

The House at Blank Street

Summer of 1886. It's a warm August afternoon in a small town of Brightsburg at the east coast of England. Although the town may be small, it isn't just an ordinary town. Within the corners a crime is happening, away from all the eyes and attention. A woman is walking through the warm street passing by children playing with their friends, salesmen desperately trying to sell the last of their products before the end of the month and workers returning from the field home to their families. The woman enters the Police station and goes to her office, when she is stopped by the police chief, Samuel Bright.

"Hello Angela. Hello Samuel! I haven't seen you in a while." answers Angela as she looks at Samuel. "We need to talk, now. What's going on? I'll explain in my office" says Samuel. When they enter the office, Samuel sits behind his desk and pours a cup of coffee. "We have a problem. What happened? Look at this. 5 cases regarding missing people in the past 2 weeks! And we haven't even got any evidence. And all of them lead back to the Wilber house, the one at Blank Street. It should have been gone years ago, but because of Wilber's grandson, Neil Wilber, the house is still standing on the same place and no one is doing anything about it, and, you also have other cases left Angela. But I don't want to do them just because the mayor's office is giving money to this station. It's unfair! I don't want to do something that I don't enjoy if I get money for it. Then we are truly not fighting crime! While we deal with stupid cases, other far more serious crimes are happening right behind the corner!" says Angela as Samuel looks at her while drinking coffee.

"Look, I understand why you are upset, but we do what we do. But I've got some happy news. I found a colleague for you. Don't worry, he doesn't bite. I get that you are the best detective in here, but you could use some help with this case." As right as Samuel finishes the sentence, the door opens and a man walks in. "Angela, this is Marcus Sawyer. He will be helping you with your case. He came all the way from London, so his experience will not come to waste. Well, I'll leave you here. Hopefully you'll get along!" says Samuel as he walks out the door. "Hello Angela, it's nice to finally meet the famous detective. The pleasure is on my side Marcus" says Angela. "What brought you here all the way from London? Well, I have heard

about the disappearances in Brightsburg and I was asked to help with the case. I couldn't refuse such an offer. So, shall we get to work?" asked Marcus and his eyes were glowing with excitement.

"Well first of all" began Angela," we have found out that all of them have gone missing at almost the exact same time. The witnesses have said that they saw the victims standing near the house in the afternoon. "So, I guess we should go there." said Marcus and Angela followed him. They arrived at Blank Street. The ominous house was standing in front of them. They walked through the old, rusty door into the enormous room. "This place is huge!" said Angela. Just stay sharp, we don't know what is going on here" warned her Marcus. As they stepped on the large, old staircase, the door slammed behind them. "What was that?" asked Angela, but Marcus ignored her. They continued to climb the stairs and reached the 2nd floor. They looked around and noticed multiple rooms. Angela had a strange feeling that someone or something was following them since they walked inside.

"Ok, I'll start with the rooms on the right, you can start with the ones here" said Marcus. Angela nodded and began to search the rooms. First room was empty, so was the 2nd and 3rd room. But as she entered the fourth room, she noticed a strange hole in the broken window, as if someone was trying to escape through the window. "Strange." she thought. Suddenly, she heard a loud sound as if wood broke. She rushed outside the room and saw a large hole in the middle of the hall. "Marcus!" yelled Angela as she looked down the hole. "Marcus, answer me!" said Angela. No response. She tried to climb down but the hole was too deep. What if she got hurt? She looked down the hole helplessly, but whether she liked it or not, she had to continue up. She arrived on the 3rd floor and walked to the first room. The room had a large bed, an empty closet and a night stand. "This must be the bedroom, maybe there is something in the drawers." thought Angela.

She looked through the drawers and found small pieces of bread. "Bread? What's bread doing in a drawer. And it smells...fresh." said Angela. "This house is abandoned for years, even if there was bread here it would be rotten for years. But if it's fresh....no, that can't be. No one lived here for years, or does someone actually live here?" said Angela. Suddenly, she heard a voice and noticed light, coming from one of the rooms. She approached the door, looked through the crack and she couldn't believe what she saw. It was Neil Wilber and Samuel Wright!"

Mr. Wilber, I did everything as you said, but this cannot be kept from the public anymore. These people are just ordinary citizens that have nothing to do with whatever you are pursuing” said Samuel “I understand, indeed I do Captain Wright, however what I am pursuing is very important. Why did I capture them? Well, they found something they didn’t need to see; thus, they shall stay here until I’ll find the treasure. The treasure?

Yes, Captain Wright. A treasure I am hunting for years, trying to figure out where is it hidden. The list my father left me before he passed way clearly says, that the treasure is hidden beneath our feet. And this isn't the first disappearance that happened in this house. A few weeks ago, a man entered this house and found the treasure and wanted to leave with it. Of course, I couldn’t allow it so I, let’s just say that I disposed of him and hid his body in here. These people have found it and I can’t let them leave. Once I find the treasure, I will be rich and the Wilbur family will be powerful once again! Now, you can leave Samuel. And make sure the unwanted visitor behind the door will be dealt with.” As Neil Wilbur finished the sentence, Angela realized that they knew she was here, and before she knew it, she got knocked out by Samuel Wright and dragged into the basement. When she woke up, she found herself laying on the ground. The floor was wet and cold. She looked around and noticed, that next to her were people, who have disappeared in this house. The man next to her was lying on the floor, his clothes covered in filth and mud. The man slowly turned his eyes at her, but when he noticed who she was he said with excitement in his voice: “Detective Angela! You finally came to rescue us! “What happened to you, sir? They dragged us here. All five of us. I went in here and looked around. I thought that it was abandoned, but when I found the body, I passed out and suddenly I woke up here. I am here for a few days now.” said the man. I have to get out of here” thought Angela. She stood up and walked to the door and pulled the doorknob, but it was locked. She noticed a wooden log, possibly used for the fireplace. She grabbed the log and after a few swings, the door broke and it opened. She found herself again on the welcoming floor. She rushed to the stairs but was stopped by a tall figure

“Where do you think you are going?” said the figure and grabbed Angela by the arms “You forgot about me, Angela. I thought I was going to stay there forever. Marcus!” said Angela with relief in her voice. “Are you okay? Yeah, I’m fine.

What happened. Well, I fell through the floor and found myself in an old library. After I walked around for a while, I noticed a hole in a wall and inside of it I found an old chest. It was unlocked but I didn't know what was inside so I walked away and found you.” said Marcus “An old chest? Yeah, why? Well, in short Neil Wilbur killed a man weeks ago and the missing people found the body so he locked them in the basement and I ended up there too. And also, Samuel Wright is cooperating with Wilbur the whole time. So yeah, in short.” said Angela “We must take the treasure and leave with the people now!” said Marcus and rushed on the stairs. They entered the library and found the chest. “Well, I think we should open it.” said Angela. She opened the chest and she couldn't believe what she saw.

Thousands of coins made out of pure gold and a note on top of them. Angela took the note in her hand and started reading: “Whoever finds this treasure, I wish him nothing but happiness and fortune. Hopefully you will spend this money wisely. These are my saving, my fortune that I wish others who need it will find. Angela noticed, that the note was only signed as Wilbur without a name. “Let's get out of here.” said Angela. They rushed out the door with the missing people and arrived at the police station and called the families of the now found people. Angela and Marcus entered the house with police officers. That night, Neil Wilbur and Samuel Wright were called to court along with Angela and Marcus. “Neil Wilbur, is it true that you murdered a man in your house and kidnapped five people? No, I never did that. It's not true!” said Angela “And do you have any evidence? Well, we don't, but we found the chest. Yes, but the list isn't enough evidence. Because you don't have enough evidence that can support your theory, Neil Wilbur is innocent.”

Just as everything seemed hopeless, something unexpected happened.” Your honor, it's true what they are saying.” Samuel Wright, stood up and explained how Neil Wilbur is guilty. “Well, if it's true, Neil Wilbur the court finds you guilty!” said the judge. The witnesses have said the same. Neil Wilbur was sent to prison and the old house got destroyed. The money that was found inside the chest was given to the mayor's office and a part of it was given to Angela and Marcus. But Angela had no interest in money, so she gave it away to people who needed it. Samuel Wright lost his job as the Chief, but before he left, he promoted Angela as the station's new Chief. And now, we see our heroes at the train station, saying their goodbyes.” So, what are you going to do back in London Marcus? Well, I'm

going to rest for some time, but then I am going to return to work. It was really fun working with you Angela.” said Marcus as he stepped on the train.” The pleasure was on my side Marcus. Hopefully, you’ll arrive back safely.” said Angela and waved at Marcus as the train departed the station.

THE END

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