

The Haunting of Apartment 303

written by

Isaiah Lee

INT. WE ARE LOOKING THROUGH THE LENS OF A WEBCAM. A NONDESCRIPT APARTMENT ROOM WITH A PODCAST MICROPHONE SITTING ON THE DESK. UNPACKED CARDBOARD BOXES IN THE BACKGROUND.

A man and woman, early 20s, newlyweds, flirty and in love, enter and sit down in front of the camera. The man presses a key on the keyboard in front of him.

MAX

(dramatic whisper into microphone)

Welcome to a story of strange occurrences, messages from the great beyond, and horror beyond your wildest dreams. My name is Max, and this is Sam, my lovely wife and cohost. Hold on tight to your loved ones, and welcome to *The Haunting of Apartment 303*.

SAM

...is that really what you're going with?

MAX

I'm setting the atmosphere, Sam.

SAM

We found a puddle on the kitchen floor. Not a dead body.

MAX

Don't leave out the banging noises on the roof and the dead animal smell in the bathroom.

SAM

Oh, I think I can explain the smell in the bathroom.

MAX

Stop it. You're skipping stuff. We have to tell the story chronologically.

SAM

Well, if you're opening a podcast by promising "horror beyond your wildest dreams," you've got to skip to the good stuff, honey.

MAX

You said you were going to take this seriously.

SAM

I am totally taking this seriously.

MAX

You're making a face.

SAM

Am not!

MAX

To those just listening to the podcast: my cohost is currently making a very skeptical face.

SAM

Oh ho ho, I'm just your "cohost" now?

MAX

Note to the listeners: I am sleeping on the couch tonight.

SAM

Don't make them think I'm evil!

MAX

We've gotten wayyy off-topic.

SAM

Honey, I'm adding to the run-time. How exactly are you planning to stretch this story past the first episode?

MAX

I have it all planned out! I - er, we, will conduct a series of observational experiments. We'll record everything and make episodes about new discoveries as we try to draw the ghost out.

SAM

The ghost.

MAX

It's what I'm calling the presence for now.

SAM

Ooh, but what if it's a big scary demon...

MAX

Stop it!

SAM

You don't wanna mess with a demon,  
Max.

MAX

That's not funny!

SAM

(demon noises)

MAX

(sigh)

Let's start at the beginning.

SAM

(making herself laugh)

...by all means, honey.

MAX

We moved into Ferrington Heights  
about a month ago, but we started  
looking at apartments maybe six  
months before then.

SAM

You mean *I* started looking for  
apartments.

MAX

But I found Ferrington Heights!

SAM

God, I still don't know how. I  
swear I looked at every apartment  
in Portland.

MAX

Lucky, I guess. They're a  
relatively new complex, I think. I  
had to type in their web address  
directly to find the website, which  
looks like it's from 1995, by the  
way. And the only reason I found  
THAT was because of a flyer I saw  
on the way to work.

SAM

That's just great. I spend hours  
looking at every apartment in the  
city, and you find the perfect one  
without even trying.

MAX

Not perfect. Haunted.

SAM

Honey. Our waterline is leaking.

MAX

That's not what the maintenance guy said!

SAM

Right. The aging maintenance worker who looked like he has a side job at the circus said the most likely explanation was a ghost.

MAX

AND that nothing was wrong with our waterline.

SAM

Yes. It is definitely more likely that a ghost peed on our kitchen floor than that maybe our crazy mechanic just missed something.

MAX

Thank you!

SAM

Are you kidding.

MAX

I'm just saying I think it's worth investigating.

SAM

Well, I've got my own ghost investigation going on.

MAX

Really?

SAM

At night, sometimes, I hear this strange mumbling.

MAX

Coming from where? Is it the roof again?

SAM

Most of the time it's gibberish garbled sentences.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I think it's strange incantations  
from the beyond...

MAX

You never told me about this  
before!

SAM

You talk in your sleep, hon.

MAX

Oh.

SAM

It was a joke.

MAX

I thought I didn't do it that much  
anymore.

SAM

Three in the morning. Like  
clockwork.

MAX

Sorry.

SAM

I love you, honey. Continue with  
the story now!

MAX

Right, so - this apartment  
basically doesn't exist online.

SAM

Our friends are pretty jealous.

MAX

It's a killer deal. I mean \$1500  
for a 2-bedroom in the Portland  
area? That's a steal!

SAM

The location could be better.

MAX

Yeah, I can never find my way in or  
out without GPS. But it's like 15  
minutes to downtown!

SAM

Okay, it's amazing and you are so  
good for finding it.

MAX

Thank you. To be honest, I was a little worried it was a scam when I first started talking to the people in the Leasing Office.

SAM

What type of scam, exactly, would it even be?

MAX

I dunno - money laundering?

SAM

I feel like there's an easier way to do that.

MAX

You haven't been down to the office yet. I swear they act weird, okay?

SAM

Weird?

MAX

Just, like... They wanted to get rid of me as fast as possible.

SAM

They're probably desperate to get residents.

MAX

But I asked to schedule a tour and they said "they'd have to look to see if they had any available units."

SAM

Playing hard to get?

MAX

But the advertisement said they had a bunch open! Also, there was like no one else there.

SAM

Yeah. The place seems... empty if the parking lot is anything to by. But I'm not complaining.

MAX

I had to wait like thirty minutes for them to come back and say they could schedule a showing.

SAM

I didn't know you had to wait that long.

MAX

It was eerie. So silent. What were they even doing? It's not like they were busy with other tenants.

SAM

Honey. Are you sure you aren't exaggerating for the benefit of our, er, zero listeners?

MAX

I am not! There's something strange about this apartment and I'm going to get to the bottom of it.

SAM

I thought you said I was your co-investigator.

MAX

We. I meant we're going to get to the bottom of it.

SAM

Uh-huh.

MAX

So, then, no one met us for our tour.

SAM

Oh, that's right! I thought we were just supposed to let ourselves in.

MAX

They just left the keys for us in a very empty office.

SAM

They were probably on lunch break.

MAX

At four in the afternoon?



SAM  
Snack break?

MAX  
Anyway, we went and looked around  
the apartment ourselves-

SAM  
Which is perfect!

MAX  
It's pretty nice.

SAM  
Vaulted ceilings, marble  
countertops, huge kitchen, in-unit  
washer and dryer, a walk-in  
closet...

MAX  
It's a nice apartment, especially  
for the price.

SAM  
Lily said she and Travis wanted to  
move in but they can't figure out  
how to apply.

MAX  
They'd probably just have to show  
up at the office and pray someone  
is there.

SAM  
What days are they open?

MAX  
I dunno. I haven't seen anyone in  
the office since the first day.

SAM  
How have we been paying rent?

MAX  
I just dropped it off at the  
mailbox.

SAM  
Okay. That is strange...

MAX  
Starting to believe?

A sudden knocking sound - coming from the roof.

SAM  
What the hell is that?

MAX  
Um... A tree?

SAM  
It doesn't look very windy.

Max stands and opens the window.

SAM (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

MAX  
Trying to look at the roof.

SAM  
Anything?

A pause. The knocking continues from elsewhere in the apartment.

MAX  
(whispering)  
Wait.

SAM  
What?

MAX  
Hush.

More silence. Then a distant tapping sound.

MAX (CONT'D)  
It's moved to the front door.

SAM  
Maybe there's just work being done  
or something.

MAX  
I'll just check really quick. Be  
right back.

SAM  
W-wait... Honey!

Max leaves. The door to the office closes in the background. Sam sits back down, troubled.

In the background, there is the noise of the front door opening. A moment later, it slams shut. Then... Silence.

SAM (CONT'D)

Max?!

(beat)

SAM (CONT'D)

I-I'm just going to go check on  
him.

Sam exits.

The camera films an empty room for another few seconds. The camera abruptly glitches and then shuts off only after a blood chilling scream is heard in the background.