

A Haunting Moment

¹ "No. I do not want blue hair," said Tom with a grimace. He was sitting in a turquoise beanbag chair in an azure room, but he did not want his hair to match the décor.

² "Blue is the best color!" said Terry. Every facet of his room, including the navy blue carpet, reflected how much he believed that. Apparently, he thought a blue-haired vampire was practicable for Freak Day at school. Everyone, even teachers, dressed in wild outfits for Freak Day.



³ "I'll show you what shade of blue I mean. Cassie is a slob and leaves her stuff all over our bathroom. It looks like a cosmetic factory had to liquidate in there! I think she has some blue hair dye somewhere," said Terry. He got up and walked out of his room and Tom, like usual, followed him.

⁴ Tom and Terry were inseparable, but Terry was the leader of the two. They were not biological brothers, but they shared everything from sophomore classes to CDs. Terry was tall and dark haired. He was not handsome in the usual sense, but his self-assurance made him stand out in a crowd. Tom was blond, quiet, and thoughtful. Another thing the friends shared, but not happily, was a crush on Bea U. Tee. Bea was an effervescent cheerleader and seemed to enchant both boys. Terry always knew just what to say when he saw her, but Tom just stood there, silently blushing.

⁵ Tom and Terry went down the hall to the bathroom that Terry shared with his sister. Cassandra had a substantial makeup collection. Bottles of hair color littered the shelves next to sweet-smelling tubes of fruit flavored lipsticks. Dark eyeliner pencils with perfectly sharpened tips stuck out of a plastic cup like smoky rockets ready to launch. Fragrant bath oil beads in crystal goblets sparkled on the window ledge, sending orbs of rainbow light across the white walls. Cassie kept chunky, brown hair barrettes that looked like pieces of lumber and metallic, corrugated headbands in a basket on a shelf. Slender bottles of homogenous nail polish stood in front of the mirror making double images like showgirls in a line. Cassandra placed great emphasis on her appearance, but her bathroom was a mess.

⁶ "I detest the way this stuff smells! It's easy for you to say blue is better because you have dark hair. I am a novice at hair coloring. What if something goes terribly wrong?" Tom said. He reluctantly agreed to Terry's plan, as usual, but he was still concerned that blue dye might turn his hair a sickly shade of Herman Munster green.

⁷ Terry picked up a tube from the bathroom counter. He squeezed a small sphere of blue goop out of the tube. It looked like a lush, succulent blueberry.

⁸ "This color is perfect-you can get a tube like this at the drugstore. We have teeth and capes to finish the Scream Team look," said Terry, convinced that they were fully equipped for Freak Day. Terry had a latent interest in drama, so Freak Day was his idea of fun. Tom, on the other had, was not so sure. Freak Day to him seemed, well, freaky. Daring things upset his equilibrium.

⁹ Tom stopped by the drugstore on the way home. He thought it would be a simple thing to pick up a tube of hair stuff, but when he got there, he realized he should have paid more attention to the name of the product. He wandered past stationery, lipstick, and pills.

¹⁰ "Do you have blue hair dye? The kind in a tube?" he asked the clerk, a disheveled girl who looked like she could use some help with cosmetics herself.

¹¹ "Over by our hairnet display," the girl said, as she peered over thick glasses and nodded towards hairnets arranged in a strange pattern that resembled a spider web. A large plastic black spider hung ominously from a strand of hairnets. The girl seemed to think it was a fantastic display, but Tom thought the idea of combining spiders and hairnets in any way was unhealthy. Tom thought that the girl needed some help in the interior decorating department too.

¹² "Aisle two, bottom shelf," the girl called as she reached into a commodious shelf under her counter and pulled out extra dental floss to restock another display. Tom hoped she wasn't thinking of spinning her own web with it.

¹³ Tom crept past thousands and thousands of hair products. A plastic werewolf stared at him from the shampoo section, showing off his shining, clean, doggy locks. He obviously used a good shampoo! Tom thought that the werewolf's glaring eyes and frothing mouth looked more like an ad for rabies inoculations or a warning about getting home by curfew than encouragement for buying a good shampoo. Tom felt overwhelmed by the rows and rows (and rows and rows) of hair sprays, styling gels, and conditioners. At last, he reached the section with hair coloring products. He quickly grabbed a blue tube, bought it, and ran home.

¹⁴ The next morning the Scream Team met in the hall. Bea U. Tee walked by and Terry started up a lively conversation while Tom walked on. Bea U. Tee gave Terry a dazzling smile.

¹⁵ "Your costume is great!" she said. She was dressed up as a beauty queen, complete with a diamond tiara and fake roses in her arms.

¹⁶ Tom went home after school, eager to get out of the vampire outfit. He was glad the Scream Team had dissolved. Why did Bea only talk to Terry? He took a shower, pulled on his clothes, looked in the mirror, and screamed.

¹⁷ His hair was still blue.

¹⁸ Tom jumped back in the shower in a panic and scrubbed his scalp until it hurt. He jumped out and wiped off the steamy mirror. What he saw made his mood match his hair. It was a haunting moment.

¹⁹ His hair was still blue.

²⁰ Tom called Terry, who laughed uproariously when Tom told him the problem. Of course, Terry picked the right kind of hair dye-the kind that washed out right away! Tom had a sleepless night and walked to school in a fog of blue hair and deep despair. To add to his problem, the first person he saw when he got to school was Bea! He looked around frantically for somewhere to hide, but all he saw were prickly shrubs next to the stone steps of the school, so it was no use. She motioned him over with a broad smile.

²¹ "Why is your hair still blue?" she called. It was heresy to appear in costume after Freak Day, so Tom found his tongue and explained his problem. He felt so embarrassed. Now his chances with Bea were probably zero!

²² "You must have grabbed the wrong kind of rinse-the kind that doesn't come out right away! I have an idea. I have some stuff at home that will make it come out much quicker. Do you want to stop by after school and borrow it?" Bea said in a friendly tone.

²³ "Sure," said Tom. Suddenly, he didn't feel so blue after all.

Name _____

Date _____

A Haunting Moment

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| <p>1. What shade of blue did the story not mention?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Periwinkle</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Azure</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Navy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Turquoise</p> | <p>2. What is the meaning of the word, "practicable," in paragraph 2?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Purposeful</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Feasible</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Useful</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Beautiful</p> |
| <p>3. Why could Tom's hair turn green if he dyed it blue?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>4. What was the play on words in Bea's name?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
| <p>5. What was Terry's attitude towards Freak Day?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Nonchalant</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Bored</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Afraid</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Excited</p> | <p>6. "Thousands and thousands of hair products" is an example of what literary device?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Alliteration</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Exaggeration</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Metaphor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Simile</p> |
| <p>7. Which of the following might be an outcome in Tom's relationship with Bea based on how helpful she was about his hair problem?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A She goes out with him.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B They become enemies.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C She never talks to him again.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D She dyes her own hair blue.</p> | <p>8. What was Tom's haunting moment?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A When he agreed to be a vampire</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B When Bea talked to Terry and not to him</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C When Freak Day was over</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D When he got out of the shower and his hair was still blue</p> |

Name _____

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Madame Curie

¹ She was born in Warsaw, Poland on November 7, 1867. Marie Curie was born Maria Sklodowska during a difficult time for the Polish people. At this time, Poland had been divided up and was under the control of many different countries. The portion where Marie's family lived was controlled by Russia. Marie's father insisted on maintaining many traditions from Poland. He lost his job as a teacher because of this dedication to Polish culture. This brought many hardships to the family.



² Before Marie was eleven years old, her mother died of tuberculosis, and her sister died of typhus. Although saddened by these losses, Marie worked hard at her education. She graduated with honors from high school at the age of fifteen. However, the stress of her losses finally hit her, and she began to suffer from a nervous disorder (most likely depression). For a year, she went to live in the countryside with relatives to recover.

³ After her health returned, Marie returned home intent on pursuing her education. During the Russian control of Warsaw, women were not allowed to attend the universities. Marie and her sister went to an illegal institution called the "floating university." The school met at night and moved around to avoid detection. Both girls knew that they would not be able to receive the education they desired as long as Russia was in control. The girls decided to help each other gain the education they wanted. Marie went to work as a governess and tutor to support her sister's education. During this time, she began her own independent studies in chemistry, math, and physics. Before long, Marie's father was able to help her sister at school. Marie continued to work as a tutor and governess and saved the money towards her own education. In 1891, she left Warsaw to study in Paris. Her dream to continue her education was coming true.

⁴ Marie spent three years working diligently toward her goal. Then, in 1894, she received her master's degree in math and physics. Obtaining this goal took many long hours of study. At times, Marie even forgot to eat. However, her hard work caught the attention of the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry. They gave her a grant to study "the magnetic properties of different steels."

⁵ In order to perform her work, Marie needed to find a lab to work in. In the spring of 1894, she met Pierre Curie who owned a small, poorly equipped lab in Paris. He gave Marie permission to work in his lab. She spent many long hours there. As they worked side by side on separate projects, the couple fell in love. They were married in 1895. That same year, two amazing discoveries were made - Wilhelm Roentgen discovered X-Rays, and Henri Becquerel discovered that uranium gave off similar rays. These two breakthroughs would lead Marie to her life work.

⁶ Shortly before the birth of their first daughter, Marie completed her work for the industrial society. Her new goal became obtaining her doctorate in science - an accomplishment never before achieved by a woman. In addition, Marie was fascinated by the discoveries of Roentgen and Becquerel. She began to experiment with Becquerel's work on uranium. Her work led her to name the behavior of the rays as "radioactivity." Soon, Pierre joined Marie in her work. As they studied, they discovered two new elements - polonium and radium.

⁷ The scientific world was enthralled with this discovery. After isolating radium, the Curie's discovered that the radioactive rays would destroy human flesh. The medical world also became interested in the Curie's studies. They continued to research these new elements. One study helped them to prove what Marie suspected for many years. All atoms contained the power of radioactivity.

⁸ In 1903, Marie completed her doctoral thesis and became the first woman in France to receive a doctorate degree. Later that year, Pierre and Marie were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics. In 1905, tragedy struck Marie again. Pierre was killed in an accident when he fell in front of his horse drawn carriage.

Marie was devastated by the loss and set out to establish an institute in Pierre's memory. She worked for years, finally opening the Radium Institute in 1914. During her campaign to open the institute, Marie was awarded her second Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

⁹ The Radium Institute became the focus of Marie's work, with her main purpose being to improve the human condition. During World War I, she delivered x-ray machines to battlefronts to help doctors save soldiers' lives. She also developed a tiny tube filled with radon for doctors to insert in diseased areas.

¹⁰ During the 1920s, Marie began having medical problems. Many scientists today attribute these to years of exposure to radiation. On July 4, 1934, Marie died of aplastic anemia most likely caused by leukemia.

¹¹ Marie Curie believed in the value of a good education. Her studies allowed her to make discoveries and medical advances that remain valuable today. From a simple beginning, Marie is an example of dedication to improving the human condition through education and science.

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| 1. Where was Marie Curie born? _____ _____ | 2. What did Marie do to earn the money she needed to continue her education? _____ _____ |
| 3. How did Marie meet her husband, Pierre? _____ _____ | 4. Which new word did Marie create to name the activity of rays coming from uranium? _____ _____ |
| 5. Which two new elements did Marie and Pierre discover? _____ _____ | 6. Which two Nobel Prizes was Marie awarded? _____ _____ |
| 7. Pierre Curie died of cancer because of his work with radioactive materials. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True | 8. Marie Curie was the first woman in France to receive a doctorate degree. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True |

NAME

The Twists and Turns of Pretzel History

¹ "Here you go, child," the monk said as he handed the boy a twisted piece of baked bread. "You said your prayers very well."

² The monk was giving this child a "pretiola," or "little reward." The monks took small pieces of dough and shaped them so they looked like children's arms folded in prayer. And thus, the "pretzel" was said to be born.



³ Pretzels are a very popular snack and have been around for a very long time. In fact, a rendering of a pretzel appears in a painting dated from 1559! However, there is a story about pretzels that occurred before that, during the Battle of 1510 between Vienna and the Turks. In the middle of the night, the Turks began to tunnel under Vienna's walls. Pretzel bakers were already at work and discovered what was happening. They fought the Turks with whatever they could find and defeated them. To honor the pretzel bakers, the Austrian Emperor had a special coat of arms designed for them. It is an image of a lion holding a shield decorated with a picture of a pretzel.

⁴ Pretzels were known to be symbols of good luck, and in medieval times, townspeople would go to the edge of town to offer beer and pretzels to vendors as they traveled. The vendors were in danger of being robbed en route, and the townspeople, perhaps following the theory of "safety in numbers," would ride out to be with the vendors and would bring pretzels as a treat. Pretzels were also used at royal weddings. It is thought that this tradition started in 1614 in Switzerland with the pretzel twist possibly symbolizing "tying the knot."

⁵ Pretzels have also been associated with great fun and are thought to have pre-dated Easter egg hunts. Can you imagine hunting for pretzels rather than eggs?

⁶ There are several types of pretzels. Some are soft and warm, while others are hard and crunchy. Some people dip them in chocolate, others in mustard. You can buy them fresh at fairs or in bags at grocery stores. They can be shaped like simple sticks, blocks, thick bars, or the traditional twists.

⁷ There is an interesting theory about the discovery of hard pretzels. Apparently, a baker was warming soft dough and fell asleep while it was baking. When he woke up, he thought he had never turned the oven on. So, he ended up baking the dough twice! To his pleasant surprise, the crunchy dough that came out of the oven was a tasty treat.

⁸ Pretzels are thought to have come to America in 1620 with the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. The Pretzel capital is now considered to be, Reading, PA, and according to the Snack Food Association, pretzels are second only to potato chips in popularity. Pretzels even beat popcorn by a small margin.

⁹ Now, I hope you know a lot more about the twists and turns of pretzel history than you did before!

The Twists and Turns of Pretzel History

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| <p>1. "Pretiola" means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A Little reward<input type="radio"/> B Little monk<input type="radio"/> C Little pretzel<input type="radio"/> D Little child | <p>2. What is the earliest date mentioned in the pretzel's history?</p> <hr/> <hr/> |
| <p>3. What is the theory behind the creation of hard pretzels?</p> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>4. Pretzels used in weddings can symbolize "tying the _____."</p> <hr/> <hr/> |
| <p>5. In which country did the pretzel bakers defeat the Turks?</p> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>6. Which came first: egg hunts or pretzel hunts?</p> <hr/> <hr/> |
| <p>7. A lion appears on the coat of arms honoring the pretzel bakers of Vienna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A True<input type="radio"/> B False | <p>8. What is the third most popular snack?</p> <hr/> <hr/> |

Dancers

¹ Do you like to dance? Do you think you would like to be a professional dancer? If you do, you should have some of these skills and interests:

- talent and creativity
- a good sense of rhythm and timing
- enthusiasm and determination to work very hard
- ability to focus and concentrate
- ability to memorize complicated dance routines
- a high level of fitness and stamina
- ability to work well with others



² Do you think you have all these skills and abilities?

³ Most dancers have begun their training by age 16. Many start as early as 10 or 11, especially those who want to become ballet dancers. All dancers must continue to train throughout their careers. By 16 or 17, dance students begin to focus on a particular style and decide whether to continue their training with a dance company's school or a college dance program. Most dancers have their first professional auditions by age 17 or 18.

⁴ Dance is very hard work. Many dancers stop performing by their late thirties because of the physical strain on their bodies. Many of them continue to work in dance as teachers and coaches, choreographers, or artistic directors. Some very talented dancers have continued to perform even after age 50.

⁵ Daily rehearsals take many long hours. Dancers usually tour for part of the year. Others work on cruise ships or in nightclubs. Most performances are in the evening and rehearsals and practice take up the days.

⁶ There is a lot of competition for jobs as professional dancers. Only the most talented have regular employment. Earnings from dancing are usually low because employment is irregular. Some dancers have other jobs teaching dance or work at jobs outside the dance field.

⁷ Dancing is a very difficult career. However, professional dancers love the opportunity they have to express ideas, stories, and rhythm with their bodies. They can use many different dance forms that let them explore free movement and self-expression. Being a professional dancer is truly a work of commitment.

Name _____

Date _____

Dancers

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| <p>1. By what age do most dancers start their training?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 16</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 25</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 2</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 50</p> | <p>2. Which form of dance usually has the youngest students?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Tap</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Modern dance</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Jazz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Ballet</p> |
| <p>3. At what age do most professional dancers have their first audition?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 20 or 21</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 17 or 18</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 5 or 6</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 25 or 26</p> | <p>4. Most dancers stop performing by what age?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 10</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 30</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 20</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 40</p> |
| <p>5. When do most dance performances occur?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A During the Thanksgiving holidays</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B In the fall</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C During the day</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D In the evening</p> | <p>6. Earnings from dancing are usually high.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p> |
| <p>7. Most dancers have other jobs. (True, False)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p> | <p>8. What is one of the positive parts of dancing?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Opportunity for self-expression</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B High salaries</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Plentiful jobs</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Limited training needed</p> |