

THE LAB

PJ GRAY



THE BASEMENT

Troy and Justin were friends on a road trip. They wanted to see their friend Cash.

Cash lived in another city. He was having a New Year's party.

Troy and Justin were in a bad snowstorm. It was the worst one in years.



Troy had taken a shortcut. The road was full of ice. Troy almost hit a deer. The car skidded off the road and hit a tree.

An older couple saw them on the road. Their names were Ross and Martha. They stopped to help. Troy and Justin were saved.

The storm got worse. They went to the couple's farmhouse to wait it out.

Troy and Justin slept in the living room.

Ross and Martha slept upstairs.

Overnight, the fire went out. Troy went to the basement for more wood.

The basement was dark and cold. It smelled foul.

Troy found a pile of wood. He picked up a piece.

There was a foot.

He picked up another piece.

There was a dead body.

Troy jumped back. He had to think fast. Were Ross and Martha killers? Were he and Justin in danger?

Troy had to tell Justin. He hurried up the basement stairs.

The clock chimed. Ross and Martha would be getting up.

Troy ran into the living room.

"Where is the wood?" Justin asked. "We have to talk! Now!" Troy said. "What's wrong?" Justin asked. "We have to get out of here," Troy said. Justin stared at him.

Ross and Martha came down the stairs. It was too late.

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THE DIG OUT

"Hello," Ross said coldly.

Martha said nothing. She walked into the kitchen.

"Time to get you out of here," Ross said. He looked out the window. "I will clear the snow."



"I can help," Troy said.

"No," Ross said. "Stay here. I have a snowplow in the barn. I can do it myself."

"Let me help," Troy said. "It will be faster."

Martha was in the kitchen. She saw the basement door. It was still open.

"Ross," she called. "Troy and Justin need some coffee."

"We don't have time," Ross said.

"Yes, we do. These boys aren't going out in the cold with you. They need coffee first. Don't argue with me." Martha stepped into the living room. She looked right into Ross's eyes.

"Okay," Ross said.

He turned to Troy and Justin. "You'll like Martha's coffee."

TRIPPIN'

The worst snowstorm in years means Justin and Troy are trapped in a farmhouse with strangers. They seem nice enough. But things aren't always what they seem.



A WARNING: MATURE CONTENT

LEXILE HL130L

