her. “Like ghosts? You live here because of that?”

“Exactly,” she smiled. “You see, Elliot, unlike your mother, I really like spirits. And what better way to see one is to live in a hotel that’s full of it.” They stopped at a large, red door with a gold theater mask painted on it. “Well, here we are. Room 3025.”

Elliot stared at it until the mask began to move. “Welcome back, Madame Maya...” the mask spoke as Elliot jumped back. “Miss Keller has tried to contact you since you’ve been out...” Then the mask stared at Elliot. “Madame Maya, who is the human? Is he safe?”

Maya laughed, “Yes, he’s my nephew, Abel. And thank you for your work. May we please come in?”

“You may, Madame Maya...” the mask spoke as the red door slowly open. Maya entered as Elliot scurried behind.

“W-What is that?” Elliot asked as the door closed after him.

“That’s the doorkeeper, Abel,” Maya informed. “He’s one of the spirits that lives with me.”

“Spirits! You mean there are more of them?” he cried. Three orbs of light appeared around Maya and then transformed into their human image. Elliot stumbled to the floor from fright. “Holy crap! They’re real!”

“Of course, they’re real,” Maya said. “Why do you think I like ghosts? Anyways, Colt, please, tend to my arm, Bina can assist you, and Andy is on look out for now.” The three ghosts nodded and vanished into thin air. Then Maya turned to the kid. “Help me get into my room, Mouse.” They moved into the bedroom and unwrapped the towel. Elliot carefully laid Maya on top of the bed as two of the ghosts reappeared with a first-aid kit.

The ghost that’s dressed up as a scientist examined her arm. “This is bad. You have five fractured bones as well as torn muscles,” he said. “Are you sure you don’t want to see a live doctor?”

Maya joked. “You are close enough to one, Colt. Just make it quick as usual.”

Colt sighed. “As you wish.” He held her arm up and began to twist it in multiple directions. Maya held her tongue down so she won’t scream in pain as her bones cracked even louder. Elliot held her other hand to reduce the pain but she was stronger than he expected and nearly had his hand crushed. Once the final crack was heard, Colt gently laid her arm down. “I reconnected all the fractured bones and torn tissues together. It will take time to heal and gain movement again. I would recommend to not run into any fights for a few weeks.”

Maya huffed in pain as the female ghost wrapped bandages around her arm. “Thank you, Colt. Please send the data to Dr. Malcom.” He nodded and disappeared.

Once the female ghost was finish, she smiled at Maya. “All done, Maya. Is there anything else you want me to do?”

“Thanks Bina,” Maya smiled back. “Do you mind showing our newest member around the place? Maybe give him something to eat, also.”

“Okay. Please get well soon,” Bina spoke in a soft voice. She turned to Elliot. “Please follow me...”

Elliot followed the spirit outside the room. He didn’t realize how big the suite was until now. There was enough room to have a pool table, a drink bar, an arcade room, a complete dining room table set, and a Jacuzzi. “Wow. I can’t believe this hotel has so much cool stuff,” Elliot said in amazement.

The ghost laughed. “I’m glad you like this place. The scenery up here is wonderful, too. Would you like anything to eat?”

He shook his head. “I lost my appetite at the apartment. But thank you.”

“Very well,” she smiled. “Would you like to rest, too? There is an extra bedroom. I believe it would suit you more than us”

Elliot sat in one of the chairs. “Maybe in a few minutes, I just have too many stuff running around in my head right now.”

“I see. Well, if you need anything, don’t be afraid to ask us,” Bina said and she started to walk away.

“Wait,” Elliot said. “There was something I want to ask you before I forget.” The ghost sat next to him and waited. “Why are you working with my aunt? I mean, what does she really do? Fighting aliens seem pretty skeptic, especially at this time.”

The ghost giggled. “Maya’s right. You really ask a lot of questions. But we all have our reasons to do what we have to do. In fact, all four of us made a contract with Maya.” Bina moved up her bangs to show Elliot her damaged eyes where the veins were dark enough to see. “I lost my eyes from an alien parasite. The doctors couldn’t save me in time and I died on the operating table. Soon, your aunt found me and made a deal. She let me use her eyes anytime I want as I continue to serve her.” She moved her bangs back down. “The other three have their own contracts with your aunt. I know it’s weird, but it’s Maya’s job to eliminate the aliens. She agreed to do it. Please don’t blame her for killing people who were close to you.”

Suddenly, Andy popped up in the room. “I found another one nearby.”

Colt popped up next to him. “But Maya is unable to fight right now. We have to find a different approach.”

“I know,” Andy said. Then he turned to Elliot. “We are going to use the kid for now.”

Elliot panicked. “Wait! I just got here! I don’t know what’s going on?”

“Too late!” Andy spoke as he ran into Elliot’s body. His muscles tensed up as Andy spoke through Elliot’s mouth. “You’re our only choice. Colt, come with me. Bina, you stay here and watch over Maya.” Then Elliot jumped out of a nearby window while Colt followed behind.

They free-fall for a few minutes and then landed on top of another building without breaking any bones. “Holy crap! Are you trying to kill me?” Elliot whined.

Andy laughed. “Don’t worry. I’m from the military. You’re safe in my hands.” They leaped between buildings like a free-runner. “Plus you need more muscles in your body. I can’t work with a weakling like you.”

“Hey! I had no choice! You came into me first!” he cried.

“Oh, shut up, you two,” Colt scolded. “The faster we get there, the faster we will come back before Maya wakes up.”

Soon they arrived at a junkyard and hid between the piles of scrap. They sneaked around the place but didn’t find any aliens. “Are you sure there’s one here?” Elliot whispered.

“My instincts are never wrong,” Andy whispered back. “Maybe we’re not looking in the right place.”

Colt appeared in front of them. “There’s a human coming this way. I don’t believe he’s an alien.”

They looked closer as a drunken man wobbled around the junkyard. Elliot spoke first. “That’s Mr. Ellis, my history teacher at school. But what is he doing here?”

Colt explained. “I knew him before he was a teacher. Mr. Harlan Ellis, a former member of the C.I.A. He was once a bad-ass agent but he accidentally shot another member and got kicked out of the agency.”

“He never told us that,” Elliot said. “I can see why he started drinking.” The drunken man fell to the ground. “We should help him.” They moved over to the man as he began to sing random tunes.

“Hey, I just met you...” Harlan sung. “And this is crazy!”

“Great. Now we have to find the alien while having this karaoke guy with us,” Andy complained. “Maya will kill us if she knew about this.”

The drunken man stared at Elliot. “Hey, it’s you. Haha. Umm... Elliot Ray, the smart one in that class. Ha. What are you here? Want to sing with me?”

Elliot sighed. “You’re right, Andy. She will kill us. But we have to move Mr. Ellis to a safer place.”

“...But here’s my number...” Harlan continued. “So call me-” He pulled out a desert eagle pistol and shot something at one of the large crane machine. “Aliens!” Elliot jumped back as Mr. Ellis got up to his feet without staggering back. He smiled at Elliot. “If you’re here to kill one of these mother f*ckers, then welcome to the party, Elliot.”

Elliot panicked. “Mr. Ellis, what the hell is going on? I thought you were really drunk!”

The teacher pulled out a sawed off, side by side, break barrel, pistol grip with a ten gauge shotgun from the pile of junk. “Ah, here’s my shotgun, “Mr. Ellis said. “I could ask you the same thing. I only drink on the weekends. But these mother f*ckers only attack weaker humans so I had a few drinks tonight.” He loaded his shotgun and aimed at the crane machine again. “Care to join me in this fight, Elliot?”

Andy forced Elliot to pull out a sharp piece of metal from the pile and waved it around to get the feel of it. “I’m ready,” Andy spoke for him.

“Good. I’ll give you some extra credit for this when we come back,” Mr. Ellis smiled. One of the crane machines began to move toward them. He shot a round at the control seat and a figure fell out afterward. “We got to get up that crane!” he shouted.

The guys ran across the junkyard as more giant machines came to life. A huge magnet machine piled more scrap metals around them to prevent them from escaping. A pair of metal claws slammed between the guys, stopping them in their tracks. “You go on first!” Elliot shouted. “I’ll catch up later!” Mr. Ellis continued running as Elliot climbed onto the metal claws. The claws were pulled up all the way to the arm, then spin around to get the kid off. Elliot managed to hang on until he climbed onto the arm of the machine

and ran towards the control seat. Andy struck the piece of metal into the alien's head and kicked the body out of the machine. "One down!" he shouted as another crane moved close toward them. The alien smashed its metal claws into the side of Elliot's machine. "Crap! This isn't good!" Elliot screamed.

A third machine rolled next to the alien and crushed the entire control seat with a large metal ball. Mr. Ellis smiled from the machine. "Hey kid, you're still alive. That's great! Climb aboard!" Elliot leaped from one arm to the other and climbed down to Mr. Ellis.

"I didn't know you can work this thing," Elliot said.

Mr. Ellis laughed. "You'll be surprise at what we learned in the agency. There's one mother f*cker left. Ready to end this shit?" Elliot nodded as Mr. Ellis drove toward the last remaining crane. Mr. Ellis swung the metal ball at the alien but suddenly got tangled with the alien's claws. The two machines began to pull back with full force to break free. But the objects were nearly stuck together. "Well, this is a problem," Mr. Ellis said. "There's only one way to solve this." He turned to Elliot. "Can you fly, kid?"

"What?" he asked.

"Better fly now!" Mr. Ellis kicked him out of the machine. He put the machine in forward drive and climbed onto the arm with his shotgun. The alien dragged the entire machine back as Mr. Ellis ran across the arms and shot more rounds at it. "Die, you piece of shit!" The alien tried to escape as Mr. Ellis came closer until one of the bullets pierced through fuel tank and created an explosion. Pieces of burnt metal fell from the sky as the remaining parts of the machine were engulfed by the fire.

Elliot landed on the clear ground when the explosion was heard. He quickly got up to his feet and stared at the giant flames. "No, this can't be..." Elliot began to cry. "We have to find him! He can't die like this!"

Andy wouldn't let him go. Instead, he shook his head. "It's no use. Nothing could have survived that kind of explosion..."

Colt appeared next to them. "Harlan was a good man... More crazy than good..."

"Let's go home. We have already made a big mess here." Andy said and they left the junkyard. Elliot didn't say anything once they reached the hotel and stopped in front of Abel.

"Mister Elliot, what happened to you?" the mask questioned.

Andy spoke for him. "It was a long night. May we come in?"

Once the door opened, Maya was standing on the other side with an angry expression on her face while Bina hid behind her. "You stupid ghosts! How dare you leave without telling me? And on top of that, you dragged our only housekeeper into a dangerous situation! I shall punish you guys with all the firepower I have!"

Andy leaped out of Elliot's body as he fell to the floor. "We're sorry. It was a sudden idea and we're stupid to do it," Andy said.

Colt stood beside him. "We couldn't involve you under your condition. However, we did bring him back in one piece. Let's be thankful for his well-being."

Maya sighed in frustration. "Just put the kid to bed. I'll deal with all of you later."

"Oh, and just to let you know, we met Harlan Ellis at the site," Colt informed.

"I'm surprise he's still kicking more aliens' asses. How is he?" Maya asked.

The ghosts looked at each other then back at Maya. "He's dead, Maya," Colt said.

She stood straight up. “Well, that is a surprise... He was a great teacher. He would never let his students use his shotgun though... Thanks for informing me.” The ghosts nodded then moved the kid into the room as Maya jumped into the couch and buried her face into the pillow. “Him... of all people, he has to die...” she mumbled into the pillow as Bina sat beside her.

“Everyone dies, Maya...” Bina spoke. “That’s how life works... We can’t change it.”

“I know, I know...” she mumbled again. “One of G.H.O.S.T. rules: Accept it and move on.” The rest of the night continued to remain silent for the loss of their dear friend.

Project G.H.O.S.T Chapter 3-Ghost

Elliot Ray lied tiredly in bed as his aunt slowly entered the room. She placed his tray of breakfast on the nightstand as she sat next to him. She nudged him to wake up.

“Get up, Mouse. It’s already 12 in the afternoon,” Maya said.

“I’m so tired,” he mumbled. “Can’t I stay in for the whole day?”

“No!” she shouted as she jumped on top of him. “Your work starts today, so get up, you lazy bum! This is punishment for last night!” Then she pulled his ears.

Elliot jumped directly out of bed. “I’m up! I’m up! Just don’t hurt me again!”

Maya stood up. “Good. Now eat your breakfast and start cleaning up.”

He nodded. “Well, since you’re here, can you at least explain to me what’s going on?” She glared at him as he continued. “I mean, the stuff about the ghosts you have and the aliens that have been appearing lately. Even my mother’s final moments before she was turned into one.” He stared at her. “Please, I just want to know something.”

She sighed and crashed onto his bed. “Fine, I’ll tell you everything, but I will only explain this once.” He smiled at her. “It all started with the alien coming to Earth around 1941, during the Second World War. None of the countries realize this because they were too busy fighting and whatever your damn history teacher said. Soon there were strange reports of humans, who were thought to be dead, to have been walking around as if they weren’t. Some of them managed to return home and surprised their loved ones.”

“Alien zombies?” he asked.

She threw a pillow at him. “This isn’t a joke! Others also reported that these humans acted unusual than ordinary, such as, staring up at the sky at certain times in a day, digging into the ground with their bare hands, and eating cat food... lots of cat food. Somehow, this concerned the American government for the safety of the future. They managed to capture a few aliens to analyze their reason to come to Earth.” Maya turned to him. “It turns out that these aliens are going to wipe out all the humans and use Earth as their second home. As a result, the government finally did something good and created a project to annihilate all aliens. Thus, forming Project G.H.O.S.T. a team of superhuman soldiers dedicated to fulfill this mission.”

“I see, but why the ghosts?” he asked again.

“Because I like them,” she smirked. “Project G.H.O.S.T. stands for Generic Humans Obliteration Systematic Team. It doesn’t have to be actual spirits, as long as it’s beyond human performance. The reason I choose to have ghosts as my weapon is because of their spiritual energy. Aliens can easily mimic a human from their voice,

thoughts, and actions. With technology these days, it's difficult to detect an alien without mistaking them for a human. This is where spirits are helpful; they can feel a human presence rather than an alien."

"So, these aliens don't have a soul?" he questioned.

She nodded. "The government explained that these creatures' bodies perform differently than humans. I recommend keeping it like that to be easy for us soldiers to find. After killing what seems to be your mother, their Queen must be pissed off right now. Heh, she might want to meet us sooner than we expected." Then she dug in her pocket and handed Elliot an envelope. "This was from your real mother way before your 16th birthday. She kept feeling uneasy as if someone was watching her for a while and told me to save it for you. I believed her but I didn't know until I received the report." Maya stood up and patted Elliot's head. "She was glad that you weren't the one being target by them. I would rather keep it like that, too."

He smiled back. "Thank you, Maya..."

"Now you know everything," she said. "You can read that later, as of now, I am your legal guardian and my first order is for you to get off your lazy butt and start cleaning."

He laughed. "That's not how parenting skills work but I'm going to do it."

"Good," she smiled and then she left his room.

∞

Maya was sitting at the table drinking a cup of coffee and reading a newspaper while Andy surfed through the channels on T.V, Colt typing on his laptop, and Bina pulling tricks at the pool table. Elliot finally finished cleaning up the entire kitchen and stared at them. "This is probably why this place is so messy," he complained. "Because you guys are lazier than me!"

Andy laughed. "We, ghosts, are not supposed to do chores. It's not in our contracts. Besides, you're used to this stuff."

"But you're working so hard, Elliot," Bina smiled. "I would help you but Maya would yell at me again."

Maya stared back at him. "Think of this as a form of training. You got to start from the bottom and work your way to the top. And there are no short cuts."

He cried. "Maya, you really are evil!"

Bina appeared before him. "I know a way to cheer you up." She suddenly jumped into Maya. Soon her expression on her face changed into a cuter feature. Even her hair color has changed from brown to pink.

Maya smiled as a child. "Fill your dreams with sugar and rainbows!"

Elliot was shock. "No way! You're the famous pop singer, Princess Lollipop!"

"Yup, it's me Princess Lollipop," she giggled in a cute way. "And as a reward for your hard work I'm going to sing a song for you-"

Maya suddenly punched herself in the face as Bina flew out. "Like hell I would do that for him!" Maya shouted. "Don't ever possess me like that, Bina!"

"I'm sorry," Bina cried. "I thought it would cheer him up."

"The kid doesn't need cheering, he's not finish cleaning yet," Maya said.

"But I just realize something," Elliot spoke. "Your personality changes when one of the ghosts possesses you. I wonder what kind of person you are when Andy and Colt possess you."

Maya sighed. "Fine, after this you better start cleaning again." Andy flew into her first. Her muscles began to grow as she glared at the kid.

Andy spoke for her. "Even your aunt has more muscles than you, weakling."

"Stop calling me a weakling!" Elliot shouted. "So Andy gives you a high school jockey personality, I expected something like that."

"He's from the military," Maya explained in her own voice. "Now is Colt's turn."

The two spirits switched positions as her muscles grew smaller. Maya put on a pair of glasses as Colt's voice spoke through her. "Greeting, Elliot. It took you precisely 1 hour, 21 minutes, and 32 seconds to clean the kitchen. However, your progress is 1/8th of the suite."

"Umm... Thanks for that information," Elliot replied. "And Colt gives you very nerdy personality."

"I would say a very intelligent person," Maya explained again as the spirit flew out of her. "Now you have seen all of my personalities. Get back to work!"

Elliot pointed at the door. "What about Abel? Can he possess you, too?"

She thought for a moment. "Actually, he has never possessed me. Maybe it won't hurt to try now." They move toward the door as the mask appeared.

"How may I assist you, Madame Maya?" Abel greeted.

"Abel, can you possess me?" she asked.

"I can but it's not in my contract," he explained. "I can only become your doorkeeper, Madame."

"Just this once that you can break the contract," Maya said. "That's an order."

"Yes, Madame Maya. But I fear you won't like the personality I have," Abel said as he stretched out of the door. The mask turned into an orb and jumped into her. Maya stood still while Elliot and the ghosts waited.

Her eyes instantly shot wide open and punched Elliot in his face. Then she ran underneath the table and growled at them. As they moved closer to her, she growled even louder. "Get away from my table! This is mine!"

Elliot held his nose from the attack. "Maya? What's happening? It's like an opposite personality from Abel."

Soon, Abel flew out of Maya but she caught him in mid-air. She straggled and threatened him. "Abel, what did you do to me? If you ever do that again, I will rip the door of its hinges and throw it out the window!"

"My apologies, Madame Maya," Abel cried. "I was a guard dog in my previous life. This is why I agreed to be your doorkeeper. I only feel at peace when I am guarding something." Then the orb jumped back into the door.

Maya stood up and glared at Elliot. "Are you happy now? You got what you wanted. Now get back to cleaning!"

"Yes, ma'am!" he replied and then ran into the next room to clean.

A few hours later, Elliot cleaned half of the suite and leaped onto the couch to rest. Bina hovered above him and smiled. "How are you holding up?"

"I'm so tired," he mumbled. "Who would make such a big mess?"

"Maya, of course," she answered. "We ghosts don't eat or sleep. But we may move a few stuff around. So don't be scare if something goes missing."

"As long as I don't have to clean it up, it's good." He slowly sat up. "But I've been thinking about all of this"

She sat next to him. "Thinking about what?"

"About the aliens and the G.H.O.S.T. soldiers that Maya is in," he explained. "If I would have known this sooner, then my mother and Mr. Ellis wouldn't die... But now I was wondering if there was any way to prevent this from happening to innocent people. I'll do whatever I can to stop the aliens."

"But Elliot, you seen it yourself," Bina said. "The danger of these aliens is very serious. Not everyone can be a hero. It's safer for you to stay as a housekeeper."

He sighed. "It's hard enough to have the people I care about die in front of me. And the only thing I could do is watch. I wish I have the strength like Maya to protect them." Then he laughed at a thought. "Maybe, all I need is Andy's military training or Colt's smart brain to get by."

Bina cried. "What about me? You don't want my talent?"

"Umm... It's beautiful but I rather keep my hair color the same," he joked.

"You're so mean!" she cried louder as her punches flew straight through him.

Soon, Maya stood in front of them and glared at Elliot. "If you really want to have the strength like me, then you don't need my ghosts."

Elliot asked in surprise. "What do you mean? But Maya-"

"You are getting your own spirit," she answered. "I just finished talking to my boss and he allowed you to become a part-time G.H.O.S.T. soldier, due to my condition, but as long as you are under my supervision in all times."

He smiled happily. "Thank you, Maya. But where do I get my own spirit?"

"At Wal-mart. There's a demon who sells souls at a low price," she explained.

"Really? That's amazing!" he said.

She pulled his ears again. "No, you idiot! We are going to a church after school tomorrow. I'm dropping you off early in the morning, but be ready for a surprise."

He stared at her in confusion as Bina giggled. "What surprise?" he asked.

∞

The next morning Elliot was dropped off in front of his school as Princess Lollipop smiled and waved at him. "Have a great day at school, little Elliot!" she cheered. A few students pointed and laughed at Elliot as majority of them ran to the singer to ask for her autograph.

Elliot felt extremely embarrassed as Princess Lollipop continued to call out his name. He mumbled under his breath. "I think you're doing this on purpose, Maya. You must be enjoying this."

Princess Lollipop glanced at him and smirked. "Of course, I am enjoying this."

More students crowded around them until a girl's voice called out Elliot's name. Elliot moved out of the crowd and spotted the girl who was lightly running toward him. The girl stopped in front of him and gave him a kiss on the cheek. "Good morning, Elliot," the girl smiled. "I see that you have brought a lively crowd with you." Maya glared at them from the crowd of students.

He smiled back. "I didn't mean to. But this is my Aunt... Princess Lollipop."

Soon, Maya escaped from the crowd and joined Elliot. "Yup, it's me! I hope your morning is filled with sugar and joy," she smiled.

"Aunt, this is my girlfriend, Emily," Elliot introduced.

Maya was suddenly shock that he actually got a girl, and she's not even a bad one. Emily stared at the celebrity. "Omg! It's really you. I'm a big fan, Princess. I can't

believe that you and Elliot are related,” she squealed like another fan girl. “I feel so special that I’m dating a relative of a celebrity. I got to post this on facebook! May I have your autograph, please?”

Maya faked a smile. “Sorry, I’m super-duper busy today. Maybe I’ll catch you at another time. Have a wonderful and bubbly time at school.” Then Maya quickly jumped into her car and drove off as the crowd ran after her.

Elliot sighed in relief. “Finally, she’s gone.”

“Awe... I guess I can wait to get her autograph later,” Emily said. “But did you hear? Mr. Ellis is missing for two days now. The police couldn’t find his body anywhere.” Elliot stared at her in shock. His head replayed the scenes for the junkyard that night. Elliot couldn’t believe that he was completely gone. “There were rumors going around the school saying that he was taken by aliens.” Elliot gasped. “...Or probably move to another state. I don’t really pay attention to these things,” she smiled.

He sighed again. “Anyways... we should go before the bell rings. I already missed a day of work. Mrs. Gene will give me extra work because of it.”

Emily wrapped her arm around his and giggled. “She’ll probably triple the work since you have a celebrity for an aunt.”

Once Maya finally escaped from the group of fans, she stopped the car in the middle of a parking lot. Bina flew out of her and sat on the passenger side and smiled. “Well, wasn’t that fun?”

“Are you kidding me?” Maya glared at her. “He didn’t tell me that he have a lover. I don’t trust her one bit.”

The ghost laughed. “Are you jealous, Maya?”

She folded her arms. “I’m never jealous. I don’t care either as long as they don’t do anything bad.” Then she checked her phone. “My biggest concern is the limited amount of time Dr. Malcom gave me. Only 4 weeks to train Elliot into a full G.H.O.S.T. soldier. It won’t be enough time until the queen to arrive and destroy mankind.”

Bina stared at her. “Is it that’s why you let Elliot be involved in this project?”

Maya sighed. “It’s Dr. Malcom’s orders. I can’t refuse it no matter how much I hate it. But how would I cram 6 years of training into one month? He can’t even shoot a gun correctly!”

“Maybe just teach him the basic stuff,” Bina suggested. “I believe it would be faster if he meets other G.H.O.S.T. solders and agents, too. There’s got to be a few of them in this city.”

“Hopefully I won’t see the people I don’t like, especially those Cursed G.H.O.S.T.S ones,” she replied.

Bina giggled. “Aren’t you one of them, too, Miss Cursed Maya?”

She glared at her. “I’m the strongest one in the project. I don’t care about the other two Cursed idiots.”

“If Elliot can learn fast enough, maybe you won’t have to see them,” Bina smiled.

Maya started up the car. “Maybe if I beat the kid up faster than he learns, I don’t need to. Now let’s get to work, Princess Lollipop.”

Bina flew back into Maya. Then the celebrity giggled. “Oh, how I miss being alive again.” They drove back into the city to speak with the record producer and waited until the final bell at Elliot’s school.

Project G.H.O.S.T. Chapter 4-Cross

Emily Robertson kissed Elliot on his cheek once school has ended and soon went their separate ways. Elliot hopped into the car as Princess Lollipop smiled at him. “So, did you have a great time at school?”

He nodded. “It’s good. But I still can’t believe you would embarrass me like that. Now everyone is asking me for your autograph.”

Maya smirked as Bina flew out of her body once they pulled out of the parking lot. “Welcome to the life of popularity. Enjoy the fame until everyone forgets. However, there are rules you can’t break. And if you do break them, I will have you punished on a whole new level.” Elliot stared at her in fear as she continued. “The first rule is to keep all of this a secret. Don’t tell your friends about this project or the aliens. We would like to keep society under control for such crisis as this. The second rule is to not jump into every fight.” Then she glared at him. “It would be a waste of time. There are agents and soldiers lurking everywhere. One of them will take care of it. The third rule in any situation is to LISTEN TO ME!” she shouted in his ear. “I don’t care if the alien is dead or not. If I say shoot, you’ll pull the trigger. And if I say run, you’ll run like hell.” He nodded as she stared back onto the road. “And finally, the fourth rule is to never mix your feelings in a fight. These aliens won’t stop and cry because you’re human. They won’t hesitate to kill you either.”

“This sounds like a cold-blooded killer life, Maya,” Elliot pointed out. “Are you sure you’re not shooting people for fun?”

“Heh, if I was one I would have killed you a long time ago,” she joked.

“Anyways, these are the basic rules of the project. It should be easy for you to remember. If not, let me drill it into your head with pure torture.”

Elliot faked a laugh. “Hopefully, I won’t forget. Being a housekeeper for a relative celebrity who kills aliens with ghosts is torture enough.”

“Don’t worry. I can make it even worse for you,” she smiled evilly as they stopped in front of a small church. “Anyways, this is where we are going to get your own spirit, the Church of the Holy Spirit.”

They entered the building as a middle-age man holding a bible stopped in front of them. The man smiled kindly. “I never thought I would see you again, Maya. Are you here to give in to the life of peace with the rest of society?”

Maya quickly bowed. “Oh Presley, you know I couldn’t find my own peace just yet. But I came here for a favor from you.” Then she pointed at Elliot. “He wants to make a contract with a spirit for an important reason.”

The man glanced at Elliot then turned around. “Please come into my office. It’s safer to discuss this matter.” Maya and Elliot followed the man into another room. He locked the door behind them and then took his seat behind his desk as the two took their own seats. “Let me introduce myself to you, young man, I’m Father Presley Gannon of the Church of the Holy Spirit.”

Elliot introduced himself. “Elliot Ray, Maya’s nephew.”

“I’m surprised to hear one of Maya’s relatives is doing well,” Presley said.

“Hey! What are you trying to imply here!” Maya shouted, and then she turned to Elliot. “Did you know that Presley used to be a G.H.O.S.T. soldier too? He was one of the best people that I liked. If he would have been the strongest out of all of us.”

Elliot gasped as the priest replied. “However, I retired before that would have happen. I do not wish to continue down the blood-stained path. Violence is never the answer. I am a man of peace now.”

Maya folded her arms and stared at Presley. “So what is the real reason for your new life? I thought you would be in a bigger church surrounded by nice people.”

Presley stared back at her. “The Lord has created every living being for a reason and the aliens are a part of his creation. This concludes that the war against these aliens is pointless. So I have decided to become a man of God to repay for my sins. A church is still a church for God’s people.”

She glared at him. “Or is it that you can’t escape from the government? There are a few agents around to monitor you. Is that why you have brought us into your office? Face it, you can’t escape the life of a G.H.O.S.T. soldier. Maybe it was a sign from God.”

“Stop it, you two!” Elliot snapped as the two adults stared at him in shock. “There’s no point in arguing like this.”

Presley sighed. “He really does take after you, Maya. Still, I do not wish to work for the government.” Elliot frowned. “However, if a friend of mine asks for my help, I cannot refuse their request.”

Elliot smiled in joy. “Really? Thank you very much Father Presley!”

“But it won’t be an easy process,” Presley explained. “Finding a compatible spirit may take weeks to complete if you done all the instructions correctly. So, Elliot, are you sure you want to go through with this?”

He nodded. “I’m ready.”

The father stood up and walked over to the door. “Please follow me outside.” Maya and Elliot followed him to the back of the church. Elliot gasped at the site of a graveyard that was ten times bigger than the church. Rows of tombstones and crosses all stood firmly into the harden ground. “Welcome to the cemetery of the church. There are a limited number of souls that may help you. But I doubt you would find the one you need.” Presley took a bowl of holy water and drew a cross on Elliot’s forehead. “This will prevent any souls from possessing you. Now listen to my instructions. Walk around the cemetery and find a spirit. Do not be fooled by their appearance or their words. An aggressive spirit will drown you into madness and a weak soul won’t do any better.”

“Don’t forget the contract,” Maya added. “You need to negotiate with the spirit. These souls are stuck on Earth because they have unfinished business.”

Elliot nodded. “Wish me luck then.” He started walking through the graveyard. Spirits, shadows, and orbs appeared around him as he walked by. Most of the ghosts stared at the human as a few ignored him. The brave ones moved up to Elliot and began to speak.

“Looking for something?” an ugly spirit asked. “Pick me and I will help you find it.”

“No!” shouted a shadow. “Pick me and we can rule the world!”

An ogre size ghost stopped in front of him and growled. “Give me your soul!”

Elliot ran away from them as the spirits chased after him. “No! Get away from me!”

Maya laughed at Elliot. “Haha. Look at him run! This may be my new punishment for him. I like it.”

“This may take longer than I expected,” Presley spoke. “Are you sure this will be best for that kid?”

Maya sat on the steps of the church. “Nope but this is the safest way for him. He is now a G.H.O.S.T. soldier in training. Besides, you’re good at stuff like this. I can’t think of anyone better than you.”

“Or maybe you’re just lazy to help him,” he smiled. “You never change, do you? Well, if he really becomes a soldier, do me a favor as a fellow companion.”

She stared at him. “If you’re asking me to turn him into a priest, I won’t do it.”

He laughed. “That’s not what I wanted but good choice.” Then he got serious. “You know the consequences of being one of the strongest soldiers very well. Once the title was earned, there is no way to end it. Don’t make him be a Cursed soldier like you.”

“I know...” she sighed. “I don’t plan on making him into one. He’s not into the life of ruthless killings or violence. All he wanted was a simple prevention for society.”

“I won’t blame him,” Presley said. “That’s what everyone wanted.”

Elliot wasted about an hour and a half walking around the graveyard as the ghosts continued to talk to him. “I’m not going to pick you guys,” Elliot said. “Now leave me alone.”

“Pick me! Pick me!” the ghosts pleaded. “We can help you. We want your soul! We won’t eat you. Please pick me!”

“No!” he shouted again. “So stop following me!”

The ghosts became angry. “If you don’t choose us then we’ll eat your soul!” Then the ghosts rushed toward Elliot. He began to run again through the cemetery until a figure stood between him and the angry spirits.

Elliot stopped to see a large dog growling at the spirits as they stopped too. Soon the ghosts turned back around and returned to the field of tombstones. “What just happened?” Elliot asked. Suddenly, the dog collapsed to the ground as he ran to it. Elliot looked closer at the dog and realized that it wasn’t an ordinary animal. This creature had white fur with tattoo-like symbols in a shape of flames on its head. It huffed in pain. “You’re hurt,” Elliot said. “Let me help you.” The dog slowly stood up and walked away from him.

“That creature doesn’t belong to the church,” Presley spoke behind Elliot. He glanced at the priest. “However, he did protect you from those spirits.”

“What was that?” Elliot asked. “He looked pretty injured.”

“I can’t be too sure but the creature is always waiting by a certain grave nearby,” Presley explained. “None of the other spirits would be near it which is pretty strange to me. Well, it’s getting dark. You should go home and rest and continue another day.”

He shook his head. “Can I at least check it out? I want to help him.”

The priest glanced at him. “Fine, if your aunt doesn’t mind waiting a little bit longer for you.”

Elliot smiled again. “Thank you, Father Presley.” Then he searched for the dog until he reached the end of the cemetery. The dog sat in front of a grave with a concrete cross above it. As Elliot moved closer toward it, the creature growled at him. He held his hands up. “I won’t hurt you. I’m just here to thank you for saving me earlier.” The dog turned back to the grave as Elliot slowly moved closer until he can read the engravings on

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