

THE LOST AND FOUND GHOSTS

Written by

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Based on DOCTOR WHO

OUTLINE:

A young man sits in a seaside B&B eating, when he hears and crash and notices the maid is upset. She's crying and in her forties. She tells him that it's the Ghost. He assures her there's no such thing as Ghosts, certainly not ones who break crockery. But he can hear a weird sound. It makes him immediately edgy and suspicious. He asks her when the Ghosts first appeared, she says around 25 years ago when she started working there. She takes a second and says "Have you stayed here before?" He smiles and tells her he will be back in a minute.

[Tardis sound]

25 years earlier, in the evening, the young man walks into the B&B and is greeted by a young maid. He asks her if she's seen or heard of any hauntings nearby? She says No...He books a room for the night and heads to bed.

He wakes and heads down for breakfast where he is greeted by two elderly gentlemen. He engages them in conversation. He asks about Ghosts and they scoff. Satisfied, he finishes up breakfast and checks out. As he leaves, he drops a sonic screwdriver under the bed. Later, the maid picks it up, considers it thoughtfully and puts it into her pocket. Then she places it in the Lost and Found drawer.

[Tardis sound]

The young man walks into the B&B and is greeted again by the maid in her forties. He wanders around the B&B and asks again if anyone can hear that. He reaches for his sonic screwdriver and then it begins to dawn on him. Things start to tremble around him, and he begins a detailed explanation of subsonic vibrations from dormant technology attracting quasi-ethereal intelligences from other planes of existence which explains the ghosts. And what caused them to come to this time and place? Sometimes it's a strong memory, sometimes it's a complete lack of memory. He pulls open the Lost and Found drawer, "Like when I forgot this." He produces the screwdriver and pops it into his pocket.

The man makes his apologies. And leaves.

[Tardis sound]

INT. THE BREAKFAST ROOM - MORNING

The toast is buttered heavily, and it's toasted crisp; it cracks loudly as THE DOCTOR bites into it. He takes a slurp of tea from a china cup and another bite of toast. A maid, ELLY (40s) walks by and replaces his little tea-pot with a refreshed pot, steaming hot. He grins approval. He's much younger than most Time Lords, but his mannerisms suggest greater antiquity.

SFX: A crash of crockery.

THE DOCTOR looks up from his toast. He can see the maid sobbing in the doorway to the kitchen. Unable to help himself, he rises, dropping his napkin on the floor and approaches her.

THE DOCTOR
Are you all right?

ELLY
Yes, just startled.

THE DOCTOR strolls over to the broken crockery and shoves it with his toe.

THE DOCTOR
What happened here?

ELLY, the maid, mutters.

ELLY
The Ghost.

THE DOCTOR snorts his derision.

THE DOCTOR
I can tell you most categorically,
there is no such thing as ghosts.

His voice trails off...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
But quasi-ethereal intelligent
vibrations is another thing
entirely.

THE DOCTOR moves around the room, sniffing suspiciously.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Do you hear that?

ELLY shakes her head.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
How long have the Ghosts been here?

ELLY
As long as I can remember? Twenty.
Twenty five years. From when I can
remember.

THE DOCTOR walks over to the curtains and sniffs the entire length of them.

THE DOCTOR
You really can't hear that?

ELLY wipes away her tears and says,

ELLY
Do you need some fresh toast? Or
maybe an egg?

THE DOCTOR looks aghast.

THE DOCTOR
Toast, yes. But I draw the line at
the boiled menstruations of
dinosaur descendants, thank you.

ELLY looks at him quizzically, not really sure what he meant. She opens her mouth to speak, pauses, and then speaks.

ELLY
Toast then. (BEAT) You've stayed
here before?

If he heard her, he doesn't react.

THE DOCTOR returns to his seat and looks for his napkin, which lies discarded under the table. He turns to a fellow diner,

THE DOCTOR
Have you seen my napkin?

DINER
No...

THE DOCTOR
And can you hear that?

The other DINER shakes her head and returns to her eggs. THE DOCTOR looks at the eggs and screws up his face.

ELLY, the maid, reappears with a fresh plate of toast.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Do you hear that? Whining noise?

ELLY shakes her head silently.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a jiffy...

ELLY protests.

ELLY
Your toast?

THE DOCTOR flashes her a smile,

THE DOCTOR
It's tastier when it's cooled.

THE DOCTOR vanishes out the front door. The maid and the diner perk up when they hear the TARDIS whine.

The newspaper has the current date (2018) on it.

SFX: Tardis whine...

INT. THE B&B - EVENING

THE DOCTOR walks into the B&B he just walked out of. He picks up the paper and notices the date (it's 1993). With a smug grin he approaches the maid and asks for a room for the night. He lugs his valise case up the stairs and throws it onto the bed. He then spends the next few moments sniffing all of the curtains and surfaces.

Satisfied, he jumps into bed and in moments is sound asleep.

INT. THE BREAKFAST ROOM - MORNING

THE DOCTOR stumbles into the Breakfast room, bleary-eyed. He sits down and is immediately served boiled eggs. He pushes them aside with a gagging noise and reaches for some toast.

THE DOCTOR
See. No such thing as Ghosts!

Another diner looks over. There are two elderly diners in the breakfast room. Both tucking into breakfasts.

DINER #2

There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt in your philosophy.

THE DOCTOR

You would think so but I philosophise quite a bit. Increasingly in my old age.

DINER #2

Old age? (Splutters) What would a young man like you know about old age?

THE DOCTOR

Don't judge a book by the latest cover. On the latest printing. On the latest Edition. Even if it's a bit fresh, it could be really interesting. Full of stories of derring-do and bravado. But this one, it's more about philosophy.

DINER #3

Youth is wasted on the young.

DINER #2 chortles and is about to respond but THE DOCTOR cuts him off.

THE DOCTOR

Quite. Which is why I never try to be young.

THE DOCTOR pauses.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Do you hear anything?

DINER #2

Young man, I can barely hear myself chew with all of your prattle.

THE DOCTOR rises, crockery clinks together and cutlery falls to the floor as he wanders around sniffing.

THE DOCTOR

You really don't hear anything? Curiouser and curiouser.

He digs his hands into his trouser pockets and stands up straight.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Well, I knew it.

THE DOCTOR strides out of the room, upstairs, grabs his valise and throws his coat over it. He starts enthusiastically out of the room and doesn't notice that his sonic screwdriver has fallen out of his jacket. It rolls under the bed and blinks a green light silently.

SFX: Tardis whine

INT. THE B&B - AFTERNOON

The young maid, ELLY, walks into the bedroom vacated by THE DOCTOR earlier. She's carrying fresh bed linens. She moves to set them on the bed but drops a pillowcase. She bends down to grab it but notices the sonic screwdriver. She picks it up, considers it thoughtfully, feeling the metal and ceramics under her fingers, and then slips it into her pinny pocket.

CUT TO:

The sonic screwdriver is taken out of her pinny pocket and placed into a small drawer in a small cabinet, labelled "L & F" in crude writing. She closes the drawer slowly.

EXT. THE BREACH - DAY

THE DOCTOR paces a little on the promenade. He is passed by a couple with a dog, and engages the dog in some conversation.

He paces backwards and forwards on the shingle. He digs his hands in his pockets and then begins to pat down all of his pockets. He's lost something.

INT. THE B&B - DAY

The maid, ELLY, is sitting in the kitchen and preparing a pot of tea and placing it on a tray. At that moment, the whole tray starts to vibrate. A cup on the counter begins to slide.

ELLY stands back in shock, clasps her hands to her face and is frozen with fear, only the smallest cries escaping from her mouth...

The cups and pot move and vibrate more. A drumming noise and a high pitched whine fills the air.

Something rushes in the door, towards the maid.

The Lost and Found drawer is opened and the sonic screwdriver is fished out and a button on the side is clicked off.

The vibrations immediately cease.

The sonic screwdriver is popped into THE DOCTORS pocket and patted down.

THE DOCTOR
Problem solved.

ELLY
(Gasps) You killed the Ghost.

THE DOCTOR
Killed? No no no no no. You can't kill quasi-ethereal non-human intelligences like that.

ELLY
What?

THE DOCTOR
My fault really. I left something here for years and years, forgot it really and couldn't come back for it until I knew where it was. Really a bit embarrassing so I'd appreciate it if you didn't mention it again. But yes, you can't kill what isn't traditionally alive, at least from a human point of view. And even if you could, it's not something I would do. That would be cruel. You see, the device was left in standby. And a little like a blinking zero-zero on a video player in a bedroom, it was keeping something awake. A lot of things really. And they've been awake for decades so it's not surprising they're a bit cranky.

ELLY
What?

THE DOCTOR
Never mind. I asked you not to mention it.

ELLY
They weren't ghosts?

THE DOCTOR
I said not to mention it.

ELLY
You are so rude.

THE DOCTOR
At my age, I'm entitled to be a
little entitled.

ELLY
You waltz in here, act strange,
reveal that due to a bout of absent-
mindedness, you've caused the
haunting of a building for more
than 20 years and all of the upset
and discombobulating that entails.
And then chastise me for asking
questions about why you did it?

THE DOCTOR
You can't talk to me that
way...I'm...

ELLY
Yes, The Doctor. I know. I remember
you. But you were Scottish.

THE DOCTOR
Ah, good times.

ELLY
With a straw hat and an umbrella.

THE DOCTOR
We definitely don't talk about
that.

ELLY
Anyway, I'd love it if you just got
out of the way now you've fixed the
problem that you've caused.

THE DOCTOR, chastised, nods and zips his lips and saunters
out the front door.

ELLY (SHOUTING) (CONT'D)
You could pay your bill!

SFX: Tardis whine.

THE END.