

## Synopsis of EDGAR: A GHOST STORY (One-Act Version) by John Haman

1. First-year drama teacher Lisa sorts through inventory in late summer, getting to know high-school students Emma and Molly. Emma is sickly and wears a brightly colored headscarf. Emma says she's entered the student playwriting contest with a story about two terminally ill girls. After death, one of the girls plans to signal she has reached through "the curtain" by leaving her unique headscarf for the living friend. In the theater, everyone hears a loud noise, the ghost light starts "ghosting" and Molly admits they "kind of have a ghost." Molly finds a plaque that says "In Memoriam, Edgar." Lisa, getting an idea, calls out his name. "Edgar" responds with a boom, leaving the trio scared and excited.
2. Lisa does icebreakers on the first day of drama class, which is held on the stage. Heather, a new-age theater girl, introduces the group to new student Garrett, who lives with his grandfather. Lisa introduces her new friend, "Edgar," the theater ghost. This time, when she calls Edgar, he is silent. Mason, a bully, mocks her and the theater kids.
3. Garrett finds Emma eating lunch on the stage, and after she tries to brush him off, they talk about how both are "invisible" in school. As they let down their defenses, the kids take turns saying what they "see" in each other. Garrett sees a smart, sick girl, with tired but kind eyes. Emma sees a boy with difficulty learning, but a gift for connecting. Emma asks if he can see that she is dying. Grudgingly, he says yes. Emma shares what she hopes to accomplish with the rest of her life. Lisa discovers them, and reveals that Emma is a finalist in the competition. Emma gets anxious at the idea of producing the play. She insists Garrett take part, stage-managing the show. He has no idea what he is getting into.
4. Garrett runs into the empty theater with a cell phone, throws it into a wing, and hides in another. Mason follows, yelling for his phone and promising a beat-down. Garrett's voice mysteriously comes over the PA system, with spooky reverb, challenging Mason to find him. As Mason gets furious, his phone is thrown out onto the stage from the wings. Then another phone, from the opposite wing, and another, again, and again, and again, freaking Mason out. Mason runs off, frightened. Then, the seventh phone flies in from the wings to the empty stage. Blackout.
5. Garrett calls lines for Emma's play. Lisa comes in to say that her son broke his leg, and so can't be in the play. That puts Emma in a panic. She faints, recovers, and refuses help. Emma begs Garrett to play a role. Garrett says he is afraid of travel and refuses. To energize Garrett, Emma engages him in a theater game, trading funny Shakespearean insults. He gets into it, and Emma declares him a theater geek. Grudgingly, Garrett agrees to the role. The kids celebrate.
6. Molly asks Lisa if she can practice her tech recital in private, and Emma and Garrett start playing out a kind of dream ballet of a boy and a girl getting to know each other and falling in love, with swirling, colorful lights and romantic music. They finish in silhouette behind a backlit scrim, lingering a little too long, and a little too close, for Molly's taste.
7. Emma finds Garrett alone in the theater. He has "ghosted" her for the competition. Garrett reminds her of his crushing fear of leaving the familiar. Garrett doesn't see an educational future for himself, but Emma fears he's found another girl, and is waiting for her to leave. Lisa comes in with the students for rehearsal. Mason wants to apologize, she says, but Mason accidentally turns out the lights and there is a thump. When lights return, Emma has fallen and isn't moving. Lisa leads an unsuccessful effort to resuscitate her. Garrett starts to lose it, and Mason embraces him like a father would a son. "I got you," Mason says, crying, as Emma lies lifeless in the arms of Lisa, Heather and Molly.
8. "Claire de lune" is played in a darkly lit, silent scene, while the kids embrace each other and slowly clean up the stage, leaving Lisa alone to mourn. Spring arrives. Molly, Heather and Lisa are signing yearbooks on the stage, emotionally. When the girls leave, Lisa, tries again to talk to the ghost. Garrett suddenly appears behind her. He has not graduated and plans to get a job. Lisa worries about him, but Garrett laughs it off. He looks forward to being friends. Lisa asks him not to "forget about us." "Don't worry," he says, "I plan to haunt the place." He leaves, enigmatically, and Lisa seems confused. She goes off to turn off the lights, but the loud ghost noise returns, and the ghost light turns itself on. Frightened and excited, she calls out for Edgar. Nothing. After a pause, she says, "Garrett?" The ghost noise booms again. Then another, different, ghost noise comes from the auditorium. Lisa asks who is there. Behind her, something falls from above on stage. Lisa goes to it, and emotionally, discovers Emma's scarf. As she holds it in the ghost light, weeping, the silhouettes of Emma and Garrett appear together again behind the scrim, unseen to Lisa. Blackout.