



THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

By Neil Gaiman

After his parents were murdered, Bod was adopted by the ghostly inhabitants of the graveyard near his house. He is protected by various spirits and remains unseen by the human world whilst under the protection of the graveyard. The only human who can see him is his friend, Scarlett Amber Perkins!

SCARLETT

Scarlet and Bod sit and talk about what they've learnt.

I've found things out. There were people before the Romans, way back. They lived, I mean, when they died they put them underground in these hills, with treasure and stuff. And they were called barrows. You don't know where one is do you?

BOD: (Holding up a key.) It should open up most of the gates here.

You're telling the truth!?

They both move towards the gate. Scarlett stops.

We can't go down there. It's too dark. I need the light. But, if you held my hand and told me where I was walking, then I could come with you. If you make sure I'm OK.

They start to climb down the stairs.

All these stairs, made of stone and there's carving on the walls. I can feel it! The steps are getting bigger now. It's a bit uneven. What's that noise? it sounds like a rustling slither, like a snake twining through dry leaves. What's that? Can you see anything? Look, there's a light at the end of the room. Can you see that? I'm sorry Bod, I'm sorry I said they were imaginary before. I believe you now. They're real. Please Bod, can we go now? Please!