

The Haunted House

A horror story in 8 parts

by

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Chapter 1 Three Friends

Three friends were talking during the school break. Chong Mek, Swee Lim and Soon Lee were feeling bored. All of them were in Year 9 in secondary school and did not enjoy school very much.

'I'm bored,' said Swee Lim. 'I really don't want to be here!'

'Me too,' said Chong Mek. 'What shall we do?'

The three friends didn't speak for a few moments. Then Swee Lim had an idea.

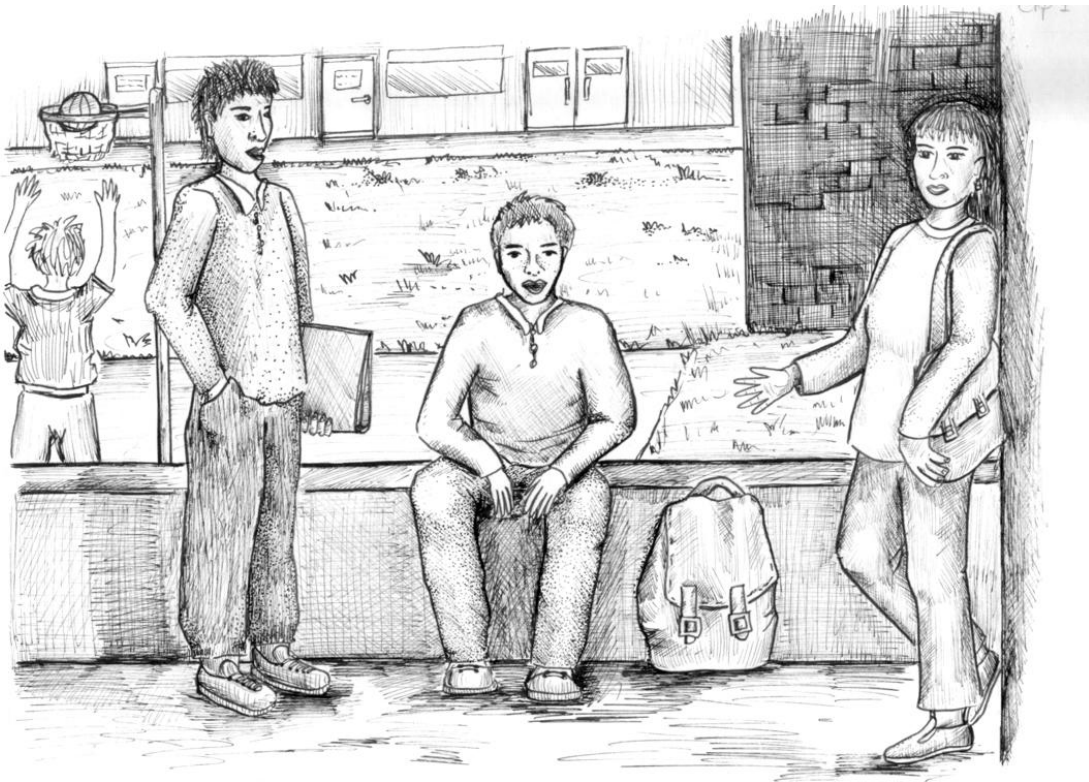
'I know what we can do,' she said. 'Let's escape from school.'

'What? Now?' asked Soon Lee.

'Yes, why not?' replied Swee Lim. 'Let's do something exciting!'

'What, for example?' asked Soon Lee.

'I don't know,' answered Swee Lim, 'but anything is better than Maths next lesson.'



'I've got an idea,' said Chong Mek. 'Last night I heard my parents talking. They were talking about an old house not far from where I live. It's an old house and nobody lives there anymore. People say it's haunted.'

'What do you mean? There's a ghost there?' asked Swee Lim.

'That's what people say,' replied Chong Mek.

'That sounds exciting!' said Soon Lee.

'Sounds stupid!' said Swee Lim. 'You don't believe in ghosts, do you?'

'I don't know,' answered Chong Mek. 'But maybe we could take a look.'

'Yes, let's do that,' said Soon Lee. 'Anything's better than Maths!'

And so the three friends decided to escape from school and go to the old, haunted house. I'm sure they had no idea of the adventure which was waiting for them there!

Chapter 2 The Haunted House

The old house was about two kilometres from school. It took almost thirty minutes to walk there. They were very careful that Mr Koh, the school Principal, didn't see them escaping from school.

'When they reached the old house, the three friends stopped in front of the house. It was quite large but it needed some repairs: the roof needed mending, the walls needed painting and the windows needed cleaning. As they looked at the house, Soon Lee thought he saw someone looking out of the window at the top of the house.



'It looks quite frightening to me. Are you sure no one lives there?' said Soon Lee.

'I told you, it's empty,' said Chong Mek.

'Are you sure you want to go in there?' asked Soon Lee.

'Of course,' said Swee Lim. 'That's why we've come here, isn't it?'

'I'm sure it's not really haunted,' said Chong Mek. 'Let's go inside. You can stay here if you're afraid,' he said to Soon Lee.

'Wh..wh..what? Me afraid? Never!' said Soon Lee, and he followed his friends through the gate and walked to the front door.

'What now?' asked Chong Mek, as the three friends waited in front of the main door.

'Let's go inside!' said Swee Lim.

'OK,' said Chong Mek, and he pushed the big, heavy door open.

Slowly the door opened. They looked inside. It was dark and there was a strange smell.

'Pooh! What a terrible smell!' said Soon Lee.

'That's because no one has lived here for a long time,' said Chong Mek.

'Let's go inside,' said Swee Lim.

So, one by one, the three friends went into the house: first Swee Lim, then Chong Mek and finally Soon Lee.

As they entered the house the door slowly closed behind them. They didn't see the shadow behind them but they did hear the door as it closed with a loud 'BANG'.

Chapter 3 The Shadow

'What was that?' shouted Soon Lee.

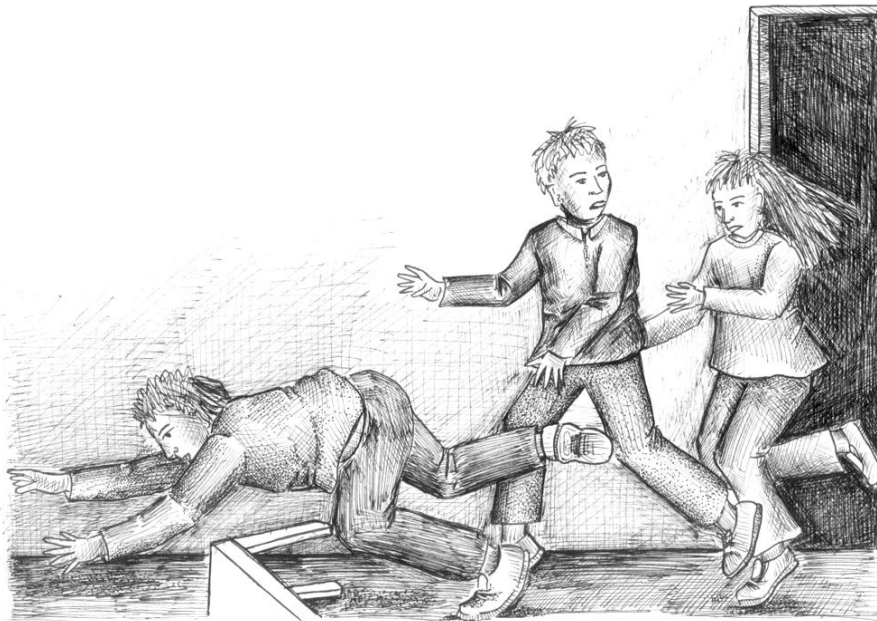
'I don't know!' replied Chong Mek. You could hear the fear in his voice. Even he was starting to feel a little afraid.

'Oh, it's nothing to be afraid of,' said Swee Lim. 'I'm sure it was only the wind.'

She walked into the darkness, not really sure where she was going. She walked slowly, step by step. Her friends followed her. Then they saw it: a dark shadow moving quickly across the room.

Soon Lee saw it first. He gave a loud scream and started to run towards the door. But he couldn't see anything in the darkness and fell over a small table. He screamed even more loudly as he fell onto the floor. His leg was hurting but it was the fear that made him scream.

'Help! Help! It's going to kill me!' he screamed in fear. When they heard him, his two friends started to panic, and they, too, tried to escape from the darkness of the haunted house. But they didn't get very far. They both fell over Soon Lee, who was still lying on the ground, calling out in pain.



What a mess! The three friends lying one on top of the other in the middle of the floor. When they were able to get up, they ran towards the door, opened it and escaped from the house as quickly as they could.

They stood in front of the main door, breathing heavily and feeling afraid.

'What was that?' asked Chong Mek.

'I don't know,' replied Soon Lee, 'but I'm glad we're out of there!'

Just at that moment, the door opened slowly and the three friends watched in fear as the black shadow came out of the house.

'A cat!' said Swee Lim.

'A stupid cat!' said Soon Lee.

'It's not the cat that's stupid; it's us!' said Chong Mek and both he and Swee Lim started to laugh loudly.

'Let's go back in,' said Swee Lim.

'Not me,' said Soon Lee. 'I've had enough. I'm going home!' Without waiting to hear what his friends would say, he ran down the road, as fast as he could, back to school.

'He's always afraid of everything,' said Swee Lim.

'Yeah, I thought Soon Lee would be the first to run away!' said Chong Mek.

'Well, what shall we do now?' asked Chong Mek.

'Let's go back inside,' said Swee Lim. 'That's what we came for, isn't it?'

And the two friends slowly walked through the front door for the second time that day.

Chapter 4 The Cupboard Under the Stairs

As they walked through the darkness they could still smell something very bad.

'What can that smell be?' asked Swee Lim.

'I don't know,' answered Chong Mek, 'but it doesn't smell good.'

They followed the smell which took them to the kitchen. Swee Lim opened the kitchen door and went in. The smell was really bad in there.

'Pooh! That's really terrible. 'What do you think it is?'

'It smells like something dead. Let's have a look in the fridge.'

Chong Mek opened the fridge and looked inside. There was no light in the fridge because the electricity was not on. He looked inside.

'It's empty,' he said. 'The smell's not coming from here.'

'Let's take a look in the food cupboard,' said Swee Lim, and she opened the door of a large cupboard next to the fridge.

'Hmmm, nothing inside,' she said.

'So where's the smell coming from?' said Chong Mek.



As they walked through the kitchen, the smell seemed to come from one corner. In the corner was another large cupboard. It was the cupboard under the stairs, usually where people keep things such as brushes and other things to clean the house. Swee Lim went towards the cupboard and slowly opened the door.

She tried to scream but no noise came out. Chong Mek saw the fear in her face and ran to her. They could not believe their eyes when they looked into the cupboard!

Chapter 5 The Room at the Top of the Stairs

When Chong Mek and Swee Lim looked inside the cupboard under the stairs they saw a lot of bones. There were thousands of flies and insects eating the meat which was on some of the bones. The smell was terrible. Swee Lim felt sick and closed the door as quickly as she could.

‘That’s terrible!’ she said. ‘What do you think it can be?’

‘I don’t know,’ answered Chong Mek. ‘Maybe a dead body. I really don’t want to think about it. Let’s get out of here now,’ he said.

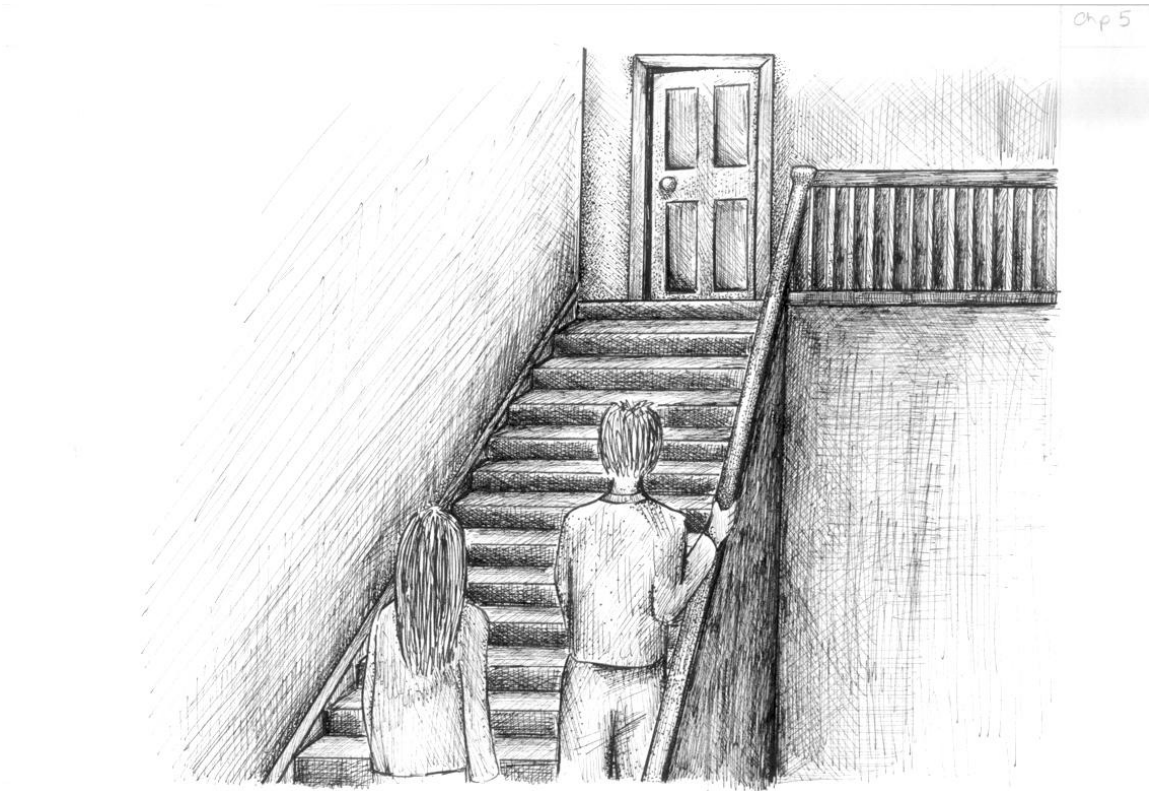
They left the kitchen and walked quickly towards the front door. Just as they were going to leave the house, they heard a noise coming from upstairs. It was the sound of footsteps, someone walking slowly, heavily across the floor.

‘What’s that?’ asked Chong Mek, with fear in his voice.

‘I don’t know,’ replied Swee Lim. ‘Let’s take a look.’

‘Are you sure you want to go upstairs?’ asked Chong Mek. ‘We don’t know what we might find.’

‘Look,’ said Swee Lim, ‘we’ve come this far. We can’t leave now. We came for an adventure, remember?’



So they found the stairs and slowly walked up, in the direction of the noise.

They came to a room at the top of the stairs. The door was open just a little and so they looked inside. They couldn't see anyone in the room so they went inside.

The room was large and cold. In one corner was a large bed. In the middle of the room was a table. On the table was a heavy book. It was open. They went towards the table and looked at the book. Inside, there was handwriting: it was someone's diary. The handwriting was not very clear but together they read what was written there. As they read, the hairs on the back of their necks stood up in fear. This is what they read.....

(continued in Chapter 6)

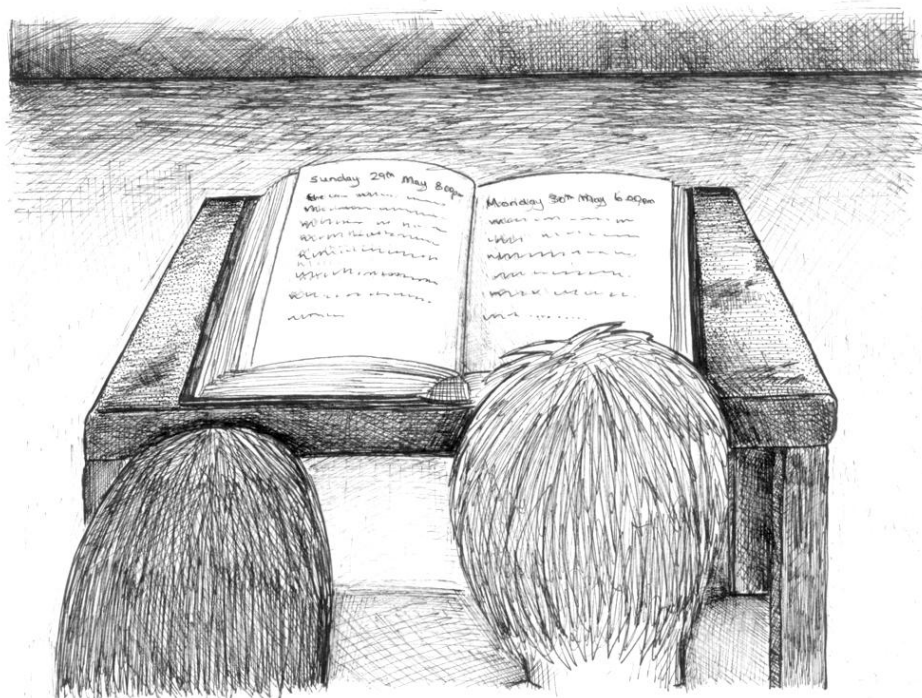
Chapter 6 The Diary

Sunday 29th May, 8.00 p.m.

She came again today. Who is she? Why does she come here? She seems so unhappy. But also angry, very angry. Full of hate! I wish she would go away. She makes me afraid. What does she want? I wish she would leave me alone. I've tried to talk to her but she will not answer. She just looks at me with those sad eyes, tears falling down her cheeks. I feel so sorry for her but what can I do? I cannot sleep. Her crying never stops. What terrible thing has happened to her? I wish she would tell me. I wish she would go away and never come back. I'm tired, so very tired.

Monday 30th May, 6.00 a.m.

She was here all night. She was not the same last night, more angry and making a terrible noise all the night. I have not slept. As I write this diary now she is here beside me. She is calling me to follow her. She wants me to go up to the attic. The attic... no-one has been up there for many years. Not since..... No! I cannot speak about that! It is too terrible. But now, what shall I do? She is calling me to follow. I don't want to go but I must. I have no choice. The ladder, she's climbing up the ladder. I must follow.....



There was no more writing in the diary. Chong Mek and Swee Lim didn't speak. They just looked at each other. Then after a few moments, Chong Mek broke the silence.

'Wow! What do you think happened?' asked Chong Mek.

'I don't know,' said Swee Lim, 'but it's a bit frightening.'

Just then they heard something above them, in the attic. It sounded like someone crying. Quietly at first but then the noise became louder.

'Time to go, I think!' said Chong Mek.

'Yes, I think you're right,' said Swee Lim. 'Come on!'

As they were leaving the bedroom, they saw the ladder. It led from the top of the stairs to a small opening in the ceiling, the attic. They could hear the sound of a woman crying. They felt sorry for the woman. They felt they must go up there and help her. Without saying a word, they started to climb up the ladder.

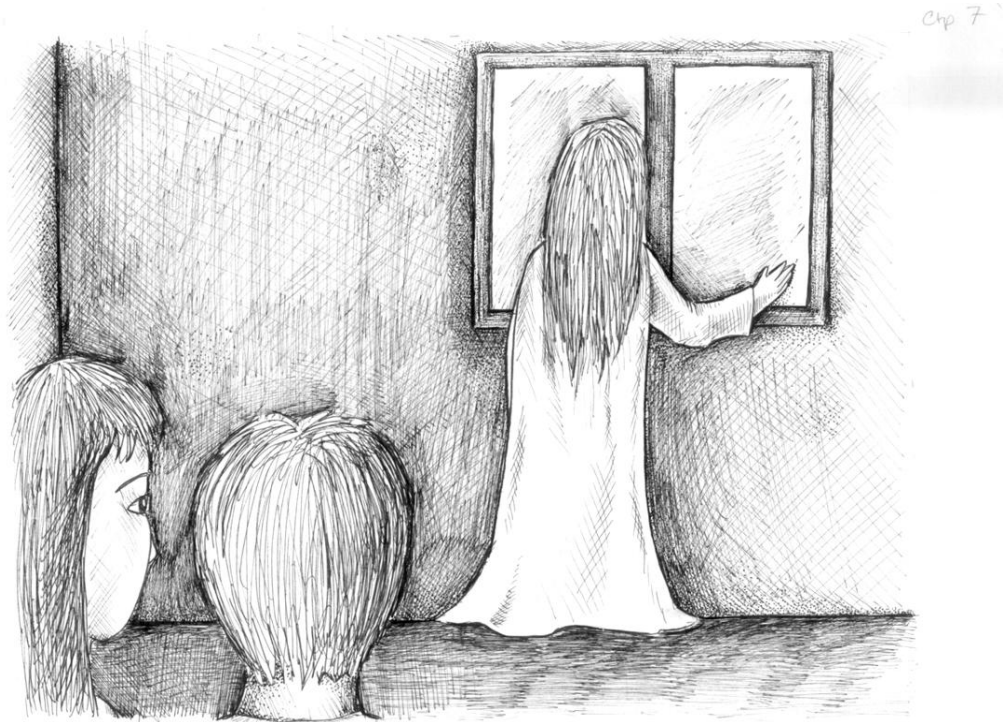
Chapter 7 The Woman in White

Chong Mek reached the top of the ladder first. He couldn't see clearly but after a few moments he saw a white shape across the room. It was a woman, dressed in a long, white dress. Her hair was long, also white. He couldn't see her face. She was looking out of a window at the other end of the attic.

"Go on!" said Swee Lim. 'Can you see anything? Climb up there! What are you waiting for?'

Chong Mek didn't speak. His eyes were fixed on the white figure. He entered the attic. As she followed Chong Mek, Swee Lim felt the cold air and shivered.

'Whoa! it's freezing!' she said, and then stopped talking when she, too, saw the woman in white.



They held hands to stop their fear and slowly walked across the attic floor towards the figure. Suddenly, the woman in white stopped crying. Swee Lim and Chong Mek stopped walking. Their hearts were beating fast. They could feel the fear in each other's hand. The air around them was like ice. They could see their own breath coming from their mouths, more and more quickly as their fear grew.



Then suddenly the woman in white turned around, slowly. Swee Lim closed her eyes, she was so afraid. Chong Mek wanted to close his eyes, too, but he didn't. And when he saw the face, he was glad he didn't. The woman was beautiful. More beautiful than anything he had ever seen in his life. Her eyes were green, her skin was smooth and her teeth were as white as snow. Chong Mek fell in love with her immediately. Swee Lim felt the fear disappear in Chong Mek's hand and opened her eyes. But what she saw was not the beautiful face which Chong Mek could see. She saw a face full of hate: black eyes full of anger, skin yellow and wrinkled and a mouth full of black, ugly teeth. She screamed out in fear.



Chapter 8 The End

Swee Lim's scream seemed to wake Chong Mek from his dream and, fully awake, he, too, saw the woman in white as she really was: an old, ugly woman full of anger and hate. As they looked at her face, not able to move with fear, the woman seemed to grow in size until she filled almost all the room in the attic. After a few moments she began to speak.

'You have chosen to come here. No one asked you to come but you came. You knew the dangers but didn't listen; you saw the warnings but chose not to leave this house. You read my diary but still you came up here. Your adventure is almost finished. But not yet!'

When she finished speaking her face seemed to lose its anger. She became less frightening than before and the air in the attic seemed to become less cold. Then she spoke again.

'It is time for me to take my true place in the cupboard under the stairs. You must now watch over this house. Look through this window.' She pointed to the window at the other end of the attic. It looked down on to the street where they had stood with Soon Lee just an hour ago.

'You cannot leave this place now. You must stay here and protect this house from visitors who are not welcome,' said the woman in white. 'Only when you find someone else to watch over the house, then you can take your place in the cupboard under the stairs.'

Suddenly, as soon as she had finished speaking, she disappeared. Chong Mek and Swee Lim were alone in the attic. They wanted to leave the room, but suddenly the door disappeared, just as the woman in white had disappeared.

'What does all this mean?' asked Chong Mek.

'Well, I suppose it means we're dead already,' said Swee Lim, 'and if what the woman said is true, then we must stay here until someone else takes our place. Then we can go to the cupboard under the stairs but really I can think of nicer places to go!'

'Yes, I suppose we must be dead,' said Chong Mek, a little sad.

They looked at each other, trying to understand what had happened. Then a smile slowly appeared on Swee Lim's face.

'Why are you smiling?' asked Chong Mek.

'Maybe we can take our place under the stairs quite soon.'

'What do you mean?' asked Chong Mek.

'Well, when we don't go back home tonight, Soon Lee is sure to come looking for us, isn't he?'

