

The Monster of the Dark

by Bryan Rivera

It was a dark and stormy night in California, Los Angeles, 1993. A 23-year-old man named James Houston was walking on the sidewalk that night when he heard a loud crash coming from a dark alleyway. "Who's there," James said as he investigated. As he got closer he could see a figure in the shadows. "Are you ok? I heard a loud bang." The figure did not respond. "I said, are you okay?" Once again, the figure did not respond. James got closer to the figure and when he did, he realized that this figure was not human. It was just a shadowy figure with eyes that looked like the darkest part of the Underworld. The creature had long arms and long legs. It had rows of teeth and was taller than 3 humans combined. "What are you?" James asked. The creature looked blankly into James's eyes and responded, "Death."

"What time is it?" I looked at the clock and realized I was late for work. I got up so quickly out of bed I felt dizzy. I went to the kitchen to see what I could eat but I also saw some raisins and a box of Cheerios cereal. I got a bowl and got some milk and I ate as quickly as possible. As I ate I listened to the radio saying, *"It has been a week since a 23-year-old man named James Houston mysteriously went missing on April 10, 1993. Nobody knows how James went missing, but police are trying their best to try and solve this mystery."* "I hope they find him," I said. After I finished my cereal, I got my keys, my jacket, my lunch, and I went to my car. For some reason, there was so much traffic on the way to work but I got there just in time. I work as a detective for the Los Angeles Police Department and let me tell you, it is not a fun job.

As I entered the building I heard my partner call my name. "Howard Groff, can you help me take these boxes into my office?." For some reason, Jack has a habit of calling people by their full name, but it doesn't bother me. I didn't feel like helping because I was way too tired, but if I didn't then he wouldn't leave me alone. "I'm coming Jack," I yelled. Jack has been my partner for the past 4 years and we're a pretty good duo. As we got the final boxes into Jack's office I thought to myself, *"Those boxes are way heavier than they look "*. Jack looked at me as if he could read minds and said, "I'm going to go get us both a cup of coffee because I know you're tired." When I was alone in the room I thought I could take a look at the boxes and see what was inside. As I looked into one of the boxes, I saw nothing inside except a golden wristwatch. I wavered back and forth on whether or not I should take the watch, so I did what anyone else would do and put it on my wrist. I know that stealing is wrong but when it's a golden watch, there really is no debating. Especially when you are in your 30's and everything classic is valuable. After a few minutes, Jack came back with the coffee, but the Chief of the police was also there. "You two have a new partner," he said. "Her name is Vanessa and she is very smart. Perhaps

she could help you solve some mysteries.” I didn’t know how to feel about having a new partner but I didn’t get too excited because the chief said, “You three will need to solve a mystery halfway across town. There is a family that claims that their house may be haunted by a ghost. Their lights keep turning off and on, doors closing by themselves, and strange noises at night. I need you three to solve this mystery and get rid of the ghost.” “You can count on us Chief,” said Vanessa. “I guess we better prepare ourselves for this adventure.”

We decided to ride in Jack’s car because it was the fastest and mine was low on gas. It was 4 a.m. and I was really tired. I wasn’t sure if Jack would stay awake the whole ride. But, I remembered that he had coffee earlier so he should be fine. After about thirty minutes of driving, I finally fell asleep. Everything was pitch black and I felt like my eyes were being covered. There was a deep voice talking to me. *“The gold calls me,”* said the voice. *“Return the gold to me and you shall not suffer. You have no idea who I am.”* This made me extremely scared and made me wake up. “Are you ok?” Vanessa asked. “You seemed like you were having quite a nightmare.” I wanted to tell her what happened, but I kept it to myself and stayed silent. As I was about to fall asleep again I heard Jack’s voice. “We’re here!” I immediately remembered why we went on this long car drive. I got my ghost detector, which I think beeps when a ghost is near, and I got my flashlight.

The three of us could tell that we were all nervous but this was our job. The house was massive and seemed like it belonged to a wealthy family. Then, the family came bursting out of the doors. It was a family of three, the dad, the mom, and their son. They all looked petrified as if they’d seen the most terrifying thing in their entire lives. “I’ll keep them safe, you to go investigate,” said Jack. I could tell that Jack was too scared to go in but the family did have to be safe so I let this one slide. As Vanessa and I opened the door, we felt a cold breeze all over our bodies. The lights seemed to be working fine but we both went inside with a frightened look on our faces. As we entered the house, the door shut behind us. It was only me, Vanessa, and the ghost in the house. We ventured further into the house and found nothing. “Is the ghost detector beeping?” Vanessa asked. “It hasn’t made a noise,” I replied. We thought that nothing was wrong and we were about to leave through the front door but it was locked. “This can’t be right. This is the way we came through.” I said. “We have to find the ghost and put an end to all of this.” We walked three steps away from the door when the lights went dark. “Vanessa? Vanessa?” There was no response. “Vanessa!” Still no response.

Then, a candle lit up the room, and I could tell that Vanessa wasn’t with me anymore. To make things worse, the ghost detector started beeping like crazy and was about to break. I felt a shiver down my spine as if a ghost was close to me. I started sweating and felt like running toward the door, but I knew that it wasn’t going to work. I was afraid to look behind me. Then I hear a deep creepy voice. *“You shouldn’t be here. I won’t let you escape alive.” You have interrupted a spirit, do you know how disrespectful that is?”* “I don’t mean to disrespect you,” I said. “If you want I will leave and we can pretend that this never happened.” *“Oh my, you humans are always so ignorant. Do you think it’s that easy? You have something that belongs to*

me. Give me it and I might let you live." The voice said calmly. "I have no idea what you're talking about. I haven't stolen anything from you." I felt a shiver down my spine as if I had said the wrong thing. "*Fine. If you won't give it to me, I'll take it myself,*" said the voice angrily. The candle blew out. I was in darkness with this thing alone, scared, and not sure how I could do this. Then I heard the creature moving around, in the same room I was. "*You think you know what I am?*" said the creature. I heard the creature getting closer to me. Then, I turned on my flashlight and the noises stopped. I turned the flashlight off, and the noises came back. "*This thing doesn't like light,*" I thought. "*I know how I can get an advantage.*" I kept my flashlight off until I heard the noises really close to me. I felt it breathing, a cold, soulless breath. After I turned my flashlight on, my breathing stopped. It was just frozen, in front of me. It was horrifying. A dark, soulless creature, two feet in front of me. It had teeth of a shark, eyes of Death himself, and long arms and legs. To make things even worse, my flashlight ran out of battery.

It was dark again. The candle was back, this time in a shade of red. I heard the voice again. "*Don't you see? Humans don't deserve to live. I have suffered for centuries and I'm going to change that. Humans will have to suffer and I will be free from this soulless body. Give me the gold and you can escape. I know you have it.*" I was going to deny having it again but then realized what he was talking about. It was the golden wristwatch I had stolen from the box at the Los Angeles Police Department. I could've given the creature the watch, but instead, I shut my eyes, threw it on the floor, and crushed it. I felt like I had done something I shouldn't have, but when I opened my eyes, I noticed that the lights were on. Everything was normal and I didn't feel cold. I saw Vanessa again and she looked confused. "What just happened? I think I passed out right there." I felt relieved to see an actual human. Then I remembered, the family is outside with Jack. "Vanessa, we have to go check on the family," I said. Vanessa and I sprinted as fast as we could out the door expecting to see the family come to thank us for getting rid of the ghost, but I didn't expect what happened. The sky was pitch black, the grass and trees were dead. I couldn't see the family. I only saw Jack standing in the dark, with a creepy smile on his face.