



Toire no Hanako-san
(Hanako of the Toilet)
By Alessia Barrios

Hanako-san, the bathroom stall ghost. There were rumors that Hanako-san was a little girl who died during a war. She haunts the Girls' bathroom, third stall on floor three. Everyone avoids her because anyone who goes into the stall, doesn't come back.

I walked into the bathroom and immediately got a shiver down my spine. People challenged me to go to the bathroom and summon her. I walked to the door of the third bathroom stall and gulped. Trying to hold back my fright, I knocked on the door. *Knock, knock, knock.* "Hanako-san, are you there?" I heard small creaks and covered my face.

Then, it happened. I felt something go through me, but there was nothing. "Hanako-san?" I opened the door a bit and peeked inside. There was nothing. I went inside the stall. Small blood stains, but no ghost. I sighed in relief, but before I could run out of the bathroom, I heard a quiet 'Hello?' behind me.

I turned around and saw her, a small girl with a bob haircut and a red skirt. She looked harmless, until she smiled wickedly. I screamed and attempted to run, but she pulled my skirt, causing me to fall onto the floor. "Where are you going, miss?" She asked in a cute voice.

"Do you want to play a game? It's called 'Hide and Seek'. You'll hide and I'll try to find you. You'll have ten minutes to survive." I shot up in the air. "What do you mean by 'survive'?" She giggled. "That's what makes it fun!"

The next thing I knew, I was running for my life. It was very dark already. I ran down the stairs and went inside a Janitor's closet. It was dark and cramped inside the closet, but I found the light switch and turned the light on. There were some blood stains in here, someone probably died. I checked the time on my phone, it was 4 pm and I could still hear the rain.

There were footsteps hitting the floor. Hanako-san was singing a song in Japanese. "One, two, three, four.." The footsteps approached the door. Hanako opened the door and smiled. "I found you!" I started to black out, but I was able to see her about to stab me. I was just going into a bright light.

Something happened, I was pulled back to life. There were hospital devices and a big window. I got up carefully and looked out the window, I was on the third floor. There were bandages everywhere on me. I didn't know how to react when I saw Hanako here. She gave me some flowers. "Let's play again!" I refused, but she insisted I play or she'll kill me.

I was afraid and my body was aching, but I said "Yes."