



"The Studious Ghost"

TRUE GHOST STORY BY PAULA WALDRON

REGULAR FEATURE

PAULA WALDRON

I have written the following true story as it was told to me by Vicky, Kim and Robert. But first, allow me to set out before you, the scenes leading up to their ghostly tale...

In 1983, Vicky, Kim and Robert were completing their first year of university, and as the three of them were doing the same degree, they all became friends, but didn't see each other much besides during the time between lectures.

Vicky, Kim and Robert each struggled with their first lot of assignments, so they decided to form a study group. Robert lived on campus, Vicky lived nearby and Kim lived at the coast which was about a twenty minute drive away. The three soon decided that they would make the time that it was Kim's turn to host the study group a double study session over the period of one weekend per month, to save the extra drive. As Kim had plenty of room, Vicky and Robert enjoyed being at the coast and studied in the evenings.

This arrangement worked well and it was great to break the monotony of study with a swim or a run along the beach. Some of them would go for an early morning swim or run, and sometimes they would all go. Other times, Robert was the only early riser.

During the early morning walk, they often met a young man named John who said he was also a student. They asked him if he would like to join their study group. He said he would like to, but then they didn't see him or a while. This invitation was extended to him on several occasions.

The arrangement to study at Kim's house worked well for all concerned over the next couple of years, as it gave them all the chance to have a break, socialise and study. They all liked the elusive John,

who, up to this point, had never turned up to any of their study sessions.

One cold weekend, Vicky, Kim and Robert were all stumped regarding a particular assignment. They had several reference books, but there was one particular book that they had not been able to get, as there were not many copies of it in the library, and other students would borrow such a book and then hold onto it. The three students all agreed that they would like to be able to refer to that one important reference book.

Robert suggested that they all go for a run along the beach to clear out the cobwebs. They started their run and it was a cold and bleak day, but as they ran, they encountered John and were very glad to see him. They asked John if he had any knowledge on the subject that they were struggling with, and John said that he was quite confident in that subject. The three students asked John to return with them to Kim's house to look over the work they had done. John agreed and ran off quickly up the beach.

When Vicky, Kim and Robert got back to the house, John was waiting for them on the verandah. They went in and John got each one of them to go through their assignment with him. They read their work out to him with John looking over their shoulder. He told them to underline certain sections as they read, and then to revise the underlined sections, as there were inconsistencies in those areas.

Vicky, Kim and Robert thanked John. Vicky also said to him, "You've been a great help, but we don't have that particular reference book and we are unlikely to be able to get it." John replied that there would be time for him to get them a copy of that book. He told them to go to his home, but not before 10.00 AM. He gave them the address and pointed to a house up the hill. At about a quarter to ten, the three students set off for John's house. They rang the doorbell and greeted the lady at the door. They said, "You must be John's mother."

The lady said she was and they explained to her why they were there.

But John's mother looked a bit bewildered, so Kim said that they could come back when John is home, if that's alright. Before John's mother could answer, a young lady arrived by car and introduced herself as Judith. They told Judith that they were there to get a reference book that John was going to lend them and that he had said to come after 10.00 AM. Judith smiled and said she was going to make some tea, as she knew her mother could do with some. While having tea around the kitchen table, Judith explained that John had drowned two years ago at the local beach and that he used to go for a run along that beach nearly every morning while he was a student.

Judith seemed unsurprised by what the group had said. She said that John was always helping people with their studies and that she was pleased to know he was still doing it. She also said that a few locals swear that they see John running along the beach early some mornings. Judith also said that she had the book with her. "I had a strong desire to come over to see Mum today and just as I was leaving, I put the book in my bag," explained Judith.

Vicky asked Judith, "How did you come to have a copy of the book at your place?"

"I am doing the same course as you," Judith replied, "and I am in the opposite group to you, so we don't often meet." Vicky, Kim and Robert were shown pictures of John which confirmed he was the person they had been seeing.

The group of three often met up with Judith following their first encounter, and they often shared reference materials and stories of John. To this day, they are sure that they are in the right profession because of John's spiritual guidance. ©

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