

THE GAME THAT BROUGHT US BACK

Many years ago, students at Starlight Akademi High School started spreading rumors that the school was haunted. They claimed to see and hear strange things everywhere. Parents grew worried and began pulling their children out, until the school was eventually forced to close.

Tonight, a group of kids planned to break in to see if the rumors were true. "Guys... I don't think this is a good idea," Arlo said nervously as he climbed through the window. "Dude, don't be such a scaredy-cat. Even the girls aren't scared," Zyro said, rolling his eyes. "Seriously, ghosts don't even exist, Aiden," Lisa added, fixing her hair in front of a broken mirror. Arlo sighed. "My name isn't—" "GUYS!" Claudia suddenly yelled. "I FOUND SOMETHING!"

The group gathered around an old, rusty box. "DO NOT OPEN" was written across it, which only made it more tempting. Claudia dropped to her knees and started prying it open. "It says not to open it," Arlo said. "Who cares what it says? That just means there's something good inside!" Zyro laughed, joining Claudia. The box was hard to open, but they managed. Inside were toys and items that had been popular years ago. Claudia picked up one of those old push-button telephones. "It's kind of fancy, if you ask me," she said, studying it. She'd seen them before, but this one just felt special. "Ew, what's that?" Lisa asked, a disgusted look forming on her face. "It's a cassette. Basically, it stores sound on this magnetic tape, and when you record, the sound turns into magnetic patterns, and then—" Arlo rambled, but stopped when he noticed everyone staring at him. "What?"

After a few minutes of searching, they found a player for the tape. Since Arlo was the only one who knew how cassettes worked, he set it up and played the audio. The song „We'll Meet Again“ by Vera Lynn began to play. Claudia and Arlo started dancing, laughing and twirling around. Lisa quietly listened. She'd never heard music like this before. As the song played on, Zyro found a Game Boy in the box.

Everything was fine until Zyro suddenly dropped it, making everyone freeze. A bright light burst from the Game Boy, slowly growing bigger and bigger...

♪We'll meet again♪

The group froze, unsure of what to do, backing away as the light grew brighter.

♪Don't know where♪

They ran for the doors, but they were locked, even though they swore they hadn't locked them.

♪Don't know when♪

The light grew so large and blinding that they couldn't even see each other anymore.

♪But I know we'll meet again some sunny day♪

Claudia woke up lying in the grass. For a moment, she just stared at the sky, blinking as clouds drifted lazily overhead before slowly sitting up. "...Guys?" she called out, but there was no response. She looked around, spotting Arlo a few meters away, face-down in the grass. "Oh, thank God," she muttered to herself, jogging over. "Ugh... did we die?" *Arlo asked, groaning as he lifted his head. "I really hope not," Claudia replied, helping Arlo onto his feet.

"Hey! Over here!" Zyro called out. Him and Lisa didn't have any luck. They were all covered in mud, and Lisa was trying her best not to lose it. Arlo has to hold back a laugh, not wanting to make Lisa feel even worse. Claudia jogged over to a small store she spotted nearby. "We need to clean up." She said firmly. She grabbed some clothes off the racks, ignoring the odd stares from the cashier. "Trust me, this will work," she muttered, holding a bunch of neon colored clothes. Behind a bush, Lisa and Zyro quickly changed. The result was... interesting. Lisa looked like a walking rainbow. She wore this bright pink skirt and neon green socks. She thought she looked hideous. Zyro's jacket was way too tight, with shoulder pads that made him look like a washed-up 80s rock star. "OMG..." Lisa whispered, staring at herself with disgust. Zyro just grinned, striking a pose. "I kind of like it." He admitted.

The four of them started walking around, trying to find a way home. Arlo suddenly gasped, eyes lighting up as he stared at a Tamagotchi in a store. His mother had one of those when she was a kid. And he's always wanted one of his own. The group wandered a bit further, taking in their strange surroundings. And then they stopped, jaws dropping. The school they had broken into... was fully functional. Students were chatting, teachers were teaching, and the bell rang on schedule. Everything looked normal. "I think I have an idea..." Claudia muttered.

Soon enough, the four of them were climbing in through the window, landing in some club room. Everything was spotless and seemed so unusual. On a table in the center sat a Game Boy, shiny and new, as if it had never been used. Arlo picked it up carefully. "Here goes nothing..." Everyone held the Game Boy as Arlo pressed the power button. The screen flickered, then that same bright light appeared. But this time, they weren't scared.

Claudia was the first to open her eyes. They were back. "Well..." Claudia started as she looked around, making sure they're really back "Seems like we're really back..." Everyone groaned, looking around. They had to be sure they were really back. They all just looked at each other for a few moments. Almost instantly, they packed their stuff and hurried out of the school as the song slowly came to an end...

♪But I know we'll meet again some sunny day...♪