

1

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

Knock knock.

2

00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,000

Who's there?

3

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

After dark?

4

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

And houses all across the United States.

5

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

Things that go bump in the night.

6

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

Can strike fear into even the bravest soul.

7

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

Make yourself at home with truth or scare.

8

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

As we move into some of America's most haunted houses.

9

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

The United States.

10

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:08,000

The United States.

11

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:13,000

They say there's no place like home.

12

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Could that explain why some people never leave?

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

The United States has only been around for a little over 200 years.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

That's been more than enough time for the ghosts of the dead to haunt lots of American homes.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

At least that's what the people who live there say.

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Are these claims to be believed?

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:35,000

That's up to you to decide.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:43,000

How and why does a house become haunted?

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:49,000

These questions have been asked but never really answered.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:54,000

John Golsby claims he can see and communicate with the dead.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:59,000

He says a haunted house is home to spirits that cannot let go of life.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:07,000

People that the desire is so great within and that they have to keep coming back to where they existed

23

00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:14,000

or there's some great emotional pullback and they cannot totally accept the fact that they've left the physical body.

24

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000

One place it's said they won't leave is here.

25

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

The Winchester House in San Jose, California.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:27,000

Believe it or not, this house was built with ghosts in mind.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

But there was one rule.

28

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Uninvited ghosts were not welcome.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Twisting hallways, a maze of staircases, and doors to nowhere were designed to confuse evil spirits.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Even though no one lives here anymore, Winchester House is open to tourists if they've got the guts to go in.

31

00:02:52,000 --> 00:03:01,000

Because in this house, they say glimpses of the dead are still a way of life.

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00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:05,000

Shara Smith works at Winchester House.

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:10,000

The first time she was alone here, she wandered into one of the closed off rooms.

34

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

And I let the door close behind me and it felt the air pressure got really heavy in there

35

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

and it felt like the walls were getting closer and I had to get out of that room really quickly.

36

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

Other people claim to have seen lights on in that very same room, but it is not wired for electricity.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:36,000

Unexplained footsteps, creaking boards, and whispering only add to the aura of the mystery of the Winchester House.

38

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:46,000

Sara Winchester was heir to the Winchester Firearms fortune. She built the house for protection.

39

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

William Winchester.

40

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:51,000

William.

41

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:56,000

A spiritual medium in Boston had told Sara that the deaths of her husband and only child

42

00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:01,000

were caused by evil spirits that had been killed by Winchester rifles.

43

00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:06,000

The seers advice? Go west.

44

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:14,000

So Sara moved to California where she decided to turn a simple farmhouse into a mansion for the spirit world.

45

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:21,000

She had been told that here she would be safe from those vengeful spirits, but only if she kept building.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:28,000

So for 38 years, 24 hours a day, construction continued.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:37,000

Today, the house sprawls over six acres of landscaped grounds.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:47,000

It has 160 rooms, 47 fireplaces, 13 bathrooms, 52 skylights, and nearly 10,000 windows.

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Only Sara's death in 1922 brought the building to a halt.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:58,000

In the end, she had spent nearly five and a half million dollars to build her safe house.

51

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:02,000

That's the same as around \$53 million today.

52

00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:09,000

Sara firmly believed that the house had kept her safe from harm.

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00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Could that explain why some say she still walks the halls of Winchester House?

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:22,000

The most mysterious room in the house is the blue room.

55

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:26,000

That's where Sara conducted her private salons.

56

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:30,000

No one ever set foot in the room while Sara was alive.

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:36,000

Some believe it's still a doorway for visitors from another dimension.

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:41,000

Like Jack and John Stewart, they work at the house today.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:47,000

If their claims are true, at least one Winchester employee from the past is still on staff.

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

And I turned around and looked down the hallway and I seen a man standing.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:57,000

And then he disappeared. We went down to see if somebody was in the house.

62

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

And there was nobody there.

63

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:04,000

I never believed in spirits or ghosts or anything.

64

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:11,000

But I do have a belief now that there is something in this house.

65

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Something or someone we may never know.

66

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:29,000

In New Orleans, our hotel guests sharing their rooms with the dead.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:35,000

Next on Truth or Scare.

68

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:42,000

The gaggle will be back on Discovery News.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Sara Winchester built her house specifically for ghosts.

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:53,000

Today, tourists go there practically expecting an encounter with the unexplained.

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00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:59,000

But in one historic American city, visitors experience the spirit world the old fashioned way.

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Unexpectedly.

73

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:10,000

At the southern end of the Mississippi River, you'll find New Orleans, Louisiana.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:14,000

One of the truly unique places in the world.

75

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:21,000

A place where time seems to stand still.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:23,000

Where the past mixes with the present.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:28,000

And according to some, the living with the dead.

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00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:36,000

In the city's French Quarter, a jazz club called Maxwell's is said to be haunted by its violent past.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:44,000

Some say entering the club might just bring you face to face with a very deceased doorman.

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00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:48,000

A casualty from the bad old days of Mafia Rule.

81

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

It was late at night and I was cleaning up and everything.

82

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:58,000

And something caught my eye and I look up here to the balcony.

83

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:02,000

And for about two seconds, there was a sky state in there.

84

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:06,000

It just looked Italian and his hair slicked straight back.

85

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

It looked like kind of like a tuxedo or some kind of evening wear on.

86

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:14,000

And he was just looking at me and like smiling and then he was gone.

87

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:22,000

In another part of town is the southern night's bed and breakfast.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:28,000

Here they haven't seen any ghosts, but they're convinced they've got some uninvited guests.

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:32,000

There was such strange things that went on when I first bought the house.

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00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:36,000

I would hear sounds and whispers and voices.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:40,000

My housekeeper, my son would come to me and say, did you call me and I hadn't.

92

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:46,000

When we first moved in here, that's when I first started to notice the first strange occurrences.

93

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

A few times when I walked in different rooms, the hair would stand up on the back of my neck.

94

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:52,000

As if someone was in the room with me and a light would turn on.

95

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Alarm clocks that would set off when I had made sure that all the alarm clock might disconnected.

96

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Doors locked themselves.

97

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

All these strange occurrences convinced Judy to call hauntings today.

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

A paranormal investigation company run by parapsychologist Larry Mons.

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:22,000

We conduct scientific investigations of phenomena and try to determine using scientific methods what's going on.

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00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Larry sent one of his staff to check out Judy's house.

101

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:30,000

I said, why don't you go around and look at everything and check out all the rooms.

102

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

So when she came back, she said, do you know you have an entity in the house?

103

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Paranormal investigations are not widely accepted, but Larry Mons thinks his organization is different.

104

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Our particular organization is a little unique in the fact that we use a combination of scientists as well as psychic investigators.

105

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:58,000

We have conducted numerous investigations in haunted hotels, just like the Bourbon Orleans Hotel here in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

106

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:07,000

This building was once home to St. Mary's Academy, St. John's Orphanage, and the world famous Orleans Ballroom.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Hauntings today will be assessing what they believe are signs of paranormal activity.

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:18,000

There have been people walking by this particular guest room suite and have heard a little girl crying.

109

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:25,000

Hotel managers proceed to go up there, knock on the door, no answer, walk in, no one's there.

110

00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Actually, I've even had guests come to the front desk and tell me that in the middle of the night they were woken and heard the water running and got up and actually saw the water running,

111

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:40,000

turned it off, got back in the bed and have it happen two and three times still at night.

112

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,000

The investigation started in the lobby.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Once the team entered, it was only a matter of seconds before the psychic said she felt a strange energy.

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00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:52,000

Shannon, you getting anything?

115

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:57,000

I'm getting energy suppression up here and mostly from the front desk.

116

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Okay, go ahead.

117

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:02,000

The energy pulls them out of the lobby and up to the hotel's grand ballroom.

118

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

According to Larry, the room is full of strange electromagnetic energy readings and cold spots, which he says are very common in a haunted house.

119

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:20,000

We also experienced some poltergeist activity with one of the chandeliers that actually started to move.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:21,000

Hold on, hold on.

121

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:22,000

Did you feel that?

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:24,000

Let's get a temperature reading.

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:31,000

But the most chilling image the investigators say they saw was eerily similar to one reported by a hotel maid.

124

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:40,000

They give you a list of vacant and rooms that you need to turn down.

125

00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:47,000

When you close the curtains at night, you look across the courtyard and I saw none sitting in a window in a vacant room crying.

126

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:54,000

At first we had gotten kind of an impression or a psychic impression of a person standing all the way at the end of the hallway.

127

00:11:54,000 --> 00:12:02,000

And as we approached it, this none appeared and she turned quickly and moved through one of the doors of the room.

128

00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:05,000

And as we entered the room, of course, she disappeared.

129

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

200 years after his death, does Abraham Lincoln still live at the White House?

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

Next on Truth or Scare.

131

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:27,000

New Orleans may be wilder, but the city of Washington, DC is just as fascinating.

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00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:34,000

As the seat of power for the United States government, everywhere you go, the nation's history surrounds you.

133

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:39,000

And some say the ghosts of historical figures might also be surrounding you.

134

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Claims of hauntings in Washington draw plenty of attention.

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Historians say that the city of Washington is the most important city in the world.

136

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:59,000

Historian Stephen Lee Carson knows why.

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00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:09,000

One of the reasons Washington is so fascinating as a haunted city is not only because of all the power that's been involved, past and present and the forces, if you will,

138

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

but also the people who have verified these sightings.

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

Congressman, senators, even presidents and first ladies have claimed they've seen ghosts.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:27,000

When Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands was visiting President Franklin Roosevelt, she stayed in the Lincoln bedroom.

141

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Late at night, there was knocking at the door.

142

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:33,000

The door opened.

143

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:38,000

And there, she said, was Abraham Lincoln.

144

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:48,000

Just down the street from the White House, you'll find the Octagon House, which was built back in the 1700s.

145

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:52,000

It's a national historic landmark now.

146

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:59,000

And according to Errol Platzer, the director of the house, there have been so many bizarre occurrences and unexplained phenomena here.

147

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:02,000

There's only one way to keep track of them.

148

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:10,000

We have a ghost file, as we call it, and we keep all the documentation that we can find on any ghost stories that have been told.

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00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:15,000

During the War of 1812, the Octagon was used as a temporary White House.

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00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Today, some visitors have reported seeing images of first lady, Dolly Madison.

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Some even claim to have smelled her famous lilac perfume.

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00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Others say they've heard strange ghostly sounds coming from inside a wall.

153

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:39,000

And many claim they have witnessed the sudden, unexplained swinging of the chandelier over the staircase.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Not far away at the United States Capitol building,

155

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:48,000

people say that the most haunted room here is Statuary Hall.

156

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:57,000

It was once the chamber of the House of Representatives, and visitors have sworn they heard John Quincy Adams in the middle of a passionate debate.

157

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Some former security guards make a more shocking claim that late one night, the statues came to life and started dancing around the room.

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00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:14,000

These stories are definitely scary. Could they actually be true?

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:20,000

At the Center for Inquiry, ghost stories are just that. Stories.

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00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:27,000

As skeptics, they're in the business of looking for impartial scientific explanations of paranormal claims.

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00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:35,000

Joe Nickel is one of the center's investigators. It's his job to travel the country to check out places that are said to be haunted.

162

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Obviously we can't parachute into Peoria every time Mrs. Smith thinks she is a ghost, or every time someone sees a flying saucer somewhere.

163

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:51,000

But we do try to hit the bigger cases, and we do investigate paranormal claims.

164

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Joe Nickel investigates the appearance of a little girl at a hotel with a dark history. Is this mystery all in the mind?

165

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Next on Truth or Scare.

166

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:24,000

When people claim that a house is haunted, the stories are always fascinating. What if they're more than just stories?

167

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:34,000

Investigators of haunted houses use many methods to explain the inexplicable, and sometimes they find very different answers.

168

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:51,000

That's exactly what happened here at Brookdale Lodge. Just south of San Francisco, Brookdale was once the place to be seen if you were rich and famous.

169

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Movie stars and other celebrities came here all the time, dining and dancing the night away in the Brook Room.

170

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:06,000

But the Lodge has also been the scene of tragedy. A fire, flood and a young girl's drowning will never be forgotten.

171

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

Maybe that's why hotel employees like Jennifer Soto and Elan Gilboa are convinced Brookdale is haunted.

172

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Elan and I were cleaning up, getting ready to go, and I had heard some faint music, and I stopped and I said, Elan, do you hear that?

173

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:24,000

And he said, yeah, I do.

174

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:31,000

It was a mixture of people talking in the background and music, old time music.

175

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Jennifer and Elan figured that some people had probably broken in for a little late night party.

176

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:43,000

So we got the keys and we were going to go in there and kick everybody out, and we opened up the doors and everything just seized. Nothing.

177

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:47,000

The room was totally empty.

178

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:50,000

It was scary a little bit.

179

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:55,000

There were other incidents just as startling. Another haunting had been reported.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Guests and employees claimed they'd seen a mother and her young daughter in the Brook Room.

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Are they grim reminders of an unknown earlier tragedy?

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00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Joan Nickel, the investigator from the Center for Inquiry, has been called in by the owners of Brookdale to try and find an explanation.

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00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:22,000

I think the first thing that one tries to do with the haunted house is to gather data and see whether there is evidence, first of all, for some kind of hoax.

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00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Brookdale struck me right away as not having the characteristics of overt hoaxing or prankery.

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00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:35,000

As a skeptic, Joe searches for plausible explanations for odd phenomena.

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00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:42,000

Once a hoax or prank is ruled out, he looks for clues that something normal is being misperceived as paranormal.

187

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:54,000

While Joe leads the skeptical investigation, the team of parapsychologists Lloyd Auerbach and professional psychic Annette Martian have also been called in.

188

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:57,000

They're investigating the haunting from a believer's perspective.

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00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:05,000

In the field of parapsychology, we look at interactions of the human mind, living or dead, if you want to look at it that way, with other minds, with the environment.

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00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Lloyd uses a magnetometer to measure magnetic fields in the area.

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00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:17,000

Annette Martian is psychically searching for the same magnetic fields.

192

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:25,000

Everyone has electromagnetic field around their body, and I have the capability of being able to read that.

193

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Right away, Annette claims she picked up a reading. It was of a young girl.

194

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:41,000

And I asked her her name, and she was very shy and very demure and didn't want to give me her name,

but she said that she liked to be called Katie.

195

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:52,000

Is this proof that Brookdale Lodge has guests that never check out? When both investigations were complete, the conclusion was yes and no.

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00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:59,000

There's something out of the ordinary going on here in people's experience and in the environment based on our readings and based on what the people have picked up.

197

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:03,000

And this is warranting a second visit for sure.

198

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:19,000

I have not seen anything that seems to mean evidence of haunting or supernatural activity here, but I have seen a correlation between the people who don't believe in ghosts here,

199

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:26,000

who therefore have never seen one, and those who do believe, who do experience ghosts.

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00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:37,000

Are skeptics like Joe Nickel right? Do ghosts have to be believed in to be seen, or is the truth something else entirely?

201

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:50,000

We may never know for sure if haunted houses are real. The skeptics think that ghosts and hauntings are just ways for believers to explain the unknown.

202

00:20:50,000 --> 00:21:03,000

But for most people, the truth is a total mystery. One day, science may find an explanation and will know for sure. Or maybe, or better off, not knowing.

203

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:12,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.

204

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:17,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.

205

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:22,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.

206

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:27,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.

207

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:32,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.

208

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

The truth is that the truth is not a lie.