

THE HOUSE ON ATTICUS LANE

Casey Bell



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by Casey Bell

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Published by: BookCase Publishing

Cover Design by csbprinting.weebly.com

Printed in the United States

**Casey Bell
PO Box 5231
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
bookcasepublishing.weebly.com
<http://authorcaseybell.weebly.com/>
<http://payhip.com/caseysbell>**

CONTENTS

Chapter One.....5

Chapter Two.....14

Chapter Three.....43

CHAPTER ONE

Albert Cuthbert is sitting at a lunch table alone, studying from his math text book. As he studies, Cora enters the cafeteria, she walks towards Albert and says,

“You are not going to believe what he did.”

“Don’t hold your breathe. So, what did he do to you?”

“I went to the convenience store this morning, like I do every morning to get my strawberry milk. I went to the register and the guy took my strawberry milk and said that he couldn’t serve me. I asked him why and he said because today is don’t serve Amaryllis day. I asked him what did he mean and he asked me if my last name was Amaryllis. I told him yes and he continued saying that today was the day that anyone with the first or last name of Amaryllis can’t be served. I left really upset and it took me a long time to realize it was a joke. So, what did he do to you?”

“You know how much I hate frogs, right?”

“Yeah, what did he do?”

“He put a bunch of them on my front lawn. It was like a hundred of those things hopping around. I had to get my little sister to get rid of them before I came to school. It made me five minutes late. And you know how much I hate being late.”

They continue to talk when Jerica walks towards the table, when she sits Albert says,

“Hi Jerica, how’s class?”

“It’s going.”

“Hey Ms. Valentine”, says Cora, “So, what did he do to you?”

“He is such an idiot. He left a chocolate box in my locker. When I opened it, it was filled with worms and spiders.”

Cora responds,

“Oh, that is so disgusting. I would have freaked.”

“I did. I mean, worms and spiders don’t scare me, but to see that many at a time, unexpected, I was a bit frightened. So, what did he do to you guys?”

Cora answers,

“He told the clerk at the convenience store to not sell me my strawberry milk.”

“He left frogs on my front lawn.”

They continue to converse as Ronald walks towards the table,

“Hey guys, how is everything?”

They each reluctantly greet him.

“So, did anything crazy happen to you guys today?”

Jerica replies,

“Ha ha ha, Ronnie, we know it was you, so just say it, and get it over with.”

Ronald yells,

“April Fools!”

Ronald laughs. Jerica continues,

“When are you going to stop playing these games? I mean, it’s been ten years since we’ve know each other. When are you going to grow up?”

“Oh, come on, you know you guys love it when I play April Fools’ jokes on you.”

“I don’t, I was five minutes late today, thanks to you and your frog friends. Where did you get that many frogs anyway?”

“I collected them.”

“And how did you get them to not sell me my strawberry milk?”

“I paid him a hundred bucks.”

Cora exclaims,

“Where did you get a hundred bucks?”

“That’s my secret.”

“Thanks for the box of chocolates. Just so you know I freed them outside and I threw the box away.”

“Did it scare you?”

“If it makes you happy, yes, it scare the shit out of me. Now, can you please promise this is the last year you do this?”

“I can’t make that promise.”

As they continue to talk Rebecca enters the cafeteria angry, she walks towards the table and slams her books on the table,

“Ronnie, I could kill you.”

“So, what did he do to you”, asks Cora?

“How the hell did you get access to my locker”, asks Rebecca?

Jerica says, “Let me guess, spiders and worms.”

“Spiders and worms, what are you talking about”, asks Rebecca?

“Never mind”, says Jerica.

Albert asks,

“So, what did he do?”

“I went to my locker after third period and the idiot taped pictures in my locker. How did you open it?”

“What kind of pictures”, asks Cora.

“Pictures of nude men doing obscene things to each other. Now, I’ve tolerated your pranks in the past, but this time you have gone too far.”

“What’s the big deal, they’re just porno pics”, says Jerica.

“The big deal is, Mrs. Gregor saw them and sent me to the principal’s office. I got two days detention. I’m already in trouble for getting a D in chemistry, and now this. My mother is going to freak.”

Ronald is laughing, Rebecca responds,

“What the hell are you laughing at? This is no laughing matter. You know, these jokes, they have to stop. We’re getting too old for them.”

“You never too old for a joke”, says Ronald.

“You still haven’t answered my question, Ronald. How did you get into my locker?”

“I can’t reveal all my secrets.”

Rebecca continues to argue with Ronald. Jacques leaves the lunch line with a tray of food. As he walks towards the table he continually looks over his shoulder. As he approaches the table Albert asks,

“What’s wrong? Is someone following you?”

“No.”

Ronald speaks with a sly smile on his face,

“Hey Johnson; how was your day today?”

Jacques answers,

“I hope this is the last year you decide to celebrate April Fools, because it is getting annoying.”

Cora asks,

“So, what did he do to you?”

“I was in gym class today and the most embarrassing thing happened. I don’t know how, but he got a hold of my gym shorts. He rigged them so that while I was playing football they ripped in the front and back, I knew right away it was him.”

“I think you got the worst joke”, laughs Jerica.

“No, I did, hello; I got two days of detention because of his foolery.”

“Well, I just hope this is the last year you do this”, says Cora.

“Yeah man, next year we’re going to be seniors”, says Albert, “It’s time that you mature; you cannot be a child forever. So, Jacques, what was wrong?”

“What do you mean”, asks Jacques?

Ronald says,

“There’s nothing wrong with Johnson, he’s Jacques Johnson, the star football, baseball player. He’ll get over the embarrassment of the gym shorts.”

“I wasn’t talking about that”, says Albert.

“Then what were you referring to”, asks Jacques?

“I couldn’t help but notice as you were walking to the table you kept looking over your shoulder.”

“Oh, that. I got caught up in a conversation I was listening to.”

Jerica asks,

“Oh, you were eavesdropping and now you came to share the rumors?”

“No. I overheard some kids talking about the house.”

“What house”, asks Cora.

“The house. The house on Atticus Lane.”

“What house is that”, asks Rebecca?

“You never heard of the house”, asks Ronald?

“No. What kind of house is it”, asks Rebecca.

“Is it like the White House”, asks Cora.

“No, Cora”, says Ronald.

Jacques continues,

“It’s haunted.” “So they say. But no one actually knows for sure”, says Jerica.

Albert asks,

“Is that the same house with the slaves?”

“Yes”, answers Ronald.

Jacques continues,

“You see back in the early nineteen hundreds a man and his wife captured four white men and kept them in their house as slaves.”

“Chester and Cynthia Mae Stevens”, says Jerica.

“Who are they”, asks Rebecca?

“The couple that took the men in captive”, answers Jacques.”

“Why would they do that”, asks Cora?

Albert interrupts,

“The story is the four boys raped and killed their daughter, so they took them captive as slaves. Then one day the boys went crazy and killed the couple along with their two sons; and then they killed themselves. This all happened between 1900s-1920s. After they buried everyone the story goes that the spirits of the slaves haunted the house until 1940 when they hired some witch doctor to come and kill of the spirits. After she died in 1980 the spirits returned and has been haunting the house ever since. But I don’t believe it I think it’s a bunch of poop.”

“I don’t know, people are saying that a lot of strange noises come from the house”, says Ronald.

“How can anyone know? The house is secluded”, says Albert.

“I’m talking about people that have been near it”, says Ronald.

Albert continues,

“It’s probably a bunch of stray cats or something.”

“Well, anyway”, says Jacques, “I was wondering maybe we could go see it,”

“Who”, asks Jerica?

“When”, asks Ronald?

“Why”, asks Rebecca?

“How”, asks Albert?

“What”, asks Cora.

Jacques continues,

“Us, tonight, just to see it, see if the stories are true, we’ll drive. And what do you mean by what?”

Cora says,

“What?”

Jerica says sarcastically,

“I don’t think she’s here yet.”

Albert asks,

“But how are you going to see it? There is a big gate in front of the house that says do not trespass.”

Cora says,

“Well, if it says do not trespass, how will we trespass, without trespassing?”

Jerica answers,

“That’s the whole point, we’re going to trespass.”

“That’s not good”, says Cora.

Ronald asks,

“Well, how do we even know that there is a gate with a sign?”

Albert answers,

“Because that’s what everyone is saying. Every time I hear the story someone says there is a big gate with a do not trespass sign.”

“But everyone that is telling the story has not actually gone to see it”, replies Jacques, “They’re just repeating what they heard. That’s why I want to go. We can be the first to see it and be able to see if the stories are true.”

“But what if they are true”, asks Cora, “The spirits might try to kill us.”

“There’s no such thing”, says Albert.

“Then are you coming” asks Jacques?

“No.”

“What are you afraid? You just said there’s no such thing”, says Jacques.

“First of all I have a calculus test to study for and an English paper to write.”

Rebecca asks,

“I thought you said the paper wasn’t due until May.”

“It is, but unlike the rest of you, I would actually like to graduate in the top percentile. Secondly, if there is a do not trespass sign and we trespass we could go to jail.”

“No we can’t”, says Ronald, “We’re not old enough for jail.”

Albert replies,

“Sixteen and seventeen is old enough.”

“I don’t know you guys”, says Rebecca, “I’m already in enough trouble. Besides I have a manicure and pedicure appointment, and I can’t cancel.”

“We would go at night”, says Jacques, “you’ll be done, by then.”

“I don’t know”, continues Rebecca”, once my mom finds out that I have detention, she’s not going to let me leave the house past nine.”

“Well, I’m in”, says Jerica, “It’s about time I find out whether or not these stories are true.”

“Well, you know I’m going”, says Ronald, “I love doing things like this.”

“Well, what about the rest of you”, asks Jacques?

“I already said no”, answers Albert, “That’s my final answer.”

“I don’t know”, says Rebecca, “I really can’t get into any more trouble.”

Jacques asks,

“What about you Cora?”

“Just as long as we don’t get into trouble, I’m okay with it.”

Jacques says,

“Good, so the four of us will go and tell everyone about it.”

“You guys are crazy”, says Albert.

“Jerry, call me tomorrow and tell me all about”, says Rebecca.

Jenca answers,

“No problem.”

“So, how are we getting there”, asks Ronald?

“Meet me at my house”, says Jacques, “I’ll drive us there. Make sure you guys bring flashlights.”

“Well, I’ll be at home studying and praying for you guys”, says Albert.

“Praying? I thought you didn’t believe in ghosts”, asks Ronald?

“I don’t. I’ll be praying that you don’t get caught by any cops driving by.”

Cora asks.

“There’s going to be cops there?” “No one said anything about cops.”

Jacques says,

“Don’t worry. There won’t be any cops. There is nothing to worry about everything will be just fine.”

CHAPTER TWO

Jacques is driving Cora, Jerica, and Ronald to the house on Atticus Lane.

“So, are you guys excited to be the first to enter “the house”, asks Jacques?

“I can’t wait until we get back and tell everyone about it”, says Ronald.

Jerica says,

“If we get back.”

Cora asks,

“What does she mean by that?”

Jacques replies,

“Nothing; she’s just pulling some legs.”

“Are you guys sure everything is going to be okay”, asks Cora?

“Everything will be fine. I’m sure the rumors about the house are not true”, says Jacques.

They park by the drive way of the house

Jacques says,

“See, there isn’t even a gate, or a do not trespass sign.”

“It’s huge”, says Ronald.

“I don’t know guys, it’s pretty creepy”, says Jerica.

“You’re not punking out are you”, asks Ronald?

“No, but maybe it wasn’t such a good idea to come out here.”

“Well, we’re already here”, says Jacques, “we might as well go inside.”

“What if the doors are locked”, asks Cora, “How will we get in?”

“We’ll break in, I brought a bag full of tools”, says Ronald.\

“Why did you bring that”, asks Jerica?

“Just in case we may need them.”

“I don’t know”, says Cora, “What if the neighbors hear us, they might call the cops.”

“What neighbors”, says Ronald, “We’re in a secluded area, besides if anyone hears anything, they’ll probably just think it’s the spirits of the slaves. Come on guys, we’ve come this far. Don’t back out now.”

“Ronnie’s right”, says Jacques, “Let’s just go in, check it out, take some pictures and then we’ll go home.”

“Take pictures”, asks Cora, “Why?”

“So that we will have proof that we came here. The first thing we need to do is take a picture of the Atticus Lane sign.”

“I’ll do it”, says Ronald.

He takes the camera from Jacques and gets out of the car. He walks to the sign and takes a couple of pictures; Jacques, Cora, and Jerica stay in the car

Cora says, “I don’t think we should be doing this. What if we get caught?”

“Cora would you stop worrying”, says Jacques, “Nothing bad is going to happen.”
Ronald returns to the car; he puts his head in and asks,

“Well, are you guys getting out?”

Jacques leaves the car, as soon as he does Cora and Jerica follow.

“Now, are we sure we want to do this”, asks Jerica?

“I’m sure”, says Ronald. “Me, too”, says Jacques.

“What about you Cora”, asks Ronald?

“Well, I’m not going to stay in the car.”

“Well, let’s go into the house on Atticus Lane”, says Ronald.

They all walk to the front door, Jacques knocks on the door.

Jerica asks,

“Why are you knocking? No one lives here.”

“I don’t know, I guess it’s a habit.”

Ronald goes to open the door,

“Well, look at that. It’s unlocked,”

They all walk in the house, Jerica shuts the door, while Cora speaks,

“It’s pretty dark in here. Are there any lights?”

“Probably not”, says Jerica, “Unless someone is paying the electric bill.”

“No problem”, says Ronald, “I have not only flashlights, but lanterns as well.”

He takes them out of his bag. Each one of them takes one and turns them on.

“So, now what do we do”, asks Cora?

“We split up and search the house”, says Ronald.

“We are not splitting up”, says Cora, “We came together, and we stay together.”

Ronald asks,

“What, are you afraid?”

“Shut up Ronnie”, replies Cora.

“Guys, please”, says Jerica, “We’ll go together.”

Jerica goes to the left.

“Where are you going”, asks Jacques?

“I don’t know, but we have to start somewhere. This looks like the kitchen.”

Ronald takes out a touch lamp and places it on a counter, he presses it and it turns on.

“Wow, that thing is bright”, says Jacques.

“You really prepared yourself”, says Jerica.

“I was ready for this”, says Ronald.

“Well, looks like a regular kitchen to me”, says Jerica, “Nothing too scary.”

Cora searches through the cabinets,

“Hey, guys look, they still have a couple of dishes in here.”

Ronald opens the refrigerator and then laughs.

“What’s so funny”, asks Jacques.

Ronald continues,

“They still have a box of baking soda in the fridge.”

“Well, this is pretty boring”, says Jerica, “Let’s go to the next room.”

“Wait”, says Jacques, “We need to take a picture.”

“I’ll take it”, says Jerica, “Everyone get in.”

Jacques, Cora, and Ronald stand in front of a counter after Jerica takes the picture

Ronald yells boo, to Cora, Cora responds,

“Ronnie, stop fooling around.”

“Okay, let’s go to the dinning room”, says Jerica.

They all follow her. They go from the dinning room, to the living room, to the den, and to the family room.

“This place is pretty boring”, says Jerica, “I have no clue why I was afraid.”

Ronald responds,

“Wait, until we go upstairs, the monsters are probably in the closets.”

“Oh, please, Ronnie”, says Jerica, “The only monster around here is you.”

Cora laughs,

“You are a monster, and you owe me strawberry milk.”

“You haven’t gotten over that yet?”

“Not until I enjoy my strawberry milk.”

“Well, there’s nothing much in this room”, says Jerica, “It seems like whoever was in here after they all died cleaned this place out pretty well.”

“We don’t actually know if all those slave stories are true”, replies Jacques, “They could be false. Maybe the last people who lived here were just regular people.”

“So, where do we go next”, asks Cora?

“There’s nothing much left down here except for the laundry room”, says Jerica, “I say we go upstairs.”

“What was that”, asks Ronald?

“What was what”, asks Jacques?

“That noise.”

Cora responds,

“What noise?” “I didn’t hear anything.”

“Ronnie, stop playing”, commands Jerica, “Enough with your silly little games. It’s time get serious.”

“I’m not playing. It sounded like someone was coming downstairs.”

“Ronnie, stop playing”, says Cora, “he is playing, right?”

“Yes, he is”, says Jacques, “You didn’t hear anything.”

“I seriously did.”

Jacques walks towards the staircase,

“See, there’s nothing or nobody here. Remember we’re in a secluded place. The only people here are us. If you heard anything it was just your imagination. Now stop playing and let’s go upstairs.”

They walk upstairs, Cora asks,

“Which room do we go into first?”

“Let’s go in the master bedroom first”, says Jacques.

They walk in the room in awe.

“This room is beautiful”, says Cora, “They left the sheets on the bed, and they’re so luxurious.”

“Wow! That must be them”, says Ronald.

“Who are you talking about”, asks Jacques.

“Look.”

Ronald points at a picture,

“The Stevens; that must be Chester, that’s Cynthia Mae, their two sons, and that’s their daughter.”

“So maybe the rumors are true”, says Jacques, “What do you think about that Jerica?”

There is no response Jacques says,

“Jerica, so, what do you think?”

Cora turns around,

“Where did she go?”

“She was right behind us, where could she have gone”, asks Jacques.

“She probably just went into another room”, says Ronald.

“What was that”, asks Cora?

“What did you hear”, asks Ronald?

“It sounded like the front door just opened.”

The three of them walk out of the room and near the stairs and see the door is opened.

Jacques asks,

“Did you guys leave the door opened?”

“No”, says Ronald, “I thought Jerica closed it, she was the last one in.”

“Maybe she went to the car”, says Cora.

“Why would she do that”, asks Ronald?

“I don’t know, where else could she have gone?”

“I’m going to check”, says Jacques.

He walks downstairs and as he goes to the door it shuts. When he goes to open it, it doesn't open.

“What the hell”, yells Jacques?

“What’s wrong”, asks Ronald?

“The door won’t open.”

“Oh, I knew we shouldn’t have come here”, says Cora.

“Maybe you’re not opening it correctly”, suggests Ronald.

“I’m doing everything, I’m turning, pushing, and pulling. What else can I do?”

Ronald walks to the door and tries to open it, but it won't open.

“Are we locked in here”, asks Cora?

“No”, says Jacques, “Everything is just fine. Everyone just calm down. We’ll just go back upstairs, and find Jerica. Once we find her Ronald will find something in his goody bag to break us out of here and then we’ll go home.”

“But what if we don’t find Jerica”, asks Cora?

“We’re going to find her”, says Jacques.

They all return upstairs and search for her. They reluctantly decide to separate and search for her. As they search a knock is heard. Once Cora hears it she screams and calls for Jacques and Ronald.

“Where are you? Jacques, Jacques! Ronnie, stop playing, Ronald, where are you?”

She runs into them.

“Oh, my gosh, I wanna go home now.”

“We can’t leave here without Jerica”, says Jacques.

“We can come back in the morning”, replies Cora, “Did you hear the knocking?”

“Yes, what was that”, replies Ronald.

“I don’t know, but I want to leave now”, says Cora.

“We have to find Jerica first”, says Jacques.

“We looked everywhere and she couldn’t be found. Let’s just call the police and go home.”

“Cora, we can’t do that. Do you know how much trouble we could get into coming in here”, asks Jacques?

“I thought you said everything was going to be okay. Besides, we’re not trespassing. There was no sign.”

“Yeah, but this isn’t our house, so it’s like breaking and entering”, replies Jacques.

“You said that everything was okay. You said that nothing bad was going to happen. THEN WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?”

“Cora, just calm down. I am sure that Jerica is in here. She couldn’t have gone far”, says Jacques.

“Maybe the spirits took her outside”, says Ronald.

“Oh, my gosh”, replies Cora, “I should have never came.”

“Let’s just keep searching. Ronald and Cora you stay up here, I’ll go downstairs.”

They continue to search for Jerica. As they do so noises are heard throughout the home.

“Did you hear that”, asks Cora?

“What did you hear”, asks Ronald?

“It sounded like whispering.”

“Whispering? Who would be whispering?”

“Either Jerica, playing tricks. Or those spirits. Can’t we go home? We’ll leave Jacques here and the two of us can go.”

“How are we going to go anywhere, Cora? Jacques has the keys.”

“Don’t you have anything in your bag to hot wire a car?”

“You’re really scared.”

“Of course, I’m scared. Jerica just completely disappeared. There’s no telling what’s going to happen to us.”

“Nothing bad is going to happen to us, Cora.”

“How do you know?” “Trust me, Cora, I promise.”

“Could you promise Jerica? If something happened to her, then something is bound to happen to us. Unless of course we get out of here.”

“Cora, there is nothing to worry about. Let’s just keep searching.”

They go into another room searching for Jerica as they do they hear a scream.

“What was that? Was that Jerica”, asks Cora, “Jerica, Jerica, where are you? Are you okay? We’re looking for you? Where are you?”

She looks at Ronald,

“How come she’s not responding to me?”

“Maybe she can’t hear you.”

As they continue to look they hear someone coming up the stairs,

“Oh my gosh, they’re coming to get us, they’re going to kill us.”

“Cora, calm down, it’s probably just Jacques walking upstairs.”

“Probably?”

As they continue to hear the footsteps Cora begins to cry,

“I don’t want to die.”

“Cora, just calm down,”

Finally Jacques and Jerica enter the room.

“Oh, my goodness. Where the hell have you been”, asks Cora?

“I went into another room and I got thrown into a trap door. I kept walking until I found another door, it lead me to the downstairs living room. It was amazing; I have to take you guys through there.”

“No, I want to go home, now! Did you hear the screaming?”

“Yes, that was me”, says Jerica, “I walked into Jacques, and I got a little scared.”

“Well, I’m glad that you’re okay. Let’s go home.”

They all go downstairs and try to exit, but the door still won’t open.

“How come it’s not opening”, asks Cora?

“I don’t know”, replies Jacques, “but we can’t leave unless it opens.”

“Break a window, we’ll leave from there”, says Cora.

Ronald takes a book out of his bag ready to throw it, as he does the room gets unbelievably cold. Jerica asks them if they felt the air and they all agreed that the air just got colder. Ronald ignores the air and throws the book at the window. Once he does the book bounces off the window and lands on the floor, the window does not break.

“What the hell”, says Ronald.

“Try it again”, says Cora.

He throws it a couple of times and nothing happens. Jacques takes the bag and swings it at the window, but it does not break. Cora begins to cry again,

“If I don’t get out of here I am going to scream so loud that someone will hear us and they will have to come over here.”

“We’re secluded”, says Jerica, “no, one is going to hear you.”

“Well, what do we do now”, asks Ronald?

“Let me show you the pathway I found. It is so cool.”

“I don’t want to”, says Cora.

“Oh, come on. There’s no reason to be afraid. Just like Albert said, there are no such things as ghost.”

They all follow Jerica upstairs into a bedroom, into the closet. They follow her down into the pathway it leads to a smaller room.

Jerica says,

“See, isn’t this cool?”

“Wow, it’s like a little hiding place”, says Jacques, “There’s probably a whole bunch of door traps and hiding places in this house.”

“Maybe we can find them”, says Jerica.

“I want to go home.”

“Okay, we’re not bringing Cora the next time we come”, says Jerica.

“You want to come back here”, asks Ronald?

“Yeah, it’s pretty cool, Maybe in the day time next time. That way there will be sun light.”

Cora responds,

“Well, I definitely won’t be coming back.”

“Well, you won’t be invited to come back”, says Jerica.

“This room is really cool. I can’t believe they left all this stuff here”, says Jacques.

“Maybe, whoever came to clean out the place didn’t realize that this room was here”, says Jerica.

“Well, now that we’ve seen it, take a picture and let’s go home”, says Cora.

“We can’t, we’re stuck here”, says Jerica, “We’ll probably have to spend the night.”

“How are they going to find us”, asks Cora?

“I am sure once we don’t come home Albert won’t be able to keep to himself where we are”, says Jerica, “they’ll come and get us and everything will be alright.”

“For you maybe”, says Cora, “My parents are going to kill me. Can we at least get out of this little room?”

They decide to leave the room in favor of Cora. As they do Jacques walks into a case and knocks it over. When it opens something falls out of and Jacques decides to see what it is.

As he looks he realizes that there are skeletons. He jumps back and screams. The other three walk over to the case to see what he is yelling about.

“Oh my gosh”, says Cora “Do you see what those are? We definitely have to leave now.”

“They probably belong to the slaves”, says Jacques.

Ronald adds,

“Or the girl that they raped and killed.”

“Maybe they belong to the parents they killed”, says Jerica.

“I don’t care who they belong to. Let’s go now”, says Cora.

They follow Jerica out of the room before they get to the living room they hear a knock on the wall.

“Did you guys hear that”, asks Ronald?

Cora says,

“Ronnie, if that was you playing around, I am going to strangle you.”

“I swear it wasn’t me.”

The knocking occurs again.

“We have to get out of here”, says Jacques.

They continue to follow Jerica out of the pathway. As they walk the knocking seems closer and louder. The louder it gets the faster they run. Cora begins to scream,

“Let me out of here!”

Jerica and Ronald tell her to stop screaming, but it doesn’t help. They finally get to the door that will lead them to the living room and it won’t open. They pound and push the door trying to get it opened. As they push the knocking gets closer to them. They each push, and push and push the door until finally it opens and they rush out of the pathway. Once they are in the living room the knocking sounds stop and Cora cries.

“When are we getting out of this place?”

“Cora, things wouldn’t seem so bad, but you’re making things worse, by panicking”, says Jerica.

“Well, what do you want me to do? We’re stuck in a haunted house with ghosts and everything.”

They leave the living room area and go back into the kitchen. Jacques says,

“Okay, we need to find an exit. There is no way that I am spending the night. Does anyone have any plans?”

“We could see if there’s another exit”, says Ronald, “Like a back door.”

“Or maybe the basement”, says Jerica, “sometimes the basement has an exit or even a window.”

“I am not going in the basement”, says Cora, “it’s probably filled with corpses and ghosts and other scary things.”

Jacques continues,

“Well, we need to find another way out of here.”

They walk together in the different rooms seeing if there is another way out of the house; as they do they hear the whispering again. They talk to each other about the whispering. Not sure what it is they decide to stay together to find where it is coming from. They go back upstairs and search each room. As they do so they hear a glass fall and break and then a scream.

“What the hell was that, is someone here”, asks Cora?

“It sounded like it came from the kitchen”, says Jerica.

“Who wants to go down and check it out”, asks Jacques?

No one answers him, he continues,

“Well, someone has to go.”

“Why don’t you go”, says Ronald?

“We should probably all go together”, says Jerica.

They all go back downstairs into the kitchen and find nothing there. There is nothing on the floors as evidence that something was broken. Confused they continue to search the house. As they do so they hear the whispering again and a knocking sound is heard upstairs. Scared and upset Cora cries. She begins to scream and she tries to break the door down with no avail. She falls to the floor sobbing,

“I wish I didn’t come here.”

The rest of them try to comfort her. After a couple of minutes they return upstairs. Not finding anything they decide to go to the laundry room, one of the last rooms they have not searched.

“Well, this is the only room we haven’t searched”, says Ronald.

“We haven’t checked the basement either”, says Jacques.

“There’s probably an attic as well”, says Jerica.

“No attic and no basement, we check this room and then we find a way to get out of here”, says Cora.

They search the room and don’t find anything other than another secret passage. Jerica says,

“Hey guys, another passage. You want to see where it leads to?”

“No”, says Cora, “no, we are not doing that again.”

“Come on, it can’t be that bad. Even if there are spirits; there’s not much they can do to us. They’re not alive.”

“I’m curious to see where it leads to”, says Ronald.

“Well, then lets go”, says Jerica.

After convincing Cora to go through the passage they all walk through. The passage leads them to another hiding room. There’s nothing much there except locked cases. Jerica asks,

“What do you think is in them?”

“Probably more skeletons”, says Jacques.

“You want to open them and find out”, asks Jerica?

“No”, says Cora, “besides they’re locked.”

“I’m sure Ronnie has something in his bag that we can use to break them open”, says Jerica.

“He couldn’t even break the window. What makes you think he’ll be able to unlock the cases?”

“We could at least try”, says Jerica.

Ronald takes out some tools and goes to unlock the cases. After much trying he gives up. After him Jacques tries to unlock the cases, but can’t seem to open them. Jerica tries next after much trying she opens one.

“Oh my gosh, it unlocked”, says Jerica, “I’m afraid to open it.”

She steps back not opening it. Ronald walks towards the case and opens it. In the case are bunches of letters.

“What do you think they say”, asks Jerica?

“There’s only one way to find out”, says Ronald, “read them.”

Ronald takes a letter out and begins to read it,

“If someone should find this passageway know that I, Ryan, and my two friends, Keith and Franklin built it. The owners of the house Chester and Cynthia Mae Stevens...”

He stops reading.

“Oh my gosh it is true.”

“Continue reading, Ronnie”, says Jerica.

He continues,

“The owners of the house Chester and Cynthia Mae Stevens are unaware of it. Their daughter committed suicide. She was pregnant with her father’s baby.”

“Oh, that’s disgusting”, says Jerica.

Ronald continues,

“She was pregnant with her father’s baby, and instead of telling her mother she killed herself. She told us what had happened and when we confronted her dad, he took us captive and told Cynthia Mae that we raped and killed her. We have been in captive ever since and can’t seem to break out of the house. Chester has installed unbreakable windows and doors that lock automatically.”

He stops and says,

“If they lock automatically how did the door open earlier?”

Jacques says,

“I don’t know, keep reading.”

He continues,

“If you should open this you’ll find some letters. These are the letters Sarah wrote to her mother to let her know about the baby, but never had the courage to give it to her. This is the evidence you need to set us free. The other cases are filled with Sarah. Her father did that. If you found the other passage we made, you will also find a body. That body is Cynthia Mae. After Cynthia found out about Sarah, from me, she confronted Chester and Chester killed her. The three of us are now in here alone with this crazy man and are trying to set ourselves free. If we should die before we break out, let this be the evidence that we are innocent and Chester is guilty.”

“That’s some crazy shit”, says Jacques.

“So what do we do now”, asks Cora.

“We take these letters and give them to the authorities”, says Ronald.

“What’s the point, their all dead”, says Jerica.

“Maybe they want us to tell everyone, so the rumors can be stopped. You know, they want the truth to be told”, says Jacques, “maybe that’s why they are haunting the place. They want the truth to be told.”

“But, we can’t get out of here”, says Cora.

“Maybe that’s what Chester wanted”, says Jerica, “maybe he did know about the passages. Maybe he thought if he made locking doors no matter who comes in here and finds out about what he did, they wouldn’t be able to get out and tell.”

“Maybe the three boys’ spirits opened the door”, adds Jacques.

“Which means Chester’s spirit must have closed it back”, says Ronald.

Jerica continues,

“Well, I want to open the other cases to see if Sara is really in them.”

“No”, says Cora, “We need to find out how to get out of here.”

At this point they start walking again following the passage as they walk they hear the whispering again. This time the whispering is much clearer. They hear the voice say,

“Help me, please.”

Cora says,

“Who said that?”

“It sounded like a girl”, says Ronald.

“Jerica was that you playing around”, asks Cora?

“No.”

“Then who was it”, asks Cora.

Ronald says,

“May be it was Sarah’s spirit. Maybe she’s the one haunting the house. Maybe she’s the one who wants the truth told.”

The whispering continues and gets louder and clearer. Jerica says,

“We’re trying to help you. Help us get out of here.”

“What are you doing”, asks Jacques?

“I’m talking to the spirit. If she’s asking us to help her, then maybe she can hear us. Sarah, if that’s you; help us get out of here.”

They continue down the passage as they do they finally come to the end and they open the door, which lead to one of the upstairs room.

“I think this is Sarah’s room”, says Cora.

“Let’s go downstairs and see if the door is opened”, says Jerica, “maybe her spirit opened the door for us so that we can tell everyone the truth of what happened to her.”

They all run downstairs. Although the door is still closed, Jacques goes to open it, but it doesn’t open. As he forces the door open the whispering occurs again, and the knocking is heard on the walls. They then hear dishes crashing in the kitchen. They all run to the kitchen, but nothing is there. They run to the living room and they hear a voice,

“Why are you here?”

“Who said that”, says Cora?

“It sounded like a man”, answers Ronald.

“Ronnie!”, says Cora.

Ronald responds,

“It wasn’t me.”

“It probably was the spirit of Chester”, says Jerica, “I think he’s upset that we’re here.”

They all run back to the front door.

“We have to get out of here”, says Cora.

“Let’s check the basement”, says Jacques, “Maybe there’s a way to get out down there.”

“I am not going down there”, says Cora.

Jerica responds,

“Then stay up here by yourself.”

They all run towards the basement, Cora responds,

“Guys, wait for me.”

They run downstairs in the basement. When they get inside they search for a door or window they can exit. As they search they hear the girl's voice again. Jerica responds by talking to the voice. Ronald responds to Jerica,

“I can't believe you're talking to nothing.”

“I am not talking to nothing. I am talking to Sarah's spirit. She needs our help.”
They continue to find an exit, but can't find anything. They all decide to go back upstairs. Once they reach the top Jacques realizes that Jerica is not behind him.

“Where is she”, asks Ronald?

“I don't know”, says Jacques, “she was right behind me.”

“You should have had her in front of you, stupid”, says Ronald.

“Don't call me stupid, stupid.”

“I'll call you what I want when I want, stupid.”

They begin to argue, Cora intervenes,

“Both of you shut-up!”

She goes towards the stairs and yells,

“Jerica, are you down there? Jerica, Jerica, can you hear me?”

“We simply have to go back down and see where she's at”, says Jacques.

They go downstairs, but can't find her. Cora responds,

“Well, we're leaving her ass. This is the second time she went missing.”

They hear a scream.

“What was that”, asks Cora.

“I think it was Jerica”, replies Jacques.

Ronald answers,

“I think she found another passage.”

They start to push the walls to see if they can find a passage. As they search Cora speaks,

“Jerica, can you hear me, can you hear me Jerica? Are you in the walls somewhere? Jerica please say something. Why is she not answering?”

“Apparently she can’t hear you”, says Ronald.

“This was a mistake; I knew this was a mistake. I never should have came”, cries Cora.

“Cora would you please calm down”, says Ronald, “panicking is not helping anyone.”

“We’ll simply go back upstairs and search for her”, says Jacques.

“I want to go home.”

“What part of, we’re stuck in here don’t you understand”, responds Ronald?

“Everyone, just calm down”, says Jacques.

The three of them return to the upstairs and search for Jerica once again. As they do so they hear the whispering again. Cora holds on to Jacques afraid for her life. Ronald although not showing it is beginning to have fear about this whole journey of the house. They go from room to room trying to find Jerica

“Maybe we should just wait until she shows up again, like last time”, says Cora.

“I’m sure she’s around this house some place”, says Jacques, “are you okay Ronald?”

There is no response. Jacques calls his name once more and Ronald jumps,

“Are you okay?”

Ronald replies,

“Yes, I’m fine.”

They continue to search upstairs again, but they cannot find any trace of Jerica. They decide to go downstairs again and look for her. They search all the rooms, but cannot find anything to lead them to her. They yell and call her name from room to room, but they do not get any responses. After some time Cora says,

“I’m tired.”

“We’re all tired”, says Jacques, and I’m sure Jerica is scared out of her mind right now, but we have to find her.”

“Can’t we take a break”, asks Cora?

They decided to sit in the living room. Jacques sits first and then Cora sits next to him. She cuddles up to him very afraid. Ronald sits across from them; he looks at Jacques and smiles at Cora’s reaction. Jacques says,

“Everything will be alright.”

As they sit they hear a table and chairs being dragged across the kitchen floor. Ronald gets up and sits next to Jacques,

“What is that?”

“You think its Jerica playing games”, asks Cora.

“I don’t think she would do that”, says Jacques.

Cora begins to speak,

“Jerica, if that’s you I order you to stop it right now.”

The noise stops for a few seconds, then starts again. They all decide to walk to the kitchen together. When they get there, there is no one there and the table and chairs are in their rightful places. They walk back to the living room and sit together. A few minutes later they hear the whispering. Soon after they hear talking coming from upstairs. Scared, Cora begins to cry. Jacques tries to quiet her as Ronald takes tissues out of his pocket and gives them to her. The talking continues until a loud slam is heard. They all jump at the slam and Cora begins to freak.

“I have to get out of here.”

She runs to the door and bangs on it. She screams, get me out of here, a couple of times. She violently bangs on the doors and windows trying to get out. Jacques and Ronald try to calm her down. Once they calm her the place becomes cold again and it is silent, Cora falls into the arms of Jacques and weeps. He walks her into the family room where they sit. Jacques says,

“Maybe if we sit in another atmosphere, you’ll be okay.”

They all sit together in silence. Soon they hear the whispering again; at that point Jacques suggests that they go looking for Jerica again. They go upstairs and Jacques suggest that they split again.

“You must be out of your freaking mind”, says Cora.

Jacques responds,

“Don’t worry, I’ll be with you.”

Ronald responds,

“You mean I have to be on my own?”

“You’re not afraid, are you”, asks Jacques?

“No. Of course not.”

“Then what’s the problem?”

“Nothing.”

“Good, Cora and I will start in the master bedroom, and you will start in Sarah’s room.”

They split and go in the rooms. Jacques and Cora search the room. This time going into the closet, which they had not before.

Cora says,

“Maybe there’s another passage.”

“But the letter said that there were only two.”

“Maybe they didn’t mention one purposely.”

“Well, I don’t know.”

Cora observes the closet,

“I can’t believe they kept her clothes in here.”

Jacques leaves the closet talking,

“Yeah, well, I’m going to go in one of the other rooms, are you going to be okay in here by yourself?”

Not hearing him she says,

“Yeah, you should come in here and see these clothing. Did you see these clothing, Jacques, their wonderful.”

Not getting a response makes her nervous,

“Jacques. Jacques, stop playing.”

She exits the closet to see she’s in the room alone.

“Jacques, where are you? Jacques, Jacques, can you hear me?”

Jacques in the other room hears her and says,

“Yeah, hold on.”

“Where did you go?”

She goes to exit the room. As she runs to the door, she sees him in the other room. As she runs towards him, something pulls her back and she scream. He sees this and runs towards her. As he runs towards the room, the door shuts. She screams louder and Ronald comes out of the room,

“What the hell happened?”

“The door shut and it won’t open. Cora is in there.”

“You left her in there all alone?”

“It was just for a minute. She said she was okay.”

“What happened?”

“I don’t know. When I came back to the door, she got pushed back and then the door closed. It was like something pulled her back.”

“Who?”

“I don’t know, I didn’t see anyone.”

At this point they can hear her screaming. They both violently try to break the door down to no avail. As they continue the screaming stops. Finally the door opens and they go in the room, but there is no sign of Cora.

“Cora, Cora, where are you”, asks Jacques?

“Cora, Cora, can you hear me” asks Ronald?

“This is some freaky shit.”

“What are we going to do?”

“I don’t know?”

“What do you mean, you don’t know? You said everything was going to be okay.”

“I’m sorry Ronnie, but I don’t think we’re going to make it out alive.”

“Man, don’t say that, I don’t want to die. Maybe we can call someone.”

“You have your phone?”

“No, I left it at home. Don’t you have yours?”

“Yes, but I left it in the car.”

“Way to go Johnson, you really are a dumb jock.”

“Hey, you take that back.”

“No. Who the hell leaves their phone in the car?”

“Well, you’re the idiot who left your phone at home.”

They continue to argue before hearing another knock. At the same time they hear a voice saying, help me out. Ronald says,

“That sounds like Jerica. Where do you think she is?”

“I don’t know, where is it coming from?”

“It sounds like Sarah’s room.”

“Then it’s probably Sarah.”

They run in the room, but don't see anyone.

“There’s no one here”, says Jacques.

“This is getting too freaky for me I want to go home.”

“We can’t leave Jerica and Cora here. Besides Ronald we can’t get out. We have to wait until someone comes to get us.”

“That’s if we live that long.”

“Don’t worry, everything is okay.”

“WOULD YOU STOP SAYING THAT? Things haven’t been right since we came here. Crazy sounds, scary passageways, dead bodies, missing people. I want to go home.”

He starts to cry, Jacques says,

“Man, you’re not crying are you?”

Ronald continues to cry. Jacques takes him in his arms and allows Ronald to cry on him,

“Ronnie, just calm down; I am sure we will find Jerica and Cora and find out how to get out of here.”

As he cries the whispering occurs again, this time saying he’s behind you, look out. They both look behind themselves, but don’t see anyone. They both walk back into the family room and sit. Ronald continues to cry.

“Man, you have to stop crying. We have to figure out how to get out of here.”

“We’re never getting out of here. We’re going to die here.”

“Don’t say that Ronnie. Besides we have to find Jerica and Cora.”

“They can’t be found. It’s hopeless. They’re probably lost in the house or dead.”

“We can’t give up.”

“Why are you so sure everything is going to be alright?”

“I have to be positive. Besides, I’m the one that got us into this problem and I have to be the one to get us out of it. And it can’t happen with you being so negative. Now, let’s go, we have to go find the girls.”

They both get up and go into the den searching. As they do the whispering and knocking occurs again, Ronald responds,

“What is that? Why the hell does that keep happening?”

“Just ignore it.”

They continue to search for Jerica and Cora; as they do they hear the front door open. When they run to the door to see who it is the door is shut and locked. They tug at the door, but it doesn’t open. They then continue to search and as they do they hear talking again. They decide to go upstairs to see if they can catch anyone up there. They search each room, each nook and cranny, but cannot find anything or anyone. Frustrated and tired Ronald starts crying again. He sits on the bed in Sarah’s room. Jacques sits next to him,

“What’s wrong with you?”

“I’m scared. I’ve never been so scared in my life. What is going to happen to us?”

“I don’t know.”

“Well, we have to stay together. We must never part. No more splitting up. All we have is each other now.”

“Let’s keep looking.”

They get up and continue to search. They go back downstairs and even in the basement. When they return from the basement they go into the kitchen. They stop to take a rest when in the living room they hear a slam and a scream. Jacques leaves the kitchen to see what it was. Ronald responds,

“Jacques, don’t go.”

After some seconds Ronald continues,

“Jacques, what was that? Jacques is everything okay?”

After not getting a response he goes into the living room to find no one there.

“Jacques, what happened? Where did you go?”

He starts to cry,

“Jacques, please answer me. Jacques where are you?”

He goes searching for Jacques, but cannot find him. He then runs to the door trying to open it once again, but cannot. He then yells and starts banging on the door. As he does so he hears footsteps from upstairs,

“Who is that, who is up there? Come down here and show yourself.”

He cries even the more,

“Why is this happening to me?”

He starts searching again for anyone he can find, but his search is meaningless. He cannot find one soul in the house, however the noises continue: the whispering, the knocking, and the talking upstairs, all get louder; he also begins to hear the furniture moving, and the doors opening and closing. Running from room to room he becomes a complete maniac trying to figure out which room the noises are coming from. He falls on his knees and says,

“God, if you hear me, please don’t let me die. I can’t die now. Please, I’m sorry for everything, I’ve done. I don’t deserve this. Please protect me from this horror. God, can you hear me? Please open the doors. Open the doors, please, I want to go home.”

He goes to open the doors, but the doors don’t open. As he tugs at the door he hears laughing.

“Who’s laughing at me? Are you spirits making a mockery of me? What did you do to my friends? Let them go, let them go now.”

He goes running from room to room banging on the walls and whispering like the spirits.

“See, I can do it too. What are you going to do with me? You want to kill me too? God, please help me?”

His running turns into jogging into walking and then into limping.

“If you’re going to kill me just kill me.”

He walks from room to room; he finally sits on a couch in the living room. He puts his head down and screams into the pillow. He sobs, cries, and weeps heavily. As he continues he hears his name called. He sits up,

“Who said that?”

The voice continues and then says,

“Look behind you.”

He closes his eyes and then turns his head he slowly opens them and hears,

“APRIL FOOLS!”

Albert, Rebecca, Jerica, Cora, and Jacques stand behind him laughing.

“What the hell. You’re kidding me?”

“That’s right, we we’re kidding you”, says Jerica.

“What are you two doing here?”

Rebecca answers,

“Well, someone had to do the whispering”, she whispers, “Help me, please.”

They all laugh. Albert continues,

“And someone had to set up the house, and do the banging, and do the sound affects, and add the cases, and the letters, and skeletons.”

“This is just low”, replies Ronald.

“Oh what’s the problem”, replies Jerica, “You can dish it, but can’t take it?”

“This is so much different. I have never done something this extreme to any of you. I have never made you think your life was almost over.”

“We have put up with your crap for over ten years”, responds Cora, “It was time you got yours back. Just think of this as our ten year get back plan.”

“I don’t believe this. You’re supposed to be my friends and you pull something like this. I don’t think I could ever forgive you.”

“Oh, please”, says Jacques, “It was just a joke.”

“You know”, says Albert, “I have never seen anyone call on God like that before.”

They all laugh.

“This is not funny. I want to go home, now.”

“We can’t the doors are locked”, replies Cora.

They all laugh. Rebecca says,

“By the way Cora, you did some great acting, you made me think you were really afraid. I was starting to think you forgot this was a set up.”

“No, I was just practicing. Get ready Hollywood, because here I come.”

They all laugh.

“Are we really locked in here”, asks Ronald?

“No Ronnie”, answers Albert, “I just have to unlock it with my remote and we’re out of here. By the way, thanks Jacques for dropping me off. You think you can bring me here tomorrow so we can clean up?”

“Sure, no problem.”

“I don’t believe you guys did this to me. I nearly peed my pants”, says Ronald.

“You’re not still crying are you”, asks Rebecca?

“I’m still shaken up, yes, I am crying.”

“Its okay, Ronnie”, says Cora.

Jacques replies,

“I told you everything was going to be alright.”

“And I told you there were no such things as ghost. Just great technology”, adds Albert.

They all laugh. They leave talking about the night. Jacques takes each one home.

CHAPTER THREE

Jerica, Jacques, Albert, Cora, and Rebecca are sitting at the lunch table talking. Ronald approaches the table not speaking to any of them.

“Oh, come on Ronnie”, says Rebecca, “It’s been two weeks since we fooled you. Don’t tell me you’re still upset.”

“That was cruel.”

“It was only cruel because you weren’t the one playing the practical joke says Jerica.

“Yeah Ronald, how do you think we feel after we find out you played a joke on us”, adds Albert.

“Besides Ronnie”, says Cora, “This was the first and only joke we have ever played on you. You’ve been fooling with us for a long time now, and not just on April Fools. We had to do something big.”

“Come on Ronnie”, says Jacques, “you can’t be mad at us forever.”

“I’m not mad at you. Well, I am. I was really scared. You don’t understand how scared I was”, he begins to cry, “and I really thought that I was going to die. All I kept thinking was about my parents. What would they think when they can’t find their son. I really thought that my life was over.”

“Sorry, man”, says Jacques, “it was just a joke. Okay, maybe we went a little too far, but you must admit it was funny.”

“Yeah man”, says Albert, “you know if it was you on the other side you would have enjoyed it.”

“Yeah, I guess you’re right. It was just so cruel though.”

“We’re sorry”, says Jerica, “but we had to get you back.”

“Well, I hated the feeling of being on the other end. So, after today let’s agree no more practical jokes. I promise to end it, if you guys do.”

“That’s not a problem, Ronnie”, says Rebecca, “Just as long as you promise that you won’t pull any more stunts.”

“Agreed”, says Ronald.

They all say agreed after him. Albert continues,

“Here man, have one of my peanuts.”

Albert hands him the can. Ronald opens it and stuffed snakes pop out. They all laugh and Albert says,

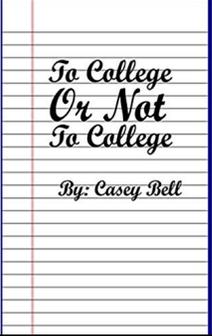
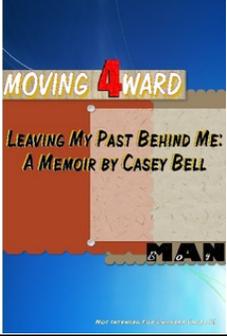
“I’m sorry man, that’s the last one, I promise.”

They continue to laugh and enjoy their lunch.

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THE HOUSE ON ATTICUS LANE

Four friends travel to a house that has been rumored about for decades. Supposedly haunted, they allow their curiosity to take them to the house and search the place for dead bodies, ghosts, and more. Many discoveries are found in the house that makes all rumors true. As they search the place they come to the conclusion that they are trapped in the house. Do they make it out alive? This is a great question that is answered in *The House on Atticus Lane*.

About the Author:

Casey Bell shares many interesting stories and his creativity and imagination is greatly shown through his writings. *The Diary of Stephanie Dane*, *Crystal Fountain*, and *Maria's Troupe* are just some of his great and fun-filled stories. In all of his books, he takes us on a journey that one wishes would never end. Casey, also a playwright, has been writing since the age of twelve. Stay tuned for more exciting books from Casey Bell.

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