

Deeps and Shallows



Haunted House

I had just arrived in answer to a telegram, and finding the door open I walked in. I was met by a series of ear-splitting squeaks and squeals followed by a groan and then silence. It was weird, wild and unaccountable. A whisper reached me:

"That's it!"

A frightened young woman with pale green complexion and terrified eyes, Kathryn put her cold, clammy hands in mine and went on, tremulously:

"It began last Saturday and every so often it comes back. I couldn't stand it alone any longer. I'm so glad you're here."

I tried to look and act brave. "Tell me all about it." I drew her to the davenport.

"Maybe it would have been better for us to build nearer town," she began. "So many people told us we would be sorry—"

"Yes," I interrupted, "I know. And Bob fixed things so that when improvements came along he would only have to make the connections. But tell me about this IT. How often does IT come—and what do you think IT is?"

Kathryn was beginning to look more like herself.

"It came the first time last Saturday morning. In fact, it came twice—and twice that night, twice Sunday morning and twice Sunday night. Monday it didn't come at all, nor Tuesday. Wednesday it came twice in the morning and twice at night. You heard it just now."

"You say it always comes twice," I remarked. "Where from?"

"Martha, how can you sit there and ask that? You heard it yourself. It just—comes and goes—"

As if to illustrate, the eerie sounds again filled the air, only softer, if they could be so described.

They lasted half a minute. Kathryn's color had again become pea green, but in a relieved voice she said, "Now it won't come again until tomorrow. Martha, you'll have to do something to keep it away. That's why I sent for you."

So it behooved me to take the place of Bob, who was on an ocean liner on his way to Honolulu on business.

"Get your hat and coat, Kathryn," I said. "Let's go for a walk. You need sunshine."

We heard no disturbing sound again until Saturday. Then we were given a sample in the morning and another shortly after midnight. Even after the demonstration upon my arrival I was in no way prepared. Was it Spooky! But happily it didn't last long.

I suggested calling in the architect to see what he could tell us, but Kathryn objected strenuously to revealing that the house was HAUNTED. It was a three story brick structure. Kathryn occupied the second floor, and the first was rented to the Russel family and the third to the Grants—both good tenants that Kathryn didn't want to lose.

We called on both the Russels and the Grants, managing to bring the subject of ghosts into the conversation. We asked point blank if they ever heard queer noises. Nobody had.

Finally I persuaded Kathryn to ask in some of Bob's men friends. They came, promising not to divulge the ghostly secret, and sat for hours. But the ghost refused to perform, and after a couple of visits they stayed away, deciding, undoubtedly, that they were dealing with a couple of young lunatics.

Our mystery remained unsolved. Days and nights would go by with nothing happening to disturb our peaceful quiet. Then would come several spells in one day, shaking our nerves. I almost began to believe in ghosts myself.

Kathryn insisted the house was haunted. I argued that a haunted house had a ghost meandering around—and ghosts were not noisy. They didn't come squeaking and squealing and raising such an awful rumpus. They were made of mistlike material and came floating on the air and disappeared through closed doors. Kathryn would respond: "Martha, have you ever seen a ghost?" I would have to say, "No," and she would come back with: "Then you don't know what you're talking about!"

I was nearing my wits' end, living in constant dread of the noisy visitor, when Mrs. Russel invited us to a birthday party. We had a previous engagement, but wishing the Russels to feel we appreciated their invitation, Kathryn baked a batch of her famous cookies for a birthday gift. I took them down while she combed out her pin curls and got ready for our date.

Mrs. Russel was pleased with the gift. In order to show off the party decorations she had to turn on the lamps. She had to pull hard to get the chandelier, suspended from the ceiling, low enough to reach. At the first pull I knew we had our ghost. The sound I heard was much fainter, but identical.

I ran to get Kathryn. Never were stairs so hard to climb nor feet so awkward. I stumbled twice and reached the top, fairly exploding with good news, only to find Kathryn on the floor unconscious.

Never did anyone receive such treatment as I gave Kathryn. I grabbed her feet, pumped them up and down and yelled at the top of my voice that I had found the ghost. She revived in a hurry, and helping her up stairs, I made the astonished Mrs. Russel pull and push the chandelier. I made Kathryn do it, and I did it.

Just as we were breathing evenly again, Mr. Russel came home. After several demonstrations, he said: "I think I can explain. Since there are five lamps in the chandelier instead of the usual four, I had to use an extra large hook, and most likely I screwed it into the second floor gas pipe. He continued:

"I'm sorry you've been inconvenienced. I'm tall enough to reach the lamps tonight without moving the chandelier, so I promise you, you won't be disturbed."

We had the pleasure, next evening of seeing Mr. Russel lace a piece of leather around the pulley wheel in which the links of the chain were embedded as they carried the chandelier up and down. That silenced our mysterious and noisy GHOST.

—A.C.O.

Ladies, Flower Lovers, Attention

Do you know the thrill of being able to make artistic and effective flower arrangements in your home? When hubby brings that "gorgeous box" full of your favorites for your anniversary, do they look the part or are they just a "bunch of flowers" after you put them in water? When you are entertaining do the floral arrangements you have created express your personality and enhance the color schemes of your rooms or do they stand meaningless and stiff on parade, bartering their expensive loveliness for only a careless glance from your guests?

Mrs. Maurice Hirsch, who is a recognized authority on floral arrangements, is going to have a class to teach you how to make the most of flowers. From her years of study and experience with the Garden Club School for flower judging, Mrs. Hirsch brings a wealth of ideas and information in this fascinating hobby study. For you who have gardens of your own, who know the joy of picking flowers in summer to beautify your homes, this course is really tops.

First two of the five lessons Mrs. Hirsch is giving, will be the mechanics and background of floral arrangement, the three remaining will be practice workshops. Incidentally it's a wonderfully relaxing hobby and number 1 antidote for November blues.

The course starts Thursday, November 11, classes are from 1 to 3 p.m. and run for five weeks. Call in your registration to the Highland Park "Y", Highland Park, 675.

Deerfield Women To Discuss Community Recreation

The October 26th meeting of the Deerfield Woman's Club will be held at 8:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Deerfield Grammar School, with Mrs. James A. Collins, chairman of the Recreation Department, in charge. At this time there will be a Panel Discussion by Teen-agers and Adults on Community Recreation, with Mr. Wm. E. Sheehan as Moderator. There will be work of the teen-agers on display. Mrs. Merritt H. Barnum will be hostess for

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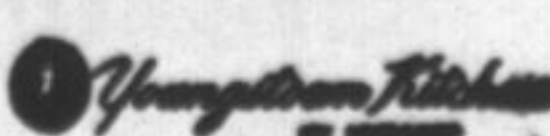
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the evening. Mrs. Paul Pagett is president of the club.

Mrs. Robert Greenslade is in charge of the bazaar to be held Oct. 28, 29 and 30 at 760 Waukegan Rd. Her phone No. is 470. Mrs. Clarence Anderson is to assist her.

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The all-new 1949 Nash introduces twin convertible beds. Shown here in a special cutaway model, with center post and two doors removed, is one bed made-up. This unique arrangement provides comfort for rest of children and others on all-day trips, or for relaxation of an alternate driver. Both beds can be used for overnight

sleeping. They are made up with the same ease as beds at home.

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