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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

Ancient castles are home to a treacherous past

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00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:10,000

and terrifying modern mysteries,

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:14,000

strange sounds,

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000

bizarre visions,

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00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:21,000

and nightmares that are said to come back again

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:25,000

and again.

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00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:32,000

Truth or Scare is daring to enter the haunted castles of England.

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:02,000

Don't you just love a good ghost story?

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:07,000

In England, one out of every seven people say they've seen a ghost.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Lots of these strange sightings happen in and around historic castles.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:18,000

They say the spirits won't leave this world, and they believe in the ghost.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:23,000

The English countryside is known around the world for its pastoral beauty.

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:29,000

But on its ancient estates, there are castles that conceal an ugly history.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:35,000

Ghostly apparitions from beyond the grave.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:40,000

The Cumbria are the most beautiful castles in the world.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:45,000

The castles are the most beautiful castles in the world.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

The Cumbrian region is in the northwestern part of England.

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:55,000

And for hundreds of years, Monkester Castle has been a part of the landscape.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:02:01,000

A silent witness.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:04,000

To wicked deeds.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:09,000

Visitors have been frozen in their tracks by an unexplained sound.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:13,000

A strange thumping comes from the old palace stairs,

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:18,000

but no one seems to be there.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:22,000

The spirit of this man might have been the cause.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

Tom Skelton.

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:29,000

In the 1500s, he was part of the castle staff.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:35,000

The Pennington family's last court jester.

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:41,000

They say he knew Shakespeare and was the model for the fool in King Lear.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

They even called him Tom Fool.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:49,000

The inspiration for the word Tom Foolery.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:57,000

In 1585, Hellwise Pennington, the daughter of the castle lord, started a scandal.

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00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:03,000

She was a noble woman with a rebellious streak.

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00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:10,000

And a strict father who refused to tolerate disobedience.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:16,000

Sir William had arranged for her to marry the son of another powerful family.

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00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:21,000

But no one could tell Hellwise who to love.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Her heart belonged to a common carpenter from the village.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:32,000

Even though they tried to keep their romance a secret,

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

they couldn't fool Tom Fool.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

Sir William was furious.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,000

He ordered his jester to break up the happy couple.

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

By whatever means necessary.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Tom Skelton came up with a plan.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:54,000

He invited the carpenter up to Muncaster, pretending Hellwise wanted to see him.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

A simple lie that the young man couldn't resist.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

Tom promised that Hellwise would be there soon.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:05,000

He offered the carpenter a drink of a potent cider.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:10,000

And then another.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:15,000

When Hellwise Pennington's boyfriend passed out, Tom reached into the carpenter's tool bag.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:20,000

He found a chisel and a mallet.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:27,000

And then he ended the man's life.

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00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:32,000

The loyal servant had stopped Hellwise's relationship dead in its tracks.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:40,000

But some say you can still hear the carpenter in the halls of the castle to this day.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Over 400 years later, Patrick Pennington can't deny that he has heard the echoes of Muncaster's gruesome history.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:53,000

I thought it was rather silly the story, but then, when we'd been here a little while,

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

we used to work terribly hard.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:58,000

Started in the office at six in the morning.

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:03,000

And after tea, I would walk across the hall sometimes.

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00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:06,000

And there were footsteps used to follow me.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:23,000

And I've tried it with sort of shoes that didn't make a noise.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:28,000

But I've always heard the behind me.

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:44,000

Tom Skeleton lost his life a few years later when he drowned in the cold, dark waters of the River Esk.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

Even the master trickster couldn't fool fate.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:52,000

Today, every thump in the night leaves the castle's new inhabitants to wonder,

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:55,000

did he ever really leave Muncaster Castle?

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00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:12,000

Which of England's famous queens is reportedly still haunting the halls of Soodley Castle?

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00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Find out next on Truth or Scare.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

Our next stop is Soodley Castle.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:37,000

Over the years, Soodley has seen more than a share of suffering.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Some people say that intense emotional forces could have left an impression on the castle's stones.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:49,000

An imprint so strong that they believe they see ghosts walking through the halls.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Soodley Castle can be found in the southwest of England.

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00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:07,000

The locals say it is home to the country's most powerful unearthly presence.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:16,000

Employees have heard inexplicable sounds in the castle and smelled apple-scented perfume.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:24,000

The strangest stories are about the appearance of a tall, beautiful woman in a long green dress.

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00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

The Lady of the House, Catherine Parr.

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:36,000

Catherine was known for her intelligence and artistic talent.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:42,000

She was also exceptional for being nearly six feet tall with stunning auburn hair.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:48,000

She's famous for being King Henry VIII's sixth wife and his last.

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:54,000

When Henry VIII died in 1547, Catherine married this man, Thomas Seymour.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:58,000

He was an ambitious man, desperate to climb the political ladder.

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00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,000

A man who would do anything for power.

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:07,000

When Catherine accepted his proposal, he'd gotten what he'd wanted.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:10,000

They moved here to Soodley.

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00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:14,000

In just a few months at the age of 35, Catherine was pregnant.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:20,000

In the 16th century, this must have seemed like a miracle as women that age hardly ever had children.

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00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:26,000

The castle buzzed with excitement and celebration as everyone prepared for the birth.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Then tragedy struck.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Catherine gave birth to a baby girl named Mary.

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:42,000

But all was not well.

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00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

The new mother came down with a fever.

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:49,000

A week later, she passed away.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Everyone at Soodley Castle was in shock.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Everyone, that is, except her husband.

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:03,000

Instead of grieving for his wife, Thomas Seymour left his newborn daughter and moved on to London.

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00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:09,000

He proposed marriage to a string of other royal women, but it was turned down by everyone.

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00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Eventually, he was beheaded for treason.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:19,000

No one knows what happened to little Mary.

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00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:26,000

But as for her mother, some claim that Queen Catherine's spirit is not resting in peace at all.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:31,000

Employees of the castle have allegedly witnessed the return of the Queen.

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00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:35,000

Like the maid, Margaret Parker.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:37,000

What made her?

102

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:42,000

One day when Margaret was cleaning, she thought she saw a woman standing at the window.

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00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:48,000

She assumed it was one of the guests, a visiting artist.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:54,000

But the artist had just come down from the nursery, so it couldn't have been her.

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00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:58,000

But then, who was that at the window?

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:02,000

Many in the castle believed it was the image of the former Queen.

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00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:07,000

If it is Catherine Parr haunting her old home, she doesn't bother anyone.

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00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:11,000

People who live and work here consider her a friend.

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00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Night night, Katie.

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:20,000

After she died, Catherine's daughter Mary disappeared from the history books.

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00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:27,000

To this day, no one knows what became of the unfortunate orphan.

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00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Some speculate that after 400 years, mother and daughter are still trying to find each other.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Here at Soudli Castle.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:51,000

The 19th century housekeeper who ruled Soudli Castle with an iron fist, and reportedly, still does.

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:56,000

Next on Truth or Scare.

116

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Next on Truth or Scare.

117

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:06,000

The gaggle will be back on Discovery Kids.

118

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:10,000

The gaggle is back on Discovery Kids.

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00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Soudli Castle is the scene of many so-called ghost sightings.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:21,000

Some say even the spirit of a loyal servant still shows up for work.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:33,000

After lying abandoned for almost 200 years, Soudli Castle came to life again in the 1800s.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:37,000

It was restored and renovated and new owners moved in.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:42,000

Human residents and some say a few roommates from the other side.

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Some feel a restless Victorian soul is responsible for the latest sightings at Soudli.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:57,000

Today, Elizabeth Ashcomne owns the castle.

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00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:02,000

She heard the story of Janet from her husband, Mark Dent's Brockelhurst.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:09,000

Well, her name is Janet and she was the housekeeper here for many, many years. She was here for 50 years.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:18,000

My late husband, Mark, used to tell me stories about her when he came home from school.

129

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:21,000

That she was still here and everyone still terrified of her.

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00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:26,000

And she was still ruling the roost with the iron glove.

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:35,000

And so that's why I think she's still here. She just won't give it up.

132

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:46,000

As housekeeper, Janet, along with the butler, was responsible for managing the rest of the staff.

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00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Together, they made sure that everything ran like clockwork.

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00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:58,000

There were very strict social rules about how and when boys and girls could interact with one another.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:04,000

And it was Janet's special mission to see that the boys and girls stayed in their own rooms.

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Janet would watch over the girls to make sure that nobody got into trouble.

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00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Even today, they say Janet still has the run of Soudli Castle.

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00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Young girls who come into the building seem to attract the housekeeper's attention.

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00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:32,000

In 1993, a teenager was taking a guided tour of the castle.

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00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:38,000

She told the story of an eerie encounter with something out of this world.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:41,000

Suddenly, she had a strange feeling.

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00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:45,000

She said it was like a force telling her to go up the stairs.

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00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:59,000

When she got to the top, she claims to have seen a vision of the past.

144

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:06,000

Soudli's castle's current owner hasn't run into Janet herself,

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00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:10,000

but she feels the grounds are definitely home to more than meets the eye.

146

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:16,000

Soudli, to me anyway, has always had a wonderful atmosphere.

147

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:24,000

I've often been in the garden, but it's a particular time in the evening when the light is at a certain level.

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00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:29,000

There is this sense of timelessness here.

149

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:34,000

I can't really explain it, but one merges into it.

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00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:38,000

And I think that all the people who lived here,

151

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:44,000

our presence is still somehow in this sense of timelessness.

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00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Two young princes are spotted playing in the Tower of London,

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:56,000

500 years after they died.

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00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:02,000

Next, on Truth or Scare.

155

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:12,000

The Tower of London has been standing for almost a thousand years,

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00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:17,000

watching over the United Kingdom through some of its darkest hours.

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00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:20,000

What's in the Tower of London itself?

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00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Eternal reminders of torture and executions,

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:29,000

and possibly the walking spirits of the victims themselves.

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00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:40,000

The Tower of London has been a home to kings and their courts.

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00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

There's an old saying,

162

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,000

he who holds the Tower holds the power.

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00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:48,000

Morning, ladies and gentlemen.

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00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Welcome to the royal palace and fortress of Her Majesty's Tower of London.

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00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:55,000

It looks so harmless now.

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00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:59,000

It's easy to forget the Tower's dark past.

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00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Centuries ago, the Tower was used as a prison.

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00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:12,000

Back then, it was the site of unspeakable torture and violent death.

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00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:18,000

Hundreds of victims were subjected to the cruelty of the hot poker,

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00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:20,000

the spikes of the Iron Maiden,

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00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:25,000

and in many cases, the executioner's axe.

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00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:35,000

And some say the victims of these unspeakable horrors often reappear after death,

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:38,000

as ghostly apparitions.

174

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:45,000

World War II, the Germans were bombing London,

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00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:49,000

trying to destroy the docks and factories near the Tower.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:55,000

Explosions rocked the city during an attack known as the Blitz.

177

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:58,000

Total chaos rang.

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00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:05,000

At the Tower Gates, a terrifying vision was forming.

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00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:12,000

As the legend goes, it was the autumn of 1940.

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00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:15,000

A soldier was guarding the battlement.

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00:17:17,000 --> 00:17:22,000

There was nothing in his military training to prepare him for these invading forces.

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00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Halt! Who goes there?

183

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:31,000

Four men came walking out of the mist.

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00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:34,000

Between them, they were carrying some kind of stretcher.

185

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:40,000

The soldier reported that the strange group kept coming closer...

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:42,000

and closer.

187

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:48,000

He said that they were carrying what looked like a body under a stained bloody blanket,

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00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:52,000

and they were dressed just like sheriff's officers from the 14th century.

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00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:57,000

Then, they disappeared like the mist that had brought them.

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00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:03,000

It's been said this was a vision of the Tower's past crimes against humanity.

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00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:10,000

And even more gruesome acts have been committed in other parts of the building.

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00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:15,000

The Bloody Tower was the site of the ultimate tragedy.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:21,000

People talk about two young boys who have been seen playing here in the Tower.

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00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Believers say that these are the spirits of two princes.

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00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Richard was nine and his brother Edward was twelve when they were victims of a shocking crime.

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00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Richard the third was the boy's uncle. He was ambitious and hungry for power.

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00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:46,000

Sometimes called England's favorite villain, Richard was cursed in a number of ways.

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00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:51,000

His enemies described him as a jealous and malicious man, short and hunched over.

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00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Some even blame him for a string of unexplained deaths.

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:02,000

The princess's father was King Edward IV, the ruler of England.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:07,000

When he passed away, the boys were put under Richard's protection.

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00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:11,000

It was just the chance he'd been waiting for.

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00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:16,000

The boys were the only thing keeping Richard from the throne.

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00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:20,000

As long as they were alive, he could not become king.

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00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:24,000

So the princes were locked in the Bloody Tower.

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00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:28,000

For their own safety, their uncle said.

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00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:32,000

For months, the locals saw them playing around the Tower and in their room.

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00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Then suddenly, in the fall of 1483, the Tower was empty.

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00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Even today, no one can say exactly how the brothers disappeared.

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00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

But with them gone, Richard was crowned King of England.

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00:19:53,000 --> 00:20:00,000

Two skeletons were later found near the Tower and identified as Edward and his brother Richard.

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00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:03,000

They were buried at Westminster Abbey.

213

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:09,000

Their spirits, on the other hand,

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00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:13,000

if the witnesses are correct,

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00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:17,000

the souls of the young princess still play in the Tower of London.

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00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:25,000

They seem to be hanging on to each other in this world, as though they know they left it before their time.

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00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:35,000

England's grand estates were home to more than royalty in their courts.

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00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:40,000

Over the ages, they were also the setting for ruthless acts of violence and cruelty.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Some believe the tortured souls who lost their lives will not move on to the next world.

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00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:50,000

Of course, no one knows for sure if ghosts really do exist.

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00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:55,000

But those who believe will continue to study the strange sights and sounds that haunt the ancient world.

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00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:01,000

But those who believe will continue to study the strange sights and sounds that haunt the ancient castles of England.