

THE HAUNTED BOOK

CHAPTER 2



The boys took off their costumes and put them into their bags before they proceeded up the walk 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 the 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 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 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 it flew open. He nearly fell down as the door swung into the house.

The observers on the sidewalk laughed at him. Jermaine brushed the dirt off of 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 they stepped into the entryway, with a loud crash the door slammed closed behind them.

Jermaine screamed.

Tyrone turned to Jermaine, "That's exactly what I expected."

Jermaine wasn't so sure about that.

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 here. 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 a large picture of a lady in a white dress standing next to a tree. It was also dirty so it was hard to make out the features.

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 over the table had fallen and was now in the middle of it.

They continued into the kitchen. The place was a mess. All of 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 in store for us up there," Tyrone said as he moved toward the stairs moving the flashlight from side-to-side.

Slowly they moved up the staircase to the first landing. There was a dirty window there. No light came through it.

“Do you want to go up to the next level,” Jermaine asked not really 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.

They moved to the first door. It 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. They pushed the door open and 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.

“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. They opened the creaking door to again go 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 turned the handle. It wasn’t turning. He tried it again, but it was stuck or locked.

“Here take my flashlight and I’ll try with both hands,” Tyrone said. He handed Jermaine his flashlight, and then he turned it as hard as he could, but it still didn’t 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 the door handle 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!”

They flashed their lights into the room. To their surprise the room was clean and neat. In the far corner was a bed with white linen 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 of the room had white lacey curtains and there was a black shade covering the window so that it was completely dark in the room with the exception of the flashlights.

For fun, Jermaine tried the light switch again. To their surprise, this time it worked. Suddenly the door behind them slammed shut. Both of the boys jumped.

“That was scary,” Tyrone said a little nervous.

He went to the door and couldn’t turn the handle. 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.

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,” 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.

“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 described what he saw.

“Maybe they fixed it just to scare us while we have been in here,” Tyrone guessed.

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

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 peered in, it too 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 red flowers on a light yellow background. The rug on the floor was now in the middle of the floor. It was brown with a tan circle in the middle of it.

They didn’t see their bags.

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 |
| 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 bag. | 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) backpack
 - b) food
 - c) flashlight
 - d) costumes

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?

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?

5. Where was the chandelier?

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

7. What did the kitchen look like?

8. What was different about the second bedroom?

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

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