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CIR's Corner

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Hello everyone! "CIR's Corner" is my monthly article about international exchange and cultures around the world. I will introduce a variety of interesting international topics.

This Month's Topic: Scary Stories

Since Halloween is right around the corner, October is the perfect month to enjoy some scary stories. In this issue, I'm going to share two scary stories that I remember from my childhood. I think they are well known in the United States. These versions come from the children's books, *In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories* and *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, both by Alvin Schwartz. Since the books are for young readers, the stories are retold in simple English and they aren't too scary. How do these stories compare to traditional Japanese scary stories? Happy Halloween!

The Green Ribbon

From *In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories*

Retold by Alvin Schwartz, Illustrated by Dirk Zimmer



Once there was a girl named Jenny. She was like all the other girls, except for one thing. She always wore a green ribbon around her neck.

There was a boy named Alfred in her class. Alfred liked Jenny, and Jenny liked Alfred.

One day he asked her, "Why do you wear that ribbon all the time?"

"I cannot tell you," said Jenny.

But Alfred kept asking, "Why *do* you wear it?"

And Jenny would say, "It is not important."

Jenny and Alfred grew up and fell in love. One day they got married.

After their wedding, Alfred said, "Now that we are married, you must tell me about the green ribbon."

"You still must wait," said Jenny. "I will tell you when the right time comes."

Years passed. Alfred and Jenny grew old.

One day Jenny became very sick. The doctor told her she was dying. Jenny called Alfred to her side.

"Alfred," she said. "Now I can tell you about the green ribbon. Untie it, and you will see why I could not tell you before."

Slowly and carefully, Alfred untied the ribbon, and Jenny's head fell off.

High Beams

From *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*

Retold by Alvin Schwartz, Illustrated by Stephen Gammell

The girl driving the old blue sedan was a senior at the high school. She lived on a farm about eight miles away and used the car to drive back and forth.

She had driven into town that night to see a basketball game. Now she was on her way home. As she pulled away from the school, she noticed a red



pick-up truck follow her out of the parking lot. A few minutes later the truck was still behind her.

"I guess we're going in the same direction," she thought.

She began to watch the truck in her mirror. When she changed her speed, the driver of the truck changed his speed. When she passed a car, so did he.

Then he turned on his high beams, flooding her car with light. He left them on for almost a minute. "He probably wants to pass me," she thought. But she was becoming uneasy.



Usually she drove home over a back road. Not too many people went that way. But when she turned onto that road, so did the truck.

"I've got to get away from him," she thought, and she began to drive faster. Then he turned his high beams on again. After a minute, he turned them off. Then he turned them on again and off again.

She drove even faster, but the truck driver stayed right behind her. Then he turned his high beams on again. Once more her car was ablaze with light. "What is he doing?" she wondered. "What does he want?" Then he turned them off again. But a minute later he had them on again, and he left them on.

At last she pulled into her driveway, and the truck pulled in right behind her. She jumped from the car and ran to the house. "Call the police!" she screamed at her father. Out in the driveway she could see the driver of the truck. He had a gun in his

hand.

When the police arrived, they started to arrest him, but he pointed to the girl's car. "You don't want me," he said. "You want him."

Crouched behind the driver's seat, there was a man with a knife.

As the driver of the truck explained it, the man slipped into the girl's car just before she left the school. He saw it happen, but there was no way he could stop it. He thought about getting the police, but he was afraid to leave her. So he followed her car.

Each time the man in the back seat reached up to overpower her, the driver of the truck turned on his high beams. Then the man dropped down, afraid that someone might see him. 🍷

2025 Ebetsu World Fest
Sunday, October 12
1:00 - 3:30 PM
Nopporo Kominkan
Nopporo-cho 13-6
FREE

HAUNTED HOUSE
Game Corner
International Exchange Corner
Stage Performances
World Food
Kimono Experience
Tea Ceremony
Exhibition

Nepalese Folk Dance
Andean Music
Gospel
Country Introductions
Zumba, and more!

Thai Curry
Tacos
Quiche
Chicken Tikka
and more!

*Scheduled events are subject to change.

Organized by the Ebetsu Intercultural Exchange Committee
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Contact Information

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