

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,720

It was not my wish to have the very main theme composed.

2

00:00:09,900 --> 00:00:11,760

The end.

3

00:00:17,060 --> 00:00:27,560

NoTP

4

00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:31,000

has the power to mislead us or to distort reality.

5

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:33,360

It is, after all, the filter through which we perceive

6

00:00:33,360 --> 00:00:35,120

the outside world.

7

00:00:35,120 --> 00:00:36,680

But there are times when incidents

8

00:00:36,680 --> 00:00:40,400

can't be explained away by saying it's all in the mind.

9

00:00:40,400 --> 00:00:42,480

We have two such stories tonight.

10

00:00:42,480 --> 00:00:44,400

One is from what many researchers now believe

11

00:00:44,400 --> 00:00:46,720

is Britain's most haunted castle.

12

00:00:46,720 --> 00:00:49,960

It's a ghost story that spans the centuries.

13

00:00:49,960 --> 00:00:52,600

First, we have a story about faith healing.

14

00:00:52,600 --> 00:00:54,560

Skeptics would say it's a prime example

15

00:00:54,560 --> 00:00:56,360

of patients persuading themselves

16

00:00:56,360 --> 00:00:59,480

that they're getting better, which is a plausible theory.

17

00:00:59,480 --> 00:01:01,200

But there's one problem with it.

18

00:01:01,200 --> 00:01:03,160

How can you explain faith healing

19

00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:06,040

when the patients are animals?

20

00:01:06,040 --> 00:01:09,360

These pets and their owners are waiting at an animal clinic

21

00:01:09,360 --> 00:01:11,360

in Totnes, South Devon,

22

00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:15,040

but they will not be seen by a vet.

23

00:01:15,040 --> 00:01:17,560

Nicky Provo is an animal healer.

24

00:01:17,560 --> 00:01:19,160

Her patients are mainly pets

25

00:01:19,160 --> 00:01:22,200

which have already been treated by a conventional vet.

26

00:01:22,200 --> 00:01:24,440

But drugs and treatments don't always work,

27

00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:27,160

and coming here is often a last resort.

28

00:01:27,160 --> 00:01:30,440

I don't really know what happens when I give healing.

29

00:01:30,440 --> 00:01:35,560

I just know it works, and I connect with the healing energy,

30

00:01:35,560 --> 00:01:38,160

let it come through my hand onto the animal,

31

00:01:38,160 --> 00:01:41,520

so I act as a channel if you want.

32

00:01:41,520 --> 00:01:44,480

This clinic is one of a number which have sprung up to Cata

33

00:01:44,480 --> 00:01:46,600

for the growing band of animal lovers

34

00:01:46,600 --> 00:01:49,760

who believe that if spiritual healing can work for humans,

35

00:01:49,760 --> 00:01:52,440

why not for their pets?

36

00:01:52,880 --> 00:01:55,440

We think Nicky can actually heal the animal

37

00:01:55,440 --> 00:01:57,280

a lot quicker than the vet.

38

00:01:57,280 --> 00:02:01,400

I'm not a vet and I'm not medically trained.

39

00:02:01,400 --> 00:02:06,160

I don't think that I need to know what the diagnosis is

40

00:02:06,160 --> 00:02:08,840

or what is wrong with the animal.

41

00:02:08,840 --> 00:02:12,360

If after a healing session it's eating more,

42

00:02:12,360 --> 00:02:16,560

enjoys life more, that's good enough for me.

43

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:18,440

There's no way she'd still be alive

44

00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:21,560

if she went for conventional veterinary medicine.

45

00:02:21,560 --> 00:02:24,480

I know that. There's no way.

46

00:02:24,480 --> 00:02:27,560

Animals aren't able to say whether they feel better or not,

47

00:02:27,560 --> 00:02:30,080

so it's easy for sentimentality to override

48

00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:32,920

the lack of scientific evidence on the subject.

49

00:02:32,920 --> 00:02:34,400

Whatever the owners believe,

50

00:02:34,400 --> 00:02:36,600

many vets remain highly skeptical.

51

00:02:38,840 --> 00:02:40,280

The vet's professional body,

52

00:02:40,280 --> 00:02:44,280

the British Veterinary Association, disapproves.

53

00:02:44,280 --> 00:02:47,400

We're not happy with forms of healing

54

00:02:47,400 --> 00:02:49,240

that are not based on science,

55

00:02:49,240 --> 00:02:51,480

and as a veterinary surgeon who's been in practice

56

00:02:51,480 --> 00:02:53,920

for some 35 years,

57

00:02:53,920 --> 00:02:55,920

I am not aware of any case

58

00:02:55,920 --> 00:02:58,680

that has responded to spiritual healing.

59

00:02:58,680 --> 00:03:01,080

But not all vets are unconvinced.

60

00:03:01,080 --> 00:03:03,560

This surgery in Potter's Bar, Hertfordshire,

61

00:03:03,560 --> 00:03:07,520

actually allows one healer to run a clinic here every week.

62

00:03:07,520 --> 00:03:10,720

The senior partner refers patients personally.

63

00:03:10,720 --> 00:03:12,560

I qualified about 22 years ago,

64

00:03:12,560 --> 00:03:14,560

and I used purely conventional techniques

65

00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:15,920

for about 10 years,

66

00:03:15,920 --> 00:03:18,680

but then I began to feel that a lot of conventional drugs

67

00:03:18,720 --> 00:03:21,720

had side effects and could even do harm to patients,

68

00:03:21,720 --> 00:03:23,160

and they weren't curing them.

69

00:03:23,160 --> 00:03:25,760

So I looked for other methods, such as healing,

70

00:03:25,760 --> 00:03:27,680

to help my patients.

71

00:03:27,680 --> 00:03:29,840

Healer Charles Siddl started working

72

00:03:29,840 --> 00:03:32,760

at Richard Alport's surgery last year.

73

00:03:32,760 --> 00:03:36,160

He now sees between three and seven patients a session.

74

00:03:38,440 --> 00:03:40,920

I certainly couldn't say what Charles is doing

75

00:03:40,920 --> 00:03:41,960

or how he does it.

76

00:03:41,960 --> 00:03:45,320

I know that he's having a healing effect in some fashion.

77

00:03:45,320 --> 00:03:47,720

I know that many patients are helped by it.

78

00:03:47,720 --> 00:03:49,720

Of course, healing isn't a cure-all,

79

00:03:49,720 --> 00:03:52,760

but in many cases, Charles can do a great deal of good

80

00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:54,040

for animal patients.

81

00:03:55,320 --> 00:03:57,080

But the bulk of Charles' work

82

00:03:57,080 --> 00:03:59,760

is done in the tough, big-money world of horse racing

83

00:03:59,760 --> 00:04:02,760

and show-jumping, where only results count.

84

00:04:02,760 --> 00:04:06,200

His skills are attracting a valuable clientele.

85

00:04:06,200 --> 00:04:09,320

Orion Blaze is a potential show-jumping champion

86

00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:11,720

worth over 40,000 pounds.

87

00:04:11,720 --> 00:04:13,920

He has treenalized his chance of fame

88

00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:15,720

in the show-jumping arena.

89

00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:18,520

Two years ago, he tore a ligament.

90

00:04:18,520 --> 00:04:22,440

I was devastated, because he's my main horse.

91

00:04:22,440 --> 00:04:25,400

We thought he was going to go quite a long way.

92

00:04:25,400 --> 00:04:28,200

He'd just gone as a grade A show jumper.

93

00:04:28,200 --> 00:04:31,120

The vet recommended a long period of rest.

94

00:04:31,120 --> 00:04:34,000

That would have meant a loss of valuable competition time.

95

00:04:36,560 --> 00:04:39,000

A friend suggested Charles Siddl.

96

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:40,920

As there was nothing to lose with it,

97

00:04:40,920 --> 00:04:43,400

we decided to go ahead and try.

98

00:04:46,720 --> 00:04:48,520

Charles came up.

99

00:04:48,520 --> 00:04:51,040

He ran his hands over the horse's leg.

100

00:04:51,040 --> 00:04:54,400

And having done that, he then asked me for 25 pounds.

101

00:04:54,400 --> 00:04:56,200

And I thought I'd been robbed.

102

00:04:57,200 --> 00:05:01,040

The next morning, I got the horse out of the stable,

103

00:05:01,040 --> 00:05:04,240

looked at his leg, and the leg had gone down.

104

00:05:05,440 --> 00:05:08,320

So I tacked him up and took him out for a ride,

105

00:05:08,320 --> 00:05:10,040

and he was fine.

106

00:05:10,040 --> 00:05:12,840

And we've gone on from there from strength to strength.

107

00:05:12,840 --> 00:05:14,840

So who is Charles Siddl?

108

00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:18,440

And what powers does he claim to possess?

109

00:05:18,440 --> 00:05:22,120

I didn't know I was a healer until I was in my 50s.

110

00:05:23,400 --> 00:05:28,880

And I met a very famous vet called Buster Lloyd-Jones,

111

00:05:28,880 --> 00:05:33,400

who said that I could heal.

112

00:05:33,400 --> 00:05:36,040

Charles has since healed hundreds of animals.

113

00:05:36,040 --> 00:05:38,760

Those involved in Charles's successful cases

114

00:05:38,760 --> 00:05:41,000

have no doubts about his abilities.

115

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,360

Jessica is a top breeding racehorse.

116

00:05:43,360 --> 00:05:47,120

Both her first twofolds have gone on to become valuable winners,

117

00:05:47,120 --> 00:05:48,840

Nipper Reed in particular.

118

00:05:48,840 --> 00:05:51,440

It's Nipper Reed, clear by a very long way,

119

00:05:51,440 --> 00:05:52,800

10 to 12 lengths,

120

00:05:52,800 --> 00:05:55,160

all bit of front running for Nipper Reed.

121

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Today, Jessica's worth around 20,000 pounds.

122

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:03,480

But only three years ago, she was on the brink of death.

123

00:06:03,480 --> 00:06:06,400

Someone has suggested using a healer three years ago.

124

00:06:08,320 --> 00:06:09,840

Completing that's a waste of time,

125

00:06:09,840 --> 00:06:11,600

wouldn't have even entered my head.

126

00:06:11,600 --> 00:06:16,520

I first noticed a lump on Jessica during routine grooming,

127

00:06:16,520 --> 00:06:19,680

just over the top of her left eye on the top of her eyelid.

128

00:06:21,080 --> 00:06:25,520

It wasn't very big, it was about a small pea size.

129

00:06:27,040 --> 00:06:28,240

Yeah, Mandy.

130

00:06:29,520 --> 00:06:30,880

Take a look at this.

131

00:06:32,640 --> 00:06:34,000

Looks like a lump.

132

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:35,320

Oh, it's probably nothing.

133

00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:37,760

Still, I better get the vet into her the look.

134

00:06:37,760 --> 00:06:38,760

Go.

135

00:06:39,760 --> 00:06:42,040

So, what's the matter with Jessica then?

136

00:06:42,040 --> 00:06:43,640

There's a lump above her eye.

137

00:06:44,640 --> 00:06:47,080

Jan called in her vet, Mark Sinett.

138

00:06:47,080 --> 00:06:49,720

He's treated the Piper's horses for several years

139

00:06:49,720 --> 00:06:51,440

and knows Jessica well.

140

00:06:53,920 --> 00:06:55,680

When I first examined Jessica,

141

00:06:55,680 --> 00:06:58,640

she had a couple of lumps involving her upper eyelid

142

00:06:58,640 --> 00:07:02,120

and also a few lumps under her throat and in her groin area.

143

00:07:02,120 --> 00:07:05,120

It's difficult to tell just by sort of initial first appearances.

144

00:07:05,120 --> 00:07:07,520

I mean, that's why we went on and did like further tests

145

00:07:07,520 --> 00:07:10,960

to try to ascertain what condition Jessica was suffering from.

146

00:07:10,960 --> 00:07:12,720

So what's wrong with her then?

147

00:07:12,720 --> 00:07:14,760

It's difficult to tell at the moment.

148

00:07:14,760 --> 00:07:17,280

We should be all right to have another fall, won't she?

149

00:07:17,280 --> 00:07:19,440

We'll just have to wait and see.

150

00:07:19,440 --> 00:07:20,760

OK, darling.

151

00:07:21,600 --> 00:07:24,960

But when the test results came through, the news was bad.

152

00:07:28,760 --> 00:07:29,760

Hello?

153

00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:33,280

Hi, Jan. I've got the results of the test through.

154

00:07:33,280 --> 00:07:36,320

I'm afraid Jessica's got equine lymphosarcoma.

155

00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:38,520

What does that mean? She's going to be all right.

156

00:07:38,520 --> 00:07:42,080

No, Jan. Jessica's condition is terminal.

157

00:07:42,080 --> 00:07:43,440

She's got cancer.

158

00:07:43,440 --> 00:07:45,840

Equine lymphosarcoma is a cancer

159

00:07:45,840 --> 00:07:48,480

affecting the white blood cells of horses

160

00:07:48,480 --> 00:07:51,920

and it usually spreads to internal organs as well.

161

00:07:51,920 --> 00:07:53,560

And there is no known cure for it.

162

00:07:53,560 --> 00:07:56,760

And I discussed her case with other vets and sirs

163

00:07:56,760 --> 00:08:01,120

and they have the opinion that no horse has recovered from it.

164

00:08:01,120 --> 00:08:02,680

But all was not lost.

165

00:08:02,680 --> 00:08:06,080

Jan Piper had been told about Charles Siddles' healing skills

166

00:08:06,080 --> 00:08:07,640

by a racing colleague.

167

00:08:10,480 --> 00:08:13,320

Here you are, Graham. Someone gave me this. Take a look.

168

00:08:13,320 --> 00:08:15,880

What? It's an animal healer.

169

00:08:15,880 --> 00:08:17,040

That's nice.

170

00:08:17,040 --> 00:08:21,640

My husband's attitude towards healing was...

171

00:08:21,640 --> 00:08:24,280

When I suggested we call her a healer in,

172

00:08:24,280 --> 00:08:25,920

was that it was a load of old poppycock

173

00:08:25,920 --> 00:08:28,680

and he didn't want nothing to do with it at all.

174

00:08:28,680 --> 00:08:30,080

It's all nonsense.

175

00:08:30,080 --> 00:08:31,560

Well, we've got nothing to lose.

176

00:08:31,560 --> 00:08:34,280

She's going to be put down anyway.

177

00:08:34,360 --> 00:08:36,720

If it makes you feel better, give him a go.

178

00:08:38,880 --> 00:08:41,960

I don't think the people who own Jessica

179

00:08:41,960 --> 00:08:46,360

believed that anything would... happen.

180

00:08:46,360 --> 00:08:49,320

Good evening. I'm Charles Siddles.

181

00:08:49,320 --> 00:08:50,880

You must be Mrs. Piper.

182

00:08:50,880 --> 00:08:53,080

How do you do? Jessica's this way.

183

00:09:00,120 --> 00:09:01,400

Good girl.

184

00:09:01,400 --> 00:09:03,760

It's all going to be better soon, though.

185

00:09:03,760 --> 00:09:04,760

One.

186

00:09:06,200 --> 00:09:08,480

I didn't understand what he would do.

187

00:09:08,480 --> 00:09:10,800

He was totally sort of relaxed with her

188

00:09:10,800 --> 00:09:12,440

and she was relaxed with him.

189

00:09:14,040 --> 00:09:18,640

I can't remember at all how long I was in this actual stable with her.

190

00:09:20,120 --> 00:09:21,760

He was laying his hands all over her

191

00:09:21,760 --> 00:09:23,480

and I'd never seen anything like that before

192

00:09:23,480 --> 00:09:25,280

and Jessica didn't seem to mind.

193

00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:32,800

She'll be all right, mate.

194

00:09:32,800 --> 00:09:37,160

Probably she'll be tired, but tomorrow she'll be fine.

195

00:09:37,160 --> 00:09:38,800

Well, thanks for coming anyway.

196

00:09:38,800 --> 00:09:41,760

When Charles left, I mean, Jessica looked no different

197

00:09:41,760 --> 00:09:44,560

and I told my husband he was leaving

198

00:09:44,560 --> 00:09:47,840

and he just laughed and said that was a total waste of time.

199

00:09:49,200 --> 00:09:50,800

Well, that's it, old girl.

200

00:09:52,080 --> 00:09:53,800

I've tried everything now.

201

00:09:55,440 --> 00:10:00,480

When I left the stable, I knew Jessica would be all right.

202

00:10:00,480 --> 00:10:02,680

The next morning, Jan was in for a surprise.

203

00:10:02,680 --> 00:10:03,920

Jan! Jan!

204

00:10:03,920 --> 00:10:04,920

What?

205

00:10:04,920 --> 00:10:07,320

You won't believe it. Jessica's knocking at the door for food.

206

00:10:07,320 --> 00:10:08,560

Jessica?

207

00:10:08,560 --> 00:10:11,600

He can't be Jessica. She hasn't eaten in weeks!

208

00:10:12,600 --> 00:10:13,600

Jessica!

209

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:20,240

Try on some hay first if she'll eat it.

210

00:10:21,480 --> 00:10:22,480

Hello, dear.

211

00:10:22,480 --> 00:10:23,480

Here you are.

212

00:10:23,480 --> 00:10:27,120

I couldn't believe it was the same horse that she was well.

213

00:10:27,120 --> 00:10:28,120

She was hungry.

214

00:10:29,120 --> 00:10:31,120

That's amazing.

215

00:10:31,120 --> 00:10:34,560

I can't believe it. She just looks so much better.

216

00:10:34,560 --> 00:10:38,600

She was just a completely different horse and I do put it all down.

217

00:10:39,600 --> 00:10:41,960

Well, I have to put it all down to what Charles did.

218

00:10:42,720 --> 00:10:44,680

Jessica made a complete recovery

219

00:10:44,680 --> 00:10:46,840

and the following year gave birth to Frank,

220

00:10:46,840 --> 00:10:48,960

who already shows racing promise.

221

00:10:51,280 --> 00:10:53,520

Today, Jessica is at the stud farm,

222

00:10:53,520 --> 00:10:56,880

hoping to conceive another in her line of winners.

223

00:10:56,880 --> 00:10:58,960

By all the laws of veterinary medicine,

224

00:10:58,960 --> 00:11:00,560

Jessica should be dead by now,

225

00:11:00,560 --> 00:11:03,720

but she's still walking around happy in the field with a foal.

226

00:11:03,720 --> 00:11:06,560

And this is just something that we cannot explain.

227

00:11:08,400 --> 00:11:10,520

And you might be pleased to know that animal healing

228

00:11:10,520 --> 00:11:12,520

has now been given the seal of approval

229

00:11:12,520 --> 00:11:14,880

by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons,

230

00:11:14,880 --> 00:11:17,160

which allows healers to lay hands on animals

231

00:11:17,160 --> 00:11:19,040

under the care of a qualified vet.

232

00:11:27,880 --> 00:11:29,880

Our ancient and historic monuments

233

00:11:29,880 --> 00:11:32,880

often have ancient and historic ghosts to go with them.

234

00:11:32,880 --> 00:11:34,880

You can even find them listed in the guidebooks.

235

00:11:34,880 --> 00:11:37,880

So far, so good for the tourist business.

236

00:11:37,880 --> 00:11:40,880

Our story tonight concerns one such historic site.

237

00:11:40,880 --> 00:11:43,880

The occasional tourist would leave terrified

238

00:11:43,880 --> 00:11:46,880

after a brief encounter with the supernatural,

239

00:11:46,880 --> 00:11:49,880

but that could always be put down to an overheated imagination.

240

00:11:49,880 --> 00:11:51,880

But what was more perplexing

241

00:11:51,880 --> 00:11:54,880

was the fact that the tourist was not alone.

242

00:11:54,880 --> 00:11:56,880

But what was more perplexing

243

00:11:56,880 --> 00:11:58,880

was the behaviour of the overnight visitors,

244

00:11:58,880 --> 00:12:00,880

level-headed friends of the family.

245

00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:02,880

They often refused point blank

246

00:12:02,880 --> 00:12:04,880

ever to spend another night in the place.

247

00:12:04,880 --> 00:12:07,880

They were seeing something that wasn't in the guidebooks.

248

00:12:07,880 --> 00:12:10,880

They were seeing the wrong ghost.

249

00:12:11,880 --> 00:12:13,880

Moncaster Castle.

250

00:12:13,880 --> 00:12:17,880

Since 1325, it has stood on the northwest coast of England,

251

00:12:17,880 --> 00:12:19,880

built to guard the ancient trade routes

252

00:12:19,880 --> 00:12:21,880

going south from Carlisle

253

00:12:21,880 --> 00:12:24,880

and to watch for invaders coming in from the Irish Sea.

254

00:12:24,880 --> 00:12:27,880

The Pennington family have been the lords of Moncaster

255

00:12:27,880 --> 00:12:29,880

since the 13th century,

256

00:12:29,880 --> 00:12:33,880

when Alan the Penitone was granted the lands of Moncaster by King John.

257

00:12:33,880 --> 00:12:36,880

In recent years, the family and friends

258

00:12:36,880 --> 00:12:39,880

have been plagued by strange happenings within the walls,

259

00:12:39,880 --> 00:12:41,880

doors open and shut of their own cord,

260

00:12:41,880 --> 00:12:44,880

unknown footsteps walk the corridors.

261

00:12:44,880 --> 00:12:46,880

Patrick Gordon Duff Pennington

262

00:12:46,880 --> 00:12:49,880

has lived at the castle since he married into the family,

263

00:12:49,880 --> 00:12:52,880

but he feels uncomfortable at times.

264

00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:56,880

Going up in the winter between the back door and my office,

265

00:12:56,880 --> 00:12:59,880

come snow, come hail or shine,

266

00:12:59,880 --> 00:13:02,880

every night footsteps used to follow me in the dark in the winter

267

00:13:02,880 --> 00:13:04,880

and I didn't like it one little bit

268

00:13:04,880 --> 00:13:08,880

and the dogs don't like it much either.

269

00:13:08,880 --> 00:13:11,880

I've always thought this house was a fairly normal house,

270

00:13:11,880 --> 00:13:14,880

but just lately it's become extremely strange.

271

00:13:15,880 --> 00:13:17,880

Horticulturalist Alan Clarke

272

00:13:17,880 --> 00:13:20,880

also had a bad experience at Moncaster.

273

00:13:39,880 --> 00:13:43,880

Had a quick look outside, nobody there at all.

274

00:13:44,880 --> 00:13:47,880

I then found it was quite difficult even to shut the door.

275

00:13:49,880 --> 00:13:53,880

But things didn't stop there for Alan Clarke that night.

276

00:14:03,880 --> 00:14:06,880

You hear the expression of the hairs that stands on the back of your neck,

277

00:14:06,880 --> 00:14:08,880

stands up on the back of your neck,

278

00:14:08,880 --> 00:14:10,880

and I never really believed it,

279

00:14:10,880 --> 00:14:12,880

but this really did sort of happen.

280

00:14:13,880 --> 00:14:15,880

Until now, the hauntings at Moncaster

281

00:14:15,880 --> 00:14:18,880

have been blamed on the spirit of Tom Skelton,

282

00:14:18,880 --> 00:14:20,880

otherwise known as Tom Fool.

283

00:14:20,880 --> 00:14:23,880

He was the jester at the castle in the 16th century,

284

00:14:23,880 --> 00:14:26,880

and his portrait now hangs in one of the corridors of the castle.

285

00:14:26,880 --> 00:14:30,880

By all accounts, Tom Fool had a sadistic sense of humour.

286

00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:33,880

He used to say that underneath the chestnut tree,

287

00:14:33,880 --> 00:14:37,880

that's outside this round door still, which is 600 years old,

288

00:14:37,880 --> 00:14:39,880

and when you came and asked the way back to London,

289

00:14:39,880 --> 00:14:41,880

if he didn't like the look of you,

290

00:14:41,880 --> 00:14:44,880

he pointed you down to the quicksands instead of over the fort.

291

00:14:44,880 --> 00:14:48,880

We'll never know if Tom Skelton really did send travellers to their deaths in the sands,

292

00:14:48,880 --> 00:14:50,880

but one thing is true.

293

00:14:50,880 --> 00:14:52,880

Just below the castle, along the river-esque,

294

00:14:52,880 --> 00:14:55,880

quicksands do appear at low tide.

295

00:14:56,880 --> 00:14:58,880

Legend states that Tom was also responsible

296

00:14:58,880 --> 00:15:02,880

for the gruesome murder of a carpenter within the castle grounds.

297

00:15:02,880 --> 00:15:06,880

An act he carried out to win favour with his master, Sir William Pennington.

298

00:15:10,880 --> 00:15:12,880

Tom Fool's presence pervades the castle.

299

00:15:12,880 --> 00:15:15,880

It's at its most disquieting by his macabre portrait.

300

00:15:15,880 --> 00:15:18,880

A scowling Tom Fool, he stands beside his will,

301

00:15:18,880 --> 00:15:22,880

a document that predicts his own death by drowning.

302

00:15:23,880 --> 00:15:27,880

One tourist had a frightening experience while looking at the painting.

303

00:15:28,880 --> 00:15:31,880

He's an evil-looking man, isn't he?

304

00:15:45,880 --> 00:15:48,880

She was convinced that she'd heard footsteps on stone,

305

00:15:48,880 --> 00:15:52,880

a claim that surprised the local investigator into the hauntings.

306

00:15:52,880 --> 00:15:55,880

When I interviewed her, sometime after the experience,

307

00:15:56,880 --> 00:16:01,880

I pointed out to her that the stairs and the corridor were indeed fully carpeted.

308

00:16:02,880 --> 00:16:05,880

And she'd never actually realised this, even after the experience,

309

00:16:05,880 --> 00:16:08,880

and she'd thought that she'd had a strange experience.

310

00:16:08,880 --> 00:16:11,880

She'd never actually made the connection between the stone footsteps,

311

00:16:11,880 --> 00:16:15,880

and the fact that that wing of the castle is fully carpeted.

312

00:16:16,880 --> 00:16:20,880

The tales of Tom Fool and a headless carpenter make for a good ghost story,

313

00:16:20,880 --> 00:16:24,880

but can all the bumps and bangs in the castle really be a true story?

314

00:16:25,880 --> 00:16:28,880

Is it attributed to a 16th-century jester?

315

00:16:28,880 --> 00:16:32,880

More recent incidents seem to have nothing to do with Tom Fool.

316

00:16:32,880 --> 00:16:35,880

More disturbing than anything that's gone before,

317

00:16:35,880 --> 00:16:40,880

these experiences centre on this room in the castle, the tapestry room.

318

00:16:43,880 --> 00:16:47,880

James Cartland is an archivist and a family friend of the Penningtons.

319

00:16:47,880 --> 00:16:51,880

In the early 80s, he was invited to stay at Monkester.

320

00:16:51,880 --> 00:16:56,880

His hosts put him up in the tapestry room, and a wing of the castle now little used.

321

00:16:58,880 --> 00:17:01,880

I'd heard this sort of strange...

322

00:17:01,880 --> 00:17:03,880

I had to have got to describe it. It was a sort of...

323

00:17:03,880 --> 00:17:08,880

as if somebody was talking, but muttering, sort of strange sound.

324

00:17:08,880 --> 00:17:10,880

I can't really explain it.

325

00:17:11,880 --> 00:17:14,880

I stuck my head up the chimney. I thought, well, it might be the wind in the chimney,

326

00:17:14,880 --> 00:17:18,880

but it never is. It was a very, very quiet night, very frosty and quiet.

327

00:17:22,880 --> 00:17:25,880

MUSIC

328

00:17:39,880 --> 00:17:41,880

I was the only person in that wing of the castle,

329

00:17:41,880 --> 00:17:43,880

so there was nobody else there to make a noise.

330

00:17:43,880 --> 00:17:46,880

Absolutely the only person. Everybody else was at the other end.

331

00:17:46,880 --> 00:17:49,880

And I went back into the room, and it was still going on.

332

00:17:49,880 --> 00:17:51,880

And it was more audible by then.

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00:17:51,880 --> 00:17:54,880

I mean, it was definitely a child crying and somebody talking to it,

334

00:17:54,880 --> 00:17:56,880

as if a child was ill or something like that.

335

00:17:56,880 --> 00:17:58,880

I got back into bed.

336

00:17:58,880 --> 00:18:02,880

I never slept a wink. Terrible night.

337

00:18:03,880 --> 00:18:09,880

Unknown to James Cartland, a teenage girl had stayed with her mother at the castle a year earlier.

338

00:18:09,880 --> 00:18:12,880

Now a trainee solicitor, she prefers to remain anonymous,

339

00:18:12,880 --> 00:18:15,880

but her experience is recreated by actors.

340

00:18:19,880 --> 00:18:22,880

MUSIC

341

00:18:49,880 --> 00:18:52,880

MUSIC

342

00:18:55,880 --> 00:18:58,880

CRIES

343

00:19:01,880 --> 00:19:03,880

Oh, no.

344

00:19:03,880 --> 00:19:05,880

Oh, no.

345

00:19:10,880 --> 00:19:12,880

Oh, no.

346

00:19:12,880 --> 00:19:14,880

Shhh.

347

00:19:14,880 --> 00:19:16,880

Shhh.

348

00:19:19,880 --> 00:19:22,880

The late Lord Carlisle had a similar experience,

349

00:19:22,880 --> 00:19:25,880

which he recounted to an excurator at the castle.

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00:19:26,880 --> 00:19:30,880

Lord Carlisle told me that he'd only once stayed in Monkester,

351

00:19:30,880 --> 00:19:33,880

and that time he'd been in the tapestry room.

352

00:19:33,880 --> 00:19:35,880

And he'd woken up in the middle of the night,

353

00:19:35,880 --> 00:19:37,880

the sound of a baby crying, in the room.

354

00:19:37,880 --> 00:19:39,880

And there was no baby in the room.

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00:19:39,880 --> 00:19:41,880

He said he's never been more terrified in his life.

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00:19:41,880 --> 00:19:43,880

And he was the man who got the MC in the last war,

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00:19:43,880 --> 00:19:45,880

so he wasn't the man who was easily frightened.

358

00:19:45,880 --> 00:19:48,880

But he said nothing would get him to stay in Monkester again.

359

00:19:48,880 --> 00:19:50,880

And he was running as quiet as a second.

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00:19:51,880 --> 00:19:54,880

No one testimony is proof that Monkester is haunted,

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00:19:54,880 --> 00:19:57,880

but to investigators, these accounts, over a long time,

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00:19:57,880 --> 00:19:59,880

add up to an impressive case.

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00:19:59,880 --> 00:20:03,880

Monkester not only makes the grade with the witness's testimony,

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00:20:03,880 --> 00:20:06,880

it far surpasses the level of criteria that you're looking for,

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00:20:06,880 --> 00:20:10,880

which basically revolves around the correlation of stories

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00:20:10,880 --> 00:20:12,880

over a vast period of time,

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00:20:12,880 --> 00:20:15,880

or even at the same time if you had a collective experience.

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00:20:15,880 --> 00:20:17,880

Without prior knowledge, that's the key.

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00:20:17,880 --> 00:20:20,880

The only other way you could explain it would be mass collusion.

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00:20:20,880 --> 00:20:23,880

And on that scale, spanning decades from people that

371

00:20:23,880 --> 00:20:25,880

nowhere ever met each other.

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00:20:26,880 --> 00:20:30,880

So if Monkester is haunted, who or what is doing it?

373

00:20:30,880 --> 00:20:35,880

In particular, who were the children said to be crying in the tapestry room?

374

00:20:36,880 --> 00:20:40,880

It was James Carthland who may have stumbled upon the answer.

375

00:20:40,880 --> 00:20:42,880

I came across some old plans,

376

00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:47,880

and I discovered that when the castle was altered in the middle of the 19th century,

377

00:20:47,880 --> 00:20:53,880

the room, the tapestry room, had been part of the old nurseries,

378

00:20:53,880 --> 00:20:57,880

and that those rooms had been cut up or altered in some way.

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00:20:59,880 --> 00:21:01,880

So I immediately thought, my goodness,

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00:21:01,880 --> 00:21:06,880

those children lived in those rooms, they were the nurseries.

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00:21:06,880 --> 00:21:08,880

It's rather unnerving.

382

00:21:09,880 --> 00:21:14,880

Could the tapestry room be haunted by the cries of children?

383

00:21:14,880 --> 00:21:19,880

Certainly the Pennington family had their share of tragedy in the 19th century.

384

00:21:19,880 --> 00:21:22,880

Gamal Augustus, the third lord of Monkester,

385

00:21:22,880 --> 00:21:26,880

lost his only child, Margaret, when she was 11 years old.

386

00:21:26,880 --> 00:21:31,880

She was buried in the family church, just a short walk from the castle.

387

00:21:32,880 --> 00:21:35,880

Philip the Pennington doesn't know how her distant relative died,

388

00:21:36,880 --> 00:21:39,880

nor is she certain that Margaret slept in the tapestry room

389

00:21:39,880 --> 00:21:42,880

where the children's cries can now be heard.

390

00:21:42,880 --> 00:21:44,880

But she does remember the words of Annie Preston,

391

00:21:44,880 --> 00:21:48,880

whose family worked at the castle in Gamal's time.

392

00:21:51,880 --> 00:21:53,880

Annie Preston, who is a lady who lived in the village,

393

00:21:53,880 --> 00:21:56,880

who died last year, aged 92,

394

00:21:56,880 --> 00:22:00,880

told me that her grandfather put Margaret Elizabeth,

395

00:22:00,880 --> 00:22:03,880

the daughter of Gamal, Lord Monkester,

396

00:22:03,880 --> 00:22:05,880

into the family tomb.

397

00:22:05,880 --> 00:22:08,880

She was the last person to be put in there.

398

00:22:08,880 --> 00:22:13,880

And also, he said, that she had screaming fits before she died.

399

00:22:20,880 --> 00:22:22,880

As a result of these inexplicable events,

400

00:22:22,880 --> 00:22:27,880

Monkester Castle now finds itself catapulted onto Britain's most haunted list.

401

00:22:27,880 --> 00:22:31,880

So much so that the only guests willing to spend the night in the tapestry room nowadays

402

00:22:31,880 --> 00:22:35,880

are paranormal investigators. Good night.