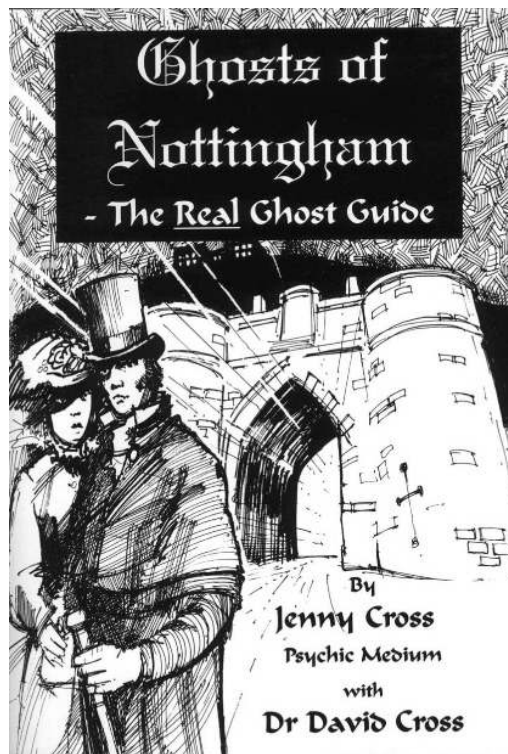


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# GHOSTS OF NOTTINGHAM

## - The Real Ghost Guide



by

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with

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# GHOSTS OF NOTTINGHAM - The Real Ghost Guide

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## FEAR IN THE DARK

Susan was terrified. It was dark, about one o'clock in the morning and something had woken her up. Sitting up in bed to look around, she saw a black, threatening shape taking form near the foot of the bed. She knew it was looking at her. She began to be aware of a feeling of weight pressing down on her, pinning her, like a blanket of lead. The apparition began to advance up the bed towards her and her fear finally broke through. She screamed loudly and threw the covers over her head.

Her scream woke up her mother in the next room, who came rushing in. "What's the matter, is it that dark shape again?" her mother asked. Susan was 19 years old, beginning to make her own way in the world, enjoying her new career. The last thing she would have wanted her friends to know was that she was sobbing on her mother's shoulder at one o'clock in the morning after a 'bad dream'. This however had been no dream and Susan was more than pleased of the comfort. And not for the first time, as the dark shape had disturbed her sleep on several occasions over the past few weeks.

Her mother had decided after this last occurrence that something must be done. Her daughter was a normal, lively teenager, full of life, but these strange occurrences were beginning to take their toll. But what could she do? They were the owners of the house, a normal, modern property in a pleasant residential area of Nottingham, so had no recourse to the local Council. Not being particularly religious, Susan's mother was not immediately drawn to calling in a priest for advice. They had lived in the house quite peacefully for many years before the trouble began. Who was likely to listen to them?

Some time before, she had been to see Jenny for a 'reading'. She knew that Jenny was also a medium, and although not entirely sure what a medium was, she did know they had something to do with 'spirits'. She felt that, at least, she could trust Jenny to take the story seriously, so she phoned her for help.

We both visited the house a few days later and after briefly showing us round, Susan gave us her account of the phenomena. The house was well kept and tidy and we found Susan's bedroom much as you might expect to find any room belonging to someone her age. Dark midnight shapes seemed a long way from the cuddly clowns and pictures of pop idols that decorated the room. Susan and her mother remained cautiously downstairs while we went back up to the bedroom and shut the door.

Jenny closed her eyes, took a deep breath and began to psychically 'tune-in'. As usual in these circumstances, Jenny asked whoever was causing the disturbances to come to her, while David 'stood guard' as a back-up. She did not have to wait long.

"It is an elderly lady" said Jenny. "Very determined, strong-minded. She is here now." Jenny communicated with the lady psychically and asked why she was troubling the residents. The lady, it seemed, was most upset with Susan and her mother.

She told Jenny that the family had owned some furniture that had originally belonged to her, many decades before. She spoke about a piano and a stool, a matching pair, which had been specially made for her. For many years both had stood in the house, but now something had happened. She told Jenny that the family had recently sold the piano but *not* the stool and she was most upset that the pair had been separated. She described the stool as very ornate with carving on the legs and that it was here in this room. Jenny had been relaying this information to David like an interpreter, as not being a medium, he was unable to hear the lady directly. At his point Jenny opened her eyes and looked around. Against the wall, at the side of the bed, was a rectangular wooden stool with carved legs.

The lady said she very much wished for the piano and stool to be reunited. As she had been unable to make her wishes felt to the family in a direct, clear way, she had taken to making her presence (and displeasure) felt to Susan as best she could. This she had certainly achieved, although of course she could not make her message clear and this was frustrating her even more. Her impatience had been intensifying, as therefore had been the feeling of 'malevolence' which Susan had been experiencing. We discussed the situation briefly between ourselves, Jenny saying to David: "I do not know if it is possible to get the stool back together with the piano, but I will tell the lady to move on anyway to where she is supposed to be". David agreed and added: "But she really ought to understand that the furniture is no longer hers and that she must let it go. She should not be involving herself in such things at all".

The words had no sooner left David's lips than the atmosphere in the room became incredibly tense, the way it would if two people were just about to begin a murderous fight. "She didn't like that much, did she!" David exclaimed. "Not much" confirmed Jenny, whose eyes were closed again as she conversed with the lady. It was obvious that when alive, this lady had been more used to giving orders than receiving them, and many would have felt the sharpness of her tongue and the strength of her will. Some time passed before eventually Jenny gave a sigh and the atmosphere became more peaceful. "I promised we would pass on her wishes to the owners" Jenny said, "but that we could not guarantee the outcome. She eventually agreed, very reluctantly, to leave the house and move on to her proper level. I had to be extremely firm with her, she did not want to let go of her earthly possessions."

We went back downstairs to talk to Susan and her mother. We had been told a rather strange story by the ghostly lady and although there certainly was a stool in the room such as she had described, we had no other verification of what she had said.

Explaining to Susan and her mother only that we felt there had been a presence, which had now moved on, we asked casually about the stool we had noticed in the bedroom. They told us that up until recently the stool had been in the downstairs dining room, next to the piano with which they had bought it about 10 years before, when Susan was beginning to learn music. It was an old but high quality instrument which they thought had probably had many other owners before them. As Susan was now working or out with friends most of the time, she had rarely used the piano in recent years. It was a large object which had occupied most of the dining area, so the family had decided to sell it about six weeks previously to make more room. Susan had however been fond of the stool and had decided to keep it, moving it into her bedroom. Although they had

not connected the two incidents, they reported that the hauntings had started at about the same time as they had sold the piano.

We then explained to them what the 'lady' had told Jenny about her reason for haunting, which now seemed verified. Susan told us they had sold the piano to friends, so they knew where it was and could easily give them the stool as well. We explained that the ghost had moved on and that there was no reason to get rid of the stool if they did not wish to. They quickly decided however to 'hedge their bets' and reunite the piano and stool, in order to make quite sure that the lady would not continue her haunting. This they did shortly afterwards and experienced no further problems.

This story highlights some points which are common to many hauntings and often become grossly misinterpreted. A menacing black shape at the foot of your bed, a feeling of being held down, smothered, terror - this is the stuff of horror movies. Such things suggest connections with terrible evil, demons from another dimension, horrible entities out to get you. While we would not suggest that such things have never occurred in the history of mankind, the truth in the majority of situations seems to be far more mundane, and while alarming, quite benign. In this case, it was an old lady, concerned about the fate of her furniture. Hardly a case for "The Exorcist"!

*(Note: most of the hauntings we have investigated in private houses are of course kept confidential. The people concerned with the above story gave us their permission to use it, for which we are grateful).*

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