

The Man on the Stairs



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My mum used to work at an elderly care home in England called Springfield House.

One night, she was caring for an old lady called Florence, but everyone called her Flori. She was ninety-seven years old. When my mum went into Flori's room to check on her, she found Flori wide eyed and looking around in disbelief. 'You'd better get that gentleman out of my room' she whispered loud enough that the next floor could probably hear. 'He's walking through my room and up the staircase over there in the corner. He's a smart young man, wearing a top hat and suit.' said Flori and pointed. Mum looked around and saw no staircase. 'Do you think it was a vivid dream?' my Mum asked softly and quietly, 'Try to go back to sleep.'

The next morning, Mum asked my grandma – the owner of the care home – if she knew anything about a staircase in the corner

of Flori's room. Grandma looked puzzled and they both climbed the stairs to the attic that used to be the servant's bedroom, but was now Grandma's office. The first blueprints of Springfield House were from Georgian times, which were rolled up in the back of an empty unused wardrobe. They were at least one hundred and fifty years old. Grandma got them out and blew gently to get the dust off, Mum and Grandma searched the blueprints for Flori's room. Grandma's finger rested on the room and she squinted down at the old parchment before her, open mouthed because there, in the corner of the room, was an old servants staircase that had been removed many decades ago, before Grandma had even bought Springfield House. People do say that only children and elderly people are capable of seeing abnormal sights, including ghosts and ghostly structures as long as they believe, anyone can, and Flori certainly did, because she saw...

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