

THE HAUNTED BOOK

CHAPTER 1



I am sharing this story to explain the strange incidents that occur on Halloween every year in the house on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue.

My mother died, so I was cleaning the attic looking through many memories. I found many interesting things 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. On the table I found an old dusty book. I blew the dust off the cover of the book, 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 there were saved in strange an unexplained ways.

No one but me knows if this story is true, you will just have to take my word for it. It comes from the mysterious book I found while cleaning the attic in my house. I was one of the people in this story.

The house is on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue. It has been empty for as long as anyone could remember. None of the kids in the neighborhood would go close to this house, much less plan to spend the night.

Many years ago 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 has lived in the house since then.

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

It was the day before Halloween. Jermaine and Tyrone were at school in the cafeteria eating their lunch, just like any other day. While they were talking, three of the older kids came to their table and sat down. In all their years at the 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?” Tyrone answered with a question.

“What do we have to do to join your club?” Jermaine asked.

“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.

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

Kenny replied, while pulling him back to the table, “It is the best test of your courage. If you can stay the whole night, we’ll let you join.”

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

“We’ll have to think about it,” Tyrone replied. “Jermaine and we will need to talk it over between ourselves. We’ll let you know.”

“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,” Jermaine answered, but feeling a little nervous about the whole thing.

The older boys got up and 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 are up to something, and I’m not sure what they expect. Maybe we should go along with their plan. It could be fun 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 have all night to put our plan together. Let’s tell those guys we’ll be happy to join their club,” Tyrone said as he put his books into his book bag 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 said as he was trying not to laugh too hard.

“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?” Tyrone said with confidence.

Jermaine wasn’t so sure.

“OK guys, we’ll see you tomorrow at the old house,” Kenny laughed as he ran out of the building to catch up with his friends.

“See, he is 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.

The bus ride home didn't take long.

"I'll call you after dinner, OK?" Tyrone said to Jermaine while he got up from his seat and adjusted his book bag.

Jermaine replied less than enthusiastically, "Yeah, that's good."

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.

Tyrone went down to the kitchen for dinner. His mother 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?"

"If his mother says it's OK, then fine," his mother yelled back.

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. No one had ever attempted anything like this before, as far as they knew.

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

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

"Huh? What? Are you kidding? Do you see what time it is?" Tyrone rubbed his eyes and looked over at the clock. "It's ten o'clock, are you serious?" Tyrone said and 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,” Jermaine said while he got changed into his play clothes.

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

He rolled out of bed onto the floor making Jermaine laugh.

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

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

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.

They went to the local general store and bought some supplies.

Around five o’clock the boys got into the costumes they were going to wear 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 and ran out of the door and headed for Jermaine’s house.

“Mom, it’s Halloween tonight, so can I stay at Tyrone’s again?” Jermaine asked his mother.

“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?”

“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’d 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 outfits they were wearing.

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

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

“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.

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. Jermaine spent the night at Tyrone'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 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) Maple Avenue and Second Street
 - b) Maple Street and First Avenue
 - c) Second and Maple
 - d) Maple Street and Second Avenue

3. What costume did Tyrone wear? _____
 - a) clown
 - b) hobo
 - c) superman
 - d) pirate

4. What time did the boys 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?

2. Where did Jermaine sleep the night before Halloween?

3. What costume did Jermaine wear?

4. What special day was it going to be?

5. Where did the man read the story about the house??

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

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

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

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

10. Who said "We thought you'd chickened out"
