

Once Upon a Nightmare

Horriſying Tales From The Dead I

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„Why am I dreaming this dream over and over again? Haven't I always been a good boy,“ said Johnny Wellington. Johnny didn't like living in his father's castle because of the horrid past of torture chambers that claimed so many of the townspeople's lives.

The Wellingtons who lived for hundreds of years in the castle before Johnny was a very greedy Royal family who liked to throw big Ballroom parties, especially masquerade parties. Sir Jonathan Wellington, the owner of the castle, would make sure everyone at the party had plenty to drink and a good time such as dancing

and loud music to cover up the screams down in his chamber of horrors. He didn't want anyone at the party to suspect a thing.

Sir Jonathan Wellington was very proud of his torture chamber and liked to brag about it to his guests at the party. Sir Jonathan would carefully pick out who he wanted to show his torture chamber too. Usually, loners that were not much fun to be around. Sir Jonathan would put a mild sedative in their drink just before he would lead them down to the chamber of horrors. Sir Jonathan's chamber of horrors went on for many years until he got a little sloppy with his choices of his victims. When the two victims that were led down to the chamber of horrors pretended to drink their drinks, they overpowered Sir Jonathan and put him on one of his own torture devices, the „Rack“. Then stretched Sir Jonathan's body till it was completely ripped apart.

No one knows how many victims there were, but there were enough to make Sir Jonathan a serial killer in those days even though this term wasn't heard of back then. Sir Jonathan's chamber of horrors could be the reason for all of the haunting surrounding the castle Wellington.

Johnny's father would tell him bedtime stories about the castle which would cause him to have nightmares, but for some reason, Johnny would only have one dream, and that would be being buried alive in the garden. When Johnny would dream this dream, he would go to the window and look down at the garden and see a man digging with his shovel a shallow grave. The man would turn and look at Johnny and point at the ground. While the man was looking at Johnny, Johnny had a strong feeling the shallow grave he was digging was for him. Johnny could not make out the man's face, but he did notice one thing that the man's clothing was of a different era.

Johnny would tell his father about his horrid dream, but his father would say to him „It's just a dream, that's all,“ but Johnny knew this was no dream to him at all it was a nightmare. The stories that his father would tell him before he went to sleep should have been called „Once upon a Nightmare“.

The more Johnny dreamt this same dream, the more scared he got.

After Johnny got up the next morning, he opened his bedroom door and noticed muddy footprints at the foot of his door. Johnny took off like a rocket downstairs to the kitchen where his father was preparing breakfast for them both.

Johnny said, „Father! Father! there are muddy footprints at my bedroom door; you have to come to see!“

Johnny was shaking like a leaf, and his father said: „Okay, let's go see the footprints at your bedroom door.“

Johnny and his father went upstairs to check these footprints out, but when Johnny pointed out where the prints were, they were gone.

Johnny said, „Father, you've got to believe me, there were footprints right here!“

Johnny got on his hands and knees to feel any presence of mud, but there was none. Johnny's father told him he was taking these bedtime stories a little too far and that he wasn't going to say to him any more bedtime stories until the nightmares stopped.

Things seem to be going fine for Johnny for about a month or so. Just as Johnny was about to forget about these terrible nightmares, the man in the garden was back, but this time Johnny's dream was going to be real.

As Johnny was fast asleep, the muddy footprints appeared at Johnny's bedroom door. Then his bedroom door slowly opened, and the man in his nightmares entered Johnny's bedroom, slowly walking towards Johnny's bed, carefully and quietly picking Johnny up out of his bed. The man carried Johnny to the garden where a shallow grave was dug for him. The man placed Johnny's body in the ground and started piling dirt on Johnny's body, but Johnny all of a sudden woke from his deep sleep and started yelling for his father for help, but the walls of the castle were too thick for anyone to hear any loud noises outside.

The man told Johnny, „No one can hear you!”

Johnny screamed and screamed, then the man raised his shovel and hit poor Johnny over the head, and Johnny was dead. The man finished burying Johnny's body then vanished into thin air, leaving a note on Johnny's grave for Johnny's father to read.

Morning came and just like any other day, Johnny's father would be in the kitchen, making breakfast, and Johnny would be right down shortly because Johnny liked the smell of bacon cooking on the stove. Johnny's father kept looking at his watch and noticed something's wrong because Johnny was always on time for breakfast and wouldn't miss out on such an essential meal of the day. Johnny's father took off his apron and headed up the stairs to Johnny's room to see what was taking him so long but just as Johnny's father was about to reach Johnny's room, he saw muddy footprints leading to Johnny's room, and the bedroom door was wide open. Johnny's father called out to his son, but there was no answer. Then he searched his son's room and then ran out of the room and followed the muddy footprints down the stairs and out of the castle to the garden. As he approached the garden, he saw a shovel and a shallow grave just as Johnny described in his dreams. Johnny's father cautiously approached the shallow grave and feared the worst. He knew Johnny's nightmare was a reality. Johnny's father dropped to his knees, sobbing and said: „Why, Lord? I should have listened to Johnny and taken his dream seriously.“

As he was wiping his tears from his eyes, he noticed a piece of paper next to the shovel. He thought it was a note from his son, but it wasn't, it was from the man who killed Johnny who buried his son in the shallow grave in the garden. Johnny's father slowly opened the piece of paper and read it aloud. The note said, „*Why didn't you listen to Johnny? Nightmares do come true!*” signed Sir Jonathan Wellington.

