

“Like I would really want to touch any of this creepy stuff,” she said quietly to Amy.

“Ah, come on,” Amy said. “This place is more cheesy than scary. It’s like a cross between the Haunted Mansion at Disneyland, Ripley’s Believe It or Not!, and Madame Tussauds wax museum.”

Lily saw what Amy meant. Scattered around the room were exhibits that featured life-size replicas of sinister characters. There was a section called Famous Murderers of the Past that made Lily feel as if she were really in the company of Jack the Ripper, Lizzie Borden, and Deacon William Brodie, whom many claim was the inspiration for the character of the murderous Mr. Hyde in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. There was also a motion-activated talking skeleton dressed like the pirate Long John Silver.

Moving deeper into the museum, Lily saw that different hallways branched off from the main

room. Overhead signs identified them. A collection of haunted music boxes, haunted remains from the sunken *Titanic*, and terrifying artifacts of ancient Egypt were among the exhibits. To her right, Lily noticed a hallway leading to an exhibit titled Sinister Portraits.

Lily poked Amy and nodded toward Sinister Portraits. “That sounds cool,” she said. “Let’s go in there.”

A guard dressed in black appeared from out of the shadows. “Don’t touch any of the art in there,” she snapped.

Lily jumped back, startled by the guard. “No problem,” she told the woman. “I wouldn’t touch a *thing* in this place — not a single thing.”

Amy might think the Haunted Museum was silly, but Lily was starting to feel seriously creeped out.