

# *A Haunted Book*

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## *Prequel*

*I'm sharing this story to explain some of the strange things that have happen in the house on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue on Halloween.*

*My mother died recently, and because we had sold the house, I was cleaning the attic looking through the many memories my family kept in old boxes, I found an interesting thing I had forgotten about.*

*In the corner was large painting of my mother standing beside a tree. It used to hang on the wall above the fireplace in the living room. Next to it was an old table, and on it, I found an old dusty book. I blew the dust off the cover, sat down, and opened it to the first page. I began to read about the history of the house. It had many tales about the house and how on many occasions the house and the people who lived here were saved in strange and unexplained ways. The stories began in 1820 when the house was built. My family knew about the book and read the stories to us when I was a boy, but I had forgotten about it.*

*As I was reading the stories again, I found the story about my family. Only I know that this story is true, since I was there when it happened. You will just have to take my word for it. I will tell you the story as I remember it. It happened when I was a boy.*

# *A HAUNTED BOOK*

## *CHAPTER 1*



The house is on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue.

When the story began, it had been empty for as long as anyone could remember. No one from the neighborhood would go close to this house, much less plan to spend the night.

According to what people believed, many years before, a family that was living there was robbed on Halloween night. During the robbery something went terribly wrong, and the entire family was killed. No one had lived in the house since then.

Every Halloween there were stories of sounds coming from the house and shadows moving inside. Like any story, these legends grew over the years to the point that most people stayed away, especially on Halloween.

This story is about Jermaine and Tyrone and what they did on Halloween. This is their story.

It was the day before Halloween. Jermaine and Tyrone were at school in the cafeteria eating their lunch. While they were talking, three of the older kids came to their table and sat down. In all their years in school, no one had ever sat with them, especially older kids.

Roger, Kenny, and Jimmy sat down at the table with them.

“We want you to join our club, but first you must complete a difficult task,” Roger told the boys.

“You want *us* to join *your* club?” Jermaine answered with a question.

Tyrone jumped in, and asked, “What do we have to do to join *your* club?”

“We want you to spend the night in the old house on Main Street,” Roger informed them.

“When do we have to do this?” Jermaine asked.

“When else, tomorrow of course,” Kenny answered.

“***ON HALLOWEEN?!*** You have to be kidding,” Tyrone said as he nearly jumped out of his seat. “Why do we have to do it on Halloween?”

Kenny replied, “It is the best test of your courage. If you can stay the whole night, we’ll let you join our club.”

Jimmy said softly to the boys, while leaning across the table, “This has to be a secret. If anyone hears about this, the deal is off. Got it?”

Tyrone replied, “Jermaine and I will need to talk it over between ourselves. We’ll let you know later.”

“Don’t take too long. We need your answer by the end of the day. Halloween is tomorrow, you know,” Roger informed the boys.

“Yeah, we know. We’ll tell you after school,” Tyrone answered, but feeling a little nervous about the whole thing.

The older boys got up, left the table, and returned to where they normally sat. They were laughing and joking, but they were too far away for the boys to hear them clearly.

The bell rang, and lunch was over. Jermaine said good-bye to Tyrone, and they went to their classes. At the end of the day, Tyrone met Jermaine at his locker.

“So, what do you think those guys are up to?” Jermaine began.

“I’m not sure, but they’re up to something, and I’m not sure what they expect our answer is going to be. Maybe we should go along with their plan to do

something no one else has ever done before,” Tyrone suggested.

“Are you serious? Those guys are known for the pranks they pull on people. I’m sure they would try something on us just for the joke,” Jermaine responded.

“Maybe yes, and maybe no. Since we know what they are like, maybe we can do something to make *them* look a little foolish,” Tyrone said with a funny smile on his face. “I think we could make this a lot of fun.”

“You’re scaring me now, Tyrone. The last time you thought about doing something like this it didn’t go so well, remember?” Jermaine tried to discourage Tyrone and his ideas.

“We’ve got all night to put our plan together. Let’s tell those guys we’ll be happy to join their club, and then we can come up with some ideas on how to make them wish they hadn’t challenged us,” Tyrone said as he put his books into his bookbag and closed his locker.

As the boys were walking out of the building, Kenny stopped them at the door.

“So, what do you think? Are you going to sleep in the old house?” Kenny asked as he was trying not to laugh too hard.

Tyrone said confidently, “As a matter of fact, we’ve decided to do it. We’re going to spend the night in the old house. Then we’ll be in your club, right?”.

Jermaine wasn’t so sure.

“OK guys, we’ll see you tomorrow at the old house. Be there by 5 O’clock. It gets dark early now,” Kenny laughed as he ran out of the building to catch up with his friends.

“See, he’s laughing at us. I’m sure it is some kind of a prank,” Jermaine said, as he watched Kenny get into a red car with the other guys, and then drove off.

The bus ride home didn’t take long.

“I’ll see you after dinner, OK?” Tyrone said to Jermaine while he got up from his seat and adjusted his bookbag.

“Yeah, that’s good,” Jermaine replied, less than enthusiastically.

Tyrone got off the bus and walked up the street to his house.

When he got home, he went straight to his room. He got onto his computer and began to do research about haunted houses. He wanted to know what one could expect when going into one on Halloween. He took many notes and organized them in a folder.

After he finished his research, Tyrone went down to the kitchen for dinner. His mother had fixed the regular Friday night meal. She loved to fix homemade pizza and the family loved to eat it.

Jermaine came to the house about an hour later. The boys went up to Tyrone’s room and looked over the notes.

“I have some ideas,” Tyrone said as he took out a piece of paper. “If we take the door and...”

The conversation went on until it was time for Jermaine to go home.

Tyrone yelled down the hallway, “Mom, can Jermaine stay over tonight?”

His mother yelled back, “If his mother says it’s OK, then it’s fine with me.”

Jermaine called his mother and she said it would be fine.

The boys stayed up most of the night planning the details of their night in the haunted house. As far as they knew, no one had ever attempted anything like this before.

In the morning, when Tyrone woke up, he looked over at Jermaine who was snoring loudly. He got out of bed and walked over to the window. He looked out at the morning sun. It was cold, but it was going to be a wonderful day!

“Hey Jermaine, wake up!” Tyrone said as he shook Jermaine’s bed.

“Huh? .... What? .... Are you kidding? .... Do you see what time it is?” Jermaine rubbed his eyes as he looked over at the clock. “It’s only ten o’clock, are you serious?”

Jermaine lay back on his bed looking up at the ceiling and let out a sigh.

“Come on. We’ve got a lot of things to do today. Those guys from school aren’t going to wait for us forever you know,” Tyrone said while he got changed out of his pajamas.

“OK, OK. I’ll get up. I hope your mom made us a good breakfast,” Jermaine said.

He rolled out of bed and fell onto the floor making Tyrone laugh.

“What’s so funny?” Jermaine asked while rubbing his shoulder.

“Nothing,” Tyrone responded. “Let’s go.”

The boys went down to the kitchen. Tyrone’s mother had prepared eggs and toast.

They spent the day planning what they were going to do while spending the night in the old house. They went to the store and bought some supplies.

Around four o’clock the boys got into their costumes they were going to wear while trick-or-treating in the neighborhood.

Tyrone dressed as a pirate and Jermaine dressed as a clown.

“Mom, can I stay at Jermaine’s house tonight. It’s Halloween and we want to go out together. Is it OK?” Tyrone begged his mother.

“OK, but don’t stay out too late,” his mother replied.

“OK mom. We’ll get home early,” Tyrone answered.

The boys got their bags for the candy they were going to collect, ran out the door, and headed for Jermaine’s house.

As soon as they walked in the door, Jermaine asked his mother, “Mom, it’s Halloween tonight, so can I stay at Tyrone’s house again?”

“Two nights in a row? That’s asking a lot young man,” his mother replied, but with a smile on her face.

“I know, but everyone is going to be out getting candy. It’ll be fun to share our candy with each other. Please can I stay?” Jermaine pleaded with his mom.

“OK, but we aren’t going to make a habit of this. Understand?” his mother

said to him.

“Yes, mom, I understand,” Jermaine smiled.

It was getting dark, so the boys had to run to the house on Main Street. It was hard because they had so much loaded into their backpacks.

When they got to the house, the three older boys and some other kids from their school were waiting for them.

“We thought you had chickened out,” Jimmy said while laughing at the boys as they arrived.

Jermaine was out of breath. He said, “We... got... here... as ... fast... as we could.”

“Nice costumes!” Jimmy laughed while he looked at the clothes they were wearing.

As Roger went behind the boys to see the large, overstuffed bags they had on their backs, he asked, “What’s all the stuff in your backpacks?”

Tyrone answered, “Just stuff we’re going to need. You know, candy, flashlight, sleeping bag...”

“Well, it’s almost dark so you have to go in now. We’ll be right out here so don’t try and run away. We’ll know what you’re doing,” Roger laughed as he teased the boys.

“Don’t worry, we’ll see you in the morning,” Tyrone said and then turned to go into the old house.

Jermaine wasn’t so sure this was going to be such a good idea.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. mysterious _____   | a. community, area      |
| 2. neighborhood _____ | b. stop, deter, warn    |
| 3. cafeteria _____    | c. asked, pleaded       |
| 4. courage _____      | d. packed, overflowing  |
| 5. joking _____       | e. strange, unexplained |
| 6. discourage _____   | f. chat, talk           |
| 7. encounter _____    | g. bravery              |
| 8. begged _____       | h. meet, come across    |
| 9. conversation _____ | i. lunchroom, canteen   |
| 10. overstuffed _____ | j. kidding, laughing    |

**TRUE / FALSE**

- |                                                             |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Tyrone and Jermaine were best friends.                   | T / F |
| 2. The older boys threw food at Tyrone and Jermaine         | T / F |
| 3. They had to sleep in a tent all night.                   | T / F |
| 4. The house was haunted.                                   | T / F |
| 5. Tyrone wanted to stay in the house.                      | T / F |
| 6. Tyrone spent the night at Jermaine's house.              | T / F |
| 7. It was Halloween.                                        | T / F |
| 8. Tyrone rode home in the red car with the older boys.     | T / F |
| 9. Three boys met Tyrone and Jermaine at the haunted house. | T / F |
| 10. An old lady yelled at the boys to leave the house.      | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who told the boys about joining their club? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) a group of girls
  - b) three older boys
  - c) Jermaine's mother
  - d) Tyrone
  
2. Where was the house located? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Main Avenue and Second Street
  - b) Main Street and First Avenue
  - c) Second and Main
  - d) Main Street and Second Avenue
  
3. What costume did Tyrone wear? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) clown
  - b) hobo
  - c) superman
  - d) pirate
  
4. What time did the boys leave to go to the house? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) four o'clock
  - b) three o'clock
  - c) five o'clock
  - d) noon

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What were the names of the three older boys?

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2. Where did Jermaine sleep the night before Halloween?

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3. What costume did Jermaine wear?

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4. What special day was it going to be?

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5. Where did the man find the book about the house?

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6. What did the writer find in the corner of the attic?

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7. When was the first story in the book written?

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8. How many boys asked Tyrone and Jermaine to join their club?

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9. Who was waiting for the boys outside of the house?

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10. Who said, "We thought you had chickened out"

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# *A HAUNTED BOOK*

## *CHAPTER 2*



The boys took off their costumes and put them into their bags before they walked up to the house.

The house had not been lived in for a very long time. The paint was gone, and the shutters were hanging off their hinges. The fence was broken and falling down. There was no grass or flowers. The street lamp on the corner was not working, so they only had the light of the moon to see by.

The boys stepped up onto the porch. One of the boards broke when Tyrone stepped on it. He almost fell through the floor, but he caught himself. The noise scared everyone. Tyrone looked back and shrugged his shoulders. He wasn't going to let a broken board keep him out of the house.

The door to the house was in front of them. They tried to turn the handle, but it wouldn't turn. Jermaine leaned against the door to give it a shove, when suddenly it flew open. He nearly fell as the door swung into the house.

The kids back on the sidewalk laughed at him. Jermaine brushed the dirt off his clothes and smiled back.

“No problem!” he yelled at them.

The interior of the house was dark, so Tyrone took out his flashlight and turned it on. He flashed the beam of light around the entryway; nothing unusual there. Jermaine took out his flashlight as well.

The wooden floorboards creaked as the boys walked slowly into the house. They walked slowly testing the floor to make sure they didn't fall through.

As the boys stepped into the entryway, with a loud crash, the door slammed closed behind them.

Jermaine screamed.

Tyrone turned to Jermaine, and said, "That's exactly what I expected. Those guys are just trying to scare us."

Jermaine wasn't so sure about that.

He said, showing a little fear in his voice, "It's working!"

In front of them was a staircase leading to the second floor. To the right was a large room. It was the living room. There wasn't anything special there. It was dirty and looked like no one had been there for a long time.

There was big fireplace along the wall and above it was a large picture of a lady in a white dress standing next to a tree. It was covered with dirt, so it was hard to make out the details of her face.

They walked out of the living room back into the entryway to explore the dining room, which was on the other side of the house.

Inside the dining room, there was a very large table and a few broken chairs around it. The chandelier, that had been above the table, was now in the middle of it.

They continued into the kitchen. The place was a mess. All the cabinets and appliances were missing.

They went through the doorway at the far side of the kitchen and found themselves back in the entryway.

They stopped for a minute to decide where they were going to stay the night.

"Do you want to stay on the first floor, and be safe, or do you want to be a little more adventurous and go to the second floor?" Tyrone teased Jermaine.

"I don't care, just don't leave me alone," Jermaine answered.

"OK, let's go upstairs and see what they have planned for us up there,"

Tyrone said as he moved toward the stairs, moving his flashlight from side-to-side.

Slowly they moved up the staircase to the landing. There was a window there that was so dirty no light came through it.

“Do you really want to go up to the next level,” Jermaine asked, not wanting to know the answer to that question.

“Sure, let’s go!” Tyrone answered, as he moved past Jermaine and headed up the stairs. Jermaine followed close behind.

“This is pretty lame. I was expecting those guys to come up with something better than this,” Tyrone said as they headed up the second staircase.

When they got to the top, they looked around; nothing special about this place. Two of the three doors were open.

The first door was a bathroom. Just for fun Jermaine tried to turn on the light. Of course, nothing happened.

They moved to the second room. The door was only partially open. As they pushed on the door, it made a loud creaking noise.

“What do you think about staying in this room? We can set up our stuff and sleep here,” Tyrone proposed.

“I want to see the last room before we decide where to sleep. I won’t be able to sleep if I don’t know what’s in the next room,” Jermaine said with a little fear in his voice.

The room was dark. There was an old bed pushed up against the wall and a desk covered in dust. There was enough room on the floor to put their sleeping bags down.

“Let’s leave our stuff here, and then we can check out the last room,” Tyrone suggested. “After that we can come back here and get ready for the rest of the night. By the way, do you have your watch with you?”

“Yep, it’s the one I got for Christmas last year. It has a lighted dial, so we can see the time in the dark,” Jermaine said proudly.

They dropped their packs onto the floor. Then, they opened the creaking door to go back into the hallway.

They had their flashlights and moved them quickly back and forth making sure that everything was clear.

The last door was closed. Tyrone tried to turn the handle. It wasn't turning. He tried it again, but it was stuck or locked.

"Here take my flashlight and I'll try it with both hands," Tyrone said.

He handed Jermaine his flashlight, and then he turned the doorknob as hard as he could, but it still did not move.

The boys stepped back.

"What if we run into the door with our shoulders? We might be able to break the door down," Tyrone thought out loud.

The boys continued to talk about what to do.

Just then, all by itself, the doorknob turned. It made the horrible noise of rusty metal rubbing against rusty metal. The door began to swing open by itself.

"Cool! That's the best ever!" Tyrone yelled out. "These guys are good! I was hoping they would do stuff like this."

They flashed their lights into the room. To their surprise, the room was clean and neat. In the far corner was a bed with a white bedspread on it. Along the wall was a beautiful dresser with many things on it. The walls had blue wallpaper with small white roses. Over the dresser was a large mirror.

The window on the other side of the room had white lacey curtains and a black shade covering the window, so it was completely dark in the room except for the flashlights.

For fun, Jermaine tried the light switch. To their surprise, this time it worked. They stood still, wondering why the light worked.

Then suddenly the door behind them slammed shut. Both boys jumped.

"That was scary," Tyrone said a little nervous.

He went to the door, but he couldn't turn the knob. It was stuck.

“Wow, these guys are really good. I never would have thought of this one,” Tyrone admired the work of the three older boys. “They really know how to make a prank!”

Jermaine wasn't so sure. “Are you sure this is a prank?”

Tyrone walked across the room. He looked behind the window shade. He could see outside.

“Hey Jermaine, come over here and look out the window with me,” Tyrone waved at Jermaine to join him at the window.

Too nervous to move, Jermaine asked, “What do you see out there? Do you see any of our school friends?”

“Hold on, let me look,” Tyrone answered as he pulled back the shade to peek out of the window again.

“I don't see anyone standing in front of the house. It looks completely different,” Tyrone said still looking out of the window.

“What do you mean it looks different?” Jermaine asked, still not moving.

“Come here look for yourself,” Tyrone answered. “The street is dark except for the light of the streetlamp on the corner.”

“That light hasn't worked for years. I wonder who fixed it,” Jermaine commented a little bit confused.

“The fence is fixed, there is grass on the lawn, and there are flowers along the fence,” Tyrone continued to describe what he saw.

“Maybe they fixed it just to scare us while we've been in here,” Jermaine guessed, not really believing what he was saying.

“I don't think they had enough time to do all of that,” Tyrone reasoned.

Turning back to the room they decided to try to open the door again and go back to the other room where they had left their stuff.

Tyrone tried the door. To his surprise, it opened easily, just like new.

Tyrone and Jermaine looked at each other.

“How did they do that?” Jermaine asked.

“I’m not sure, but I like it!” Tyrone said with a smile on his face.

The light of the room lit up the hallway. It was completely different. It was clean. The carpet on the floor was soft and the floor did not make noise like before.

Again, the boys looked at each other. Tyrone shrugged his shoulders.

Across the hall, they walked to the bedroom where they had left their bags.

When they opened the door and looked inside, it also was clean and neat. Jermaine flipped the light switch and the room lit up. The room had a bed, a dresser, and dressing table. The wallpaper was clean and had small red flowers on a light-yellow background. A rug was now in the middle of the floor. It was brown with a tan circle in the middle of it.

They did not see their backpacks or anything else they had brought with them anywhere. It was all gone.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. shutters _____    | a. look around, search             |
| 2. porch _____       | b. close quickly and loudly        |
| 3. interior _____    | c. outside window coverings        |
| 4. slam _____        | d. a little bit, partly            |
| 5. explore _____     | e. terrible, bad                   |
| 6. lame _____        | f. torch, portable light           |
| 7. partially _____   | g. veranda, covered entry          |
| 8. lacey _____       | h. inside, décor of a house        |
| 9. horrible _____    | i. made of lace, delicate material |
| 10. flashlight _____ | j. not good                        |

**TRUE / FALSE**

- |                                                                |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Tyrone and Jermaine had on costumes.                        | T / F |
| 2. A board broke on the porch.                                 | T / F |
| 3. They could see the moon through the window.                 | T / F |
| 4. The light worked in the bathroom.                           | T / F |
| 5. The stairs creaked when the boys stepped on them.           | T / F |
| 6. The door to the second bedroom opened easily.               | T / F |
| 7. The first room was clean the first time they looked inside. | T / F |
| 8. The boys found their bags.                                  | T / F |
| 9. Tyrone was always scared.                                   | T / F |
| 10. Jermaine wanted to go home.                                | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Jermaine get for Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) bicycle
  - b) trumpet
  - c) wristwatch
  - d) video game
  
2. When they returned to the room, what was missing? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) backpacks
  - b) food
  - c) costumes
  - d) all the above
  
3. What color were the lacey drapes? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) green
  - b) gray
  - c) white
  - d) black
  
4. When Tyrone looked outside, what was now fixed? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) streetlamp
  - b) sidewalk
  - c) school
  - d) telephone

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What did the boys take off before going into the house?

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2. What broke when they first stepped on the porch?

---

3. What closed suddenly behind the boys?

---

4. Where did they see the painting of the woman?

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5. Where was the chandelier?

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6. What did Jermaine do when he went into the bathroom?

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7. What did the kitchen look like?

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8. What was different about the second bedroom?

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9. What did the door do after the boys went into the second room?

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10. What was in the middle of the first bedroom?

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# ***A HAUNTED BOOK***

## ***CHAPTER 3***



“Hey, where did our stuff go?” Jermaine said a little louder than he really wanted to.

“I don’t know, but now I’m getting scared. If this is a prank those guys are doing, they are sure putting in a lot of time and effort into making us want to leave. I have no idea how they are doing this,” Tyrone said softly and almost to himself.

The house was so clean it felt like someone was living there. Now they were feeling really uncomfortable.

“Let’s go downstairs. I don’t like this room. It’s giving me the chills,” Jermaine said.

“I’m with you, let’s go downstairs. That way we can get out of here quickly if we need to,” Tyrone agreed.

Jermaine turned off the light and then they cautiously opened the door, looking around before they entered the hallway. As they moved past the bathroom, they noticed that the window at the far end of the hallway let the light of the moon shine in.

“Now I’m really freaking out!” Tyrone uttered.

Jermaine answered, “I told you I didn’t think this was such a great idea.”

“No, you didn’t.” Tyrone responded.

“Well, at first I said I wasn’t so sure about this,” Jermaine defended himself.

“Whatever,” Tyrone said under his breath.

The light of the moon was bright as it came in from the window on the landing, which had been dark and dirty before.

Looking down at the bottom of the stairs, they saw shadows of a light moving around from below. They walked very slowly down the stairs. The steps no longer creaked when they stepped on one. It was as if they were almost brand new.

When they got down to the landing, they notice that there was a light coming from the dining room, and they heard voices.

“I wonder what those guys are up to now,” Tyrone said softly to Jermaine.

“Your guess is as good as mine,” Jermaine replied.

“Do you think we should go down the stairs?” Tyrone asked.

“I don’t know what else to do. We can’t stay here. All our stuff is gone. Maybe we should just give up and run out the door!” Jermaine offered.

“OK, but be real quiet. We don’t want to disturb those people in the dining room,” Tyrone responded.

The boys moved slowly down the stairs being as quiet as possible. They used the light coming from the dining room to see their way. They were afraid to use their flashlights.

The closer they got to the dining room the louder the voices became. There was laughter and conversation.

This was beginning to really freak out the boys.

“Who are those people in the dining room?” they thought to themselves.

Tyrone whispered as softly as he could to Jermaine, “What do you think we should do?”

“I don’t know, you’re the one who has all the ideas,” Jermaine whispered back. “Maybe we should hide somewhere.”

Tyrone crept slowly to the bottom of the stairs and went toward the kitchen

door when suddenly he heard a voice behind him.

“We’ve been expecting you. Are you hungry?” the voice asked.

Tyrone spun around and saw a nice looking man with a big smile on his face standing behind him. He had never seen him before. Tyrone thought he knew everyone in his town. So, who could this be?

“Come into the dining room, dinner is waiting. By the way where is your friend?” the man asked.

“AH... I’m right here,” Jermaine said as he stood up on the stairs.

“Good, come on down,” the man said as he waved for the boys to follow him.

The boys did as they were told. In front of them was the same table they had seen when they first entered the house, only now the chandelier was above the table. It illuminated the entire room.

On the table, they saw a wonderful dinner. Each seat had a place setting. The man pointed to where the boys were to sit. They sat down and looked around the room. It was very warm and homey.

It appeared as if the family were expecting them to join them for dinner since a plate and glass was already at the place where they sat.

Across from them were a girl about their age and her younger brother.

Just then, a woman came through the door from the kitchen. She was carrying a platter with a large ham on it. She set it on the table in front of the man. She smiled at the boys and then sat down.

The man said a prayer over the meal, and then began to cut the ham.

“Oh, I forgot to introduce my family. I’m Jack Johnson, this is my wife Carol, and these are our children, Trixie and Buddy,” Jack introduced his family.

Mr. Johnson had brown hair combed back neatly. He was still wearing his dark blue business suit, white shirt, and red striped tie.

Carol was wearing a yellow dress with a red belt. Her hair came down to her shoulders and curled upwards. It looked very old fashioned.

Trixie had on a pink blouse with a dark blue sweater that buttoned down the front. She had on a light blue skirt, white socks, and black shoes. Her hair was straight and reached just past her shoulders with bangs. It was light brown and she had a red headband pulling her hair away from her face.

Buddy had short red hair and freckles. He was wearing a blue, red and white plaid button down shirt and dark blue pants. He also had on brown penny loafers.

“We are eating a little late tonight. Being that it’s Halloween, we gave out all our candy. It’s always fun to give the candy to the children when they come to the door in such cute costumes,” said Jack.

“Here, look at all my candy,” Buddy said while he opened his bag to show it to the boys.

“What’s that?” Tyrone said pointing to a large candy bar.

“This? It’s a Hershey Bar!” Buddy said with a smile on his face.

“I’ve never seen such a big Hershey Bar before. Where did you get it?” Jermaine said amazed at the size of the candy bar.

“I got it trick-or-treating,” Buddy replied.

The dinner was delicious. It consisted of ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, and sweet corn.

After dinner, Trixie asked the boys if they wanted to watch TV.

“Dad just got us a brand-new color TV. We’re going to watch Mission Impossible!” Trixie said excitedly.

“Do you have the DVD?” Tyrone asked.

“DVD? What’s a DVD?” Buddy responded not knowing what he was talking about.

“You know, a recording of the movie,” Tyrone said.

“Movie? Mission Impossible is a TV show,” Buddy stated.

“Do you have Classic TV?” Jermaine asked.

“What’s that? Classic TV?” Trixie asked.

“You know, old TV shows,” Jermaine tried to explain.

“No, we have NBC, CBS and ABC,” Buddy answered.

They went to the living room. The painting over the fireplace was clean and looked just like Carol.

The boys sat down on the couch next to Trixie and Buddy.

“Where’s the remote?” Tyrone asked.

“Remote? What’s that?” Trixie acted confused.

“You know, you use it to change the channel,” Tyrone said surprised that they didn’t know what a remote was.

“We just get up and turn the channel when we want to see something different. Don’t you have a TV at home?” Trixie asked very curious at the boys’ questions.

Tyrone and Jermaine were both puzzled by all of this.

“What’s the date today?” Jermaine asked Trixie.

“Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup>, of course,” Trixie smiled.

“I mean what year?” Jermaine continued.

“1967, why?” Trixie answered curious about the question.

“1967!” the boys said together.

“Shush,” Carol said, “We are trying to watch the show.”

The boys sat quietly watching the TV. Wondering how they got there and how they would get home.

“I have popcorn for everyone,” Jack said as he walked in with a large bowl of popcorn. “Does anyone want a Fresca?”

“Fresca? What’s a Fresca?” Jermaine said just as he was about to put popcorn into his mouth.

“You’ve never had a Fresca?” Trixie said very surprised.

“Nope, I’ve never had a Fresca, but I’ll try one,” Tyrone responded, wondering what a Fresca could be.

While they were sitting in the living room, suddenly the front door opened, and two men ran in with guns.

“Everyone get down. This is a robbery!” one of the men yelled.

Everyone was shocked.

“I said get down!” the man yelled again.

They all fell to the ground. Carol and Trixie screamed. Tyrone and Jermaine also lay down on the carpet.

“What do you want?” Jack asked.

“Give us your wallet. Do you have any jewelry in the house?” the second man asked.

“Upstairs in our room. Please don’t hurt us,” Jack begged.

The first man went upstairs. Tyrone whispered something over to Jermaine. Jermaine nodded that he understood.

As soon as the man turned his back to look up to see if his partner was coming back, Jermaine and Tyrone jumped up and tackled him. They pulled him into the living room where Jack held him down. Trixie put one of her socks into his mouth.

His friend heard the noise and came down the stairs.

“Hey Joey, is everything OK?” he yelled out.

When he entered the living room, Jermaine grabbed his legs and Tyrone hit his arm, knocking the gun to the floor. Then Jack jumped on top of him. Buddy pulled the extension cord out of the wall and they tied him up.

Both of the bad guys were tied up and sitting on the floor. The family was shaken and upset, but they were OK.

Carol went to the phone to call the police.

“Thank you for your help. Where did you learn how to do that?” Jack asked.

“We play a lot of video games,” Tyrone answered.

“Video games?” Jack asked.

“Never mind, I’m just glad we were able to help.” Tyrone answered.

“We have been waiting for you for a long time,” Jack said. “You saved us. We don’t know how to thank you!”

“What do you mean you have been waiting for us?” Jermaine asked.

“You’ll see,” Jack answered.

Jack left the room, and when he returned, he had an old book in his hands.

“This is a history of this house that goes back at least a century,” he informed the boys as he opened the pages of the book. The story of what happened here tonight was already written in this book. “We’ve been waiting a long time for the story to be finished.”

“Soon another story will be written in this book and the person who reads it will know what is going to happen in the future,” Jack told the boys as he opened the book to a new story that had not been there before.

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“Hey Jermaine, wake up! We have many things to do today,” Tyrone said as he shook Jermaine’s bed.

“Huh? What? Are you kidding? Do you see what time it is?” Jermaine rubbed his eyes and looked over at the clock. “It’s ten o’clock, are you serious?” Jermaine said as he lay back on his bed looking up at the ceiling.

“Come on. We’ve got a lot of things to do today. Those guy from school aren’t going to wait for us forever you know,” Tyrone said while he got changed into his play clothes.

“OK, OK. I’ll get up. I hope your mom has made us a good breakfast,” Jermaine said.

He rolled out of bed and fell onto the floor making Tyrone laugh.

“What’s so funny?” Jermaine asked while rubbing his shoulder.

“Nothing, let’s go,” Tyrone responded.

The boys went down to the kitchen. Tyrone’s mother had prepared eggs and toast.

The boys ate and ran out of the house. They went to the house on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue. They knocked on the door and a man answered.

“Hi Mr. Johnson, can Mike and Sam go trick-or-treating with us tonight?” the boys asked.

## ***TO BE CONTINUED***

*My Name is Buddy Johnson. I live in the house on Main Street and Second Avenue. The story you just read is true. It is recorded in the book I found in the attic along with many others.*

*The next story in the book is about to come true.*

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. cautious _____     | a. bother, disrupt              |
| 2. freaking out _____ | b. close quickly and loudly     |
| 3. slam _____         | c. very comfortable             |
| 4. disturb _____      | d. going a little crazy         |
| 5. scare _____        | e. very tasty, yummy            |
| 6. spun around _____  | f. turn around quickly          |
| 7. homey _____        | g. careful, wary                |
| 8. platter _____      | h. large plate for serving food |
| 9. loafers _____      | i. frighten, shock              |
| 10. delicious _____   | j. slip on shoes                |

**TRUE / FALSE**

- |                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. The window on the landing at first was dirty.       | T / F |
| 2. The light below was coming from the kitchen.        | T / F |
| 3. They could hear voices coming from the living room. | T / F |
| 4. The man's name was John Johnson.                    | T / F |
| 5. They had turkey and rice soup for dinner.           | T / F |
| 6. The door to the second bedroom opened easily.       | T / F |
| 7. Carol had on a yellow dress with a red belt.        | T / F |
| 8. They watched "Bonanza" on T.V.                      | T / F |
| 9. Trixie put her shoe in the robber's mouth.          | T / F |
| 10. The teller of the story was named Buddy Johnson.   | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who turned on the light in the second room? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Jermaine
  - b) Tyrone
  - c) Jack
  - d) Trixie
  
2. What color was Buddy's hair? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) red
  - b) black
  - c) brown
  - d) blonde
  
3. What did Trixie put into the robber's mouth? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) shirt
  - b) pillow
  - c) sock
  - d) extension cord
  
4. What did Jermaine ask about that could be used with the TV? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) power cord
  - b) cable box
  - c) DVD
  - d) Remote control

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What was missing from the bedroom when they returned?

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2. Who invited the boys to dinner?

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3. What was the boy's name?

---

4. What color was Trixie's hair?

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5. What television show did they watch?

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6. What did Jack bring to the living room for them to eat?

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7. What was the name of one of the robbers?

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8. What kind of TV were they watching?

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9. What did Buddy get to tie up the robber?

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10. With whom did Tyrone and Jermaine ask to play at the end?

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