

ASK THE BOARD
By Maggie Smith
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CAST
CASSIE - 14, a teenage girl
MARA - 14, a teenage girl
DANIELLE - 14, a teenage girl

(A sleepover in Cassie's living room.)

CASSIE
Alright, girls, did you all bring your Ouija boards?

MARA
I did.

DANIELLE
I still don't understand why we can't all use the same board.

CASSIE
It's better this way. We can all talk to our own spirits.

MARA
Are you sure we have to do this, though? I'd rather we all just sit on the couch and watch an episode of *GLEE*.

DANIELLE
We're not watching *GLEE*, you know I stopped watching after Season 3 ended.

CASSIE
Besides, this will be more fun. You just put your hands on the board and ask the spirits a question! Then they'll move the scarab on the board and use the letters to answer!

(The girls put their hands on the scarabs.)

CASSIE
What should we ask them?

MARA
You could ask them what their favorite national show choir competition performance in *GLEE* was?

DANIELLE

I don't want to talk to dead spirits about *GLEE*. Ask them what their names are.

CASSIE

Spirits, can you tell us your names?

(The girls move their scarabs on the board.)

CASSIE

Oh! Mine says he's the ghost of Shakespeare!

MARA

Mine says that she's the ghost of Emily Dickinson!

DANIELLE

Mine says that his name was Big Jim and that he was one of the people who tried to rob Abraham Lincoln's grave?

CASSIE

Let's ask them another question!

DANIELLE

Wait, are we going to just brush past that?

MARA

Ask them if they ever saw *GLEE: The 3D Concert Movie* from 2011?

DANIELLE

I'm not asking Big Jim about *GLEE: The 3D Concert Movie*.

CASSIE

Or we could ask about their favorite foods!

MARA

That works too!

CASSIE

Spirits, what are your favorite foods?

(The girls move their scarabs on the board.)

CASSIE

Shakespeare says his favorite food is bread!

MARA

Emily Dickinson says her favorite food is cake!

DANIELLE

Yeah, Big Jim says he doesn't eat, but he likes the way that dirt feels between his teeth and his gums- Guys, is this normal?

CASSIE

Sometimes the spirits say wild things.

DANIELLE

This isn't a wild thing, this is me using a piece of cardboard to talk to a man who eats dirt.

MARA

He specifically said he doesn't eat, he only puts the dirt in his mouth to feel it.

CASSIE

What else can we ask the spirits?

MARA

Oh! Ask them what they thought when Blaine and Kurt broke up in season six of *GLEE*!

DANIELLE

Stop talking about *GLEE*.

CASSIE

We could ask another question about themselves? Spirits, what's a fun fact about you?

(The girls move their scarabs on the board.)

CASSIE

Shakespeare said that a fun fact about him was that he died on his birthday!

MARA

Emily says that she wrote almost 1800 poems in her life!

DANIELLE

Okay, Big Jim says that his favorite color is not something that can be seen with the normal human eye, and that only lobsters

DANIELLE (cont.)

know what it looks like- Guys, I don't want to play this anymore.

CASSIE

You don't play the Ouija Board, Danielle, you respect it. Just have fun.

DANIELLE

But I'm not having fun! You guys have cool ghosts and mine is just Big Jim, attempted grave robber. He didn't even succeed at grave robbing. I got a loser ghost.

MARA

Don't say that! He'll hear you!

DANIELLE

I hope he does! He's a freaking weirdo who eats dirt and has lobster eyes! He shouldn't know what colors lobsters can see! That's why only lobsters see them, not human men!

CASSIE

Calm down and ask Big Jim another question. Ask him his favorite book!

DANIELLE

I don't want to know anything else about him! I don't want to know his favorite book, I don't want to know his favorite animal, I don't want to know his favorite TV show!

(Mara moves her scarab on the board.)

MARA

He says his favorite TV show is *GLEE*.

DANIELLE

Fuck!

(Blackout.)