



The Haunted House

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The boy went to the haunted house. He was alone.



It was dark. Some chains rattled. Someone coughed. Someone lit a cigarette. He brushed against a cobweb. A ghost ran by. The floorboards creaked. He saw the hands on a grandfather clock spin backwards. Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock.



A mad butcher in a ketchup-spattered apron raised a cleaver over his head. Someone laughed. A dog barked. He saw someone wearing a mask made of branches. Someone spit on the floor. He put his hand in a bowl of eyeballs. He put his hand in a bowl of brains. He put his hand in a bowl of muscles. He smelled gasoline. The darkness pressed on his eyes like a blindfold.

He went into a tunnel.





He heard a witch's cackle over a loudspeaker.
Someone cut his hand off with a circular saw. He
was strung up on a cross. Lightning flashed over
his head. Someone forced worms into his mouth.
An evil clown jumped up from a compartment
under the floor. Someone screamed and then
laughed.



Someone knocked on the door. It was Dracula.
Dracula's pupils looked like dinner plates.

There was a loud grinding noise. His vision went blurry.





He remembered a time, many years ago, when he had been taking a shortcut through a small wooded area near his house and came upon a woman lying under a pile of large stones. The woman's arms and legs were sticking out from under the stones, but not her head. Her limbs were very pale, and looked lumpy in a way that reminded him of the hospital. There were trickles of yellow pus oozing out from under her fingernails. The woman beckoned for him to come closer, so he got down on his hands and knees and crawled very close. The woman whispered a question in his ear and then was swallowed by the damp, dark earth.



He was standing on a mound of dirt. Vapor billowed from a fog machine. Someone had taken his clothes and smeared his genitals with charcoal. He made a hole in his chest and pulled out his heart. Everyone clapped.

Someone lifted a curtain and revealed the way
out. The boy tried to go back home but it wasn't
there anymore.



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