



The Midnight Lesson

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Leo and his classmates huddle around a large desk, their faces illuminated by the soft glow of laptop screens as heavy rain drums relentlessly against the tall classroom windows. The room is filled with the smell of old paper and the quiet scratching of pencils as they race to finish their group project before the storm gets worse.



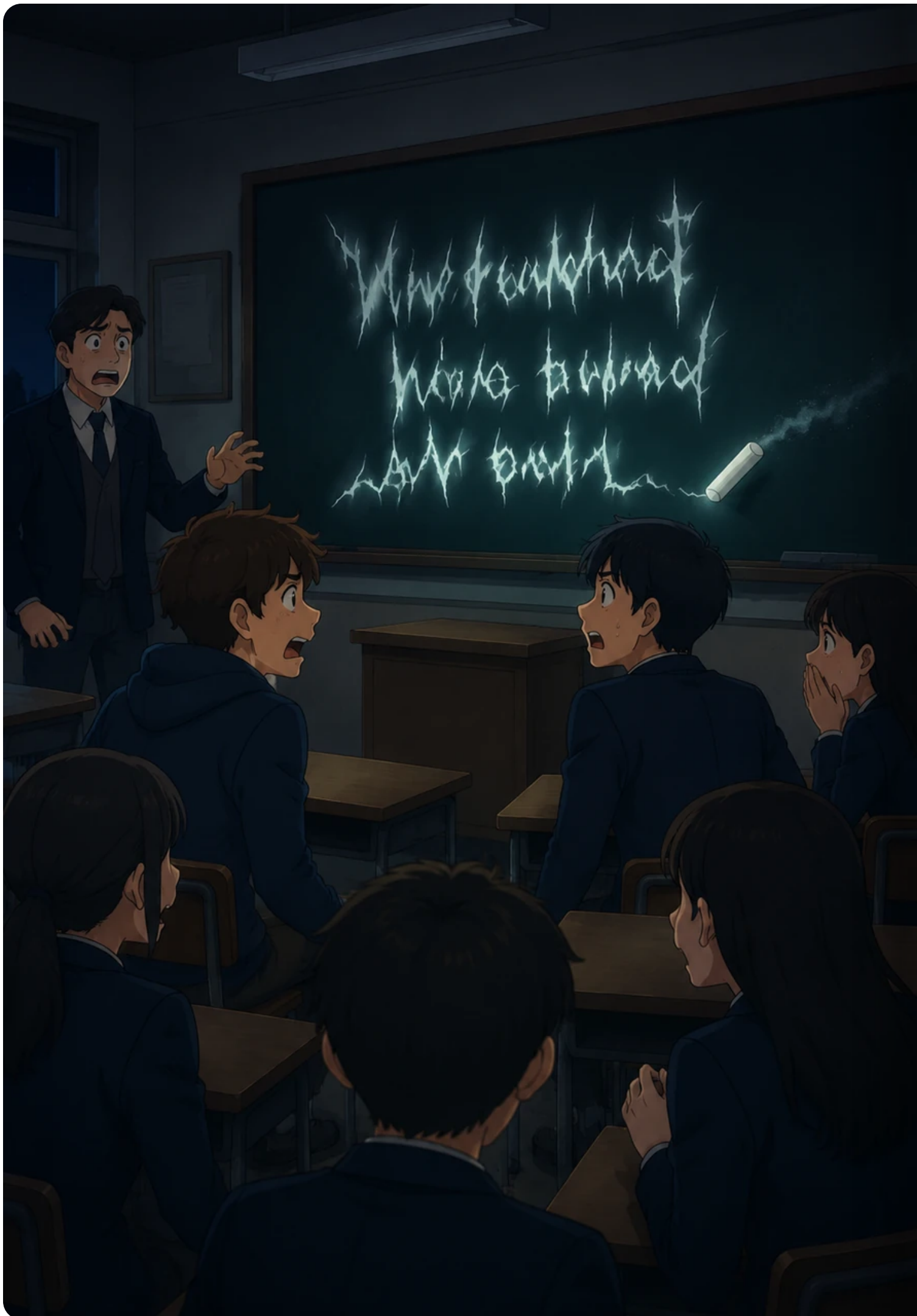
A sudden crack of thunder shakes the building, and the lights flicker once before plunging the entire school into an eerie, suffocating darkness. In the silence that follows, the heavy, rhythmic thud of footsteps begins to echo from the empty classroom directly above them, vibrating through the ceiling tiles.



Clutching a flickering flashlight, Leo whispers the chilling legend of a teacher who disappeared in the upstairs hallway many years ago, never to be seen again. The beam of light cuts through the dust motes, revealing the anxious faces of his friends as the mysterious footsteps grow louder and closer.



Terrified, the group sprints toward the main exit, but their hearts sink when they find every door in the long, dark corridor firmly locked from the outside. The shadows in the hallway seem to stretch and reach toward them as the sound of the unseen visitor reaches the bottom of the stairwell.



Back inside their classroom, the students freeze as a piece of chalk begins to move across the blackboard on its own, screeching against the slate. They watch in horror as the words “You should not have stayed after dark” appear in jagged, glowing letters, warning them that they are no longer alone.