

## Evicting Evil

The flames in the candles that lit up the sanctuary of the church suddenly vanished, as the stone doors were shoved open releasing a flood of freezing air to fill the room. The priest's head turned in fear of what he worried could cause that heart-stopping disruption. Father Michael reached for the candle that sat beside his Bible and walked down the center aisle approaching the figure. As he got closer, the light overpowered the darkness and revealed a woman. He questioned her motives and demanded her name. She replied with Lillian and explained she was seeking help from the church because her husband had become ill. Being a helpful man of God, he agreed to visit with the woman's husband. Father Michael called for Sister Ruth and requested her assistance. She agreed and they left the church.

The moonlight provided a source of light that guided them towards the house. In the forest they heard voices and growls that the Father knew were anything but holy. He urged them to move faster. As the three approached the house, the air grew steady and cold. Lillian's hand reached for the handle to open the door. She was scared, but slowly opened it anyway. In the main room, the furniture was over-turned and odd symbols were scratched into the walls. As the door was closing behind them, the scream of a man echoed, and out of nowhere he came sliding backwards out of the darkness and slammed into the door. The nun rushed to his aid and she recognized his face. It was Doctor Phillips. In his hand, he held a mask; a plague mask that resembled a bird. When Sister Ruth bent down to pick it up, she smelled the herbs. This was believed to protect them from being infected by their patients. As she turned the mask over, an upside-down cross was scratched into it directly between the eyes. Sister Ruth immediately flung it down, and she clutched her rosary beads. The Father's attention was redirected to the symbols

on the walls, and his curiosity begged to see what they were. As he leaned closer, he recognized the symbols. He immediately drew back in fear, because the symbols were satanic and caused the Father to become nauseous. Confusion filled his head, so he grabbed a piece of paper to write down what he had seen. He reached for some ink and grabbed a quill. He started by writing the date, but as he wrote sixteen sixty-six, the ink from the quill vanished from the paper. The three numbers that remained on the paper were the triple sixes; numbers associated with the Devil himself. Father Michael tore the paper to shreds and scolded Lillian. He asked her if her husband was honestly sick and his tone was sharp. She began by apologizing and telling Father Michael and Sister Ruth that her husband was sick but not in a way that could be cured medically. Lillian told them that she did not know the whole story but knew he had a Ouija board, and one day she heard him offering his soul for riches. Father Michael grew angry and after turning quickly, he walked down the hallway into the darkness. He began to sweat and get an excruciating pain in his head. He glanced to his right and on the wall two names were painted beside hearts. Edgar and Lillian. Now that he knew his name, he figured it would help him save Lillian's husband. He crept into the bedroom and closed the door behind him.

The room was completely black; once inside nothing could be seen. He tried to remain silent to keep himself hidden in the darkness, but suddenly, the room was overflowing with light. It startled him and he fell backwards onto the floor. In the middle of the room, floating above a pentagram drawn in blood was Edgar, with his head facing down. The Father stood up and called for Edgar. As he spoke, Edgar started to twitch, and blood trickled from his mouth and eyes. Edgar lifted his head and looked at the Father. As they stared at each other, the house started to shake and the wind harassed the windows to the bedroom. Edgar fell to the floor and growled at Father Michael. The Father began praying and using words that were holy and blessed. This

angered the demon inside of Edgar, causing it to hiss and claw while the Father spoke. The pentagram went up in flames, crows and ravens busted through the windows, and rain flooded the room. The water in the floor avoided the pentagram, allowing the fire to continue burning. Father Michael said one final prayer that proclaimed the power of the Holy Trinity, and he jumped onto Edgar submerging them both in the water. The water had been blessed and was pure, so when Edgar's body fell into it, the demon's only option was to leave. The Father stood and watched the aftermath. The pentagram was washed away, the birds retreated, and the rain stopped. He retrieved Edgar's body from the water and called for Lillian and Sister Ruth. When they came into the bedroom, Father Michael told them it was over. Lillian thanked him and shook her husband until he woke. The four of them walked to the door, but while they were walking Sister Ruth gasped and fell to her knees. The others turned, and when they did, they saw the Sister laying on the floor covered in blood. They were horrified. Out of the darkness stepped the doctor wielding a piece of broken glass dripping with blood. Through the mask, the Father could see that the doctor's eyes were red. His heart sank and he, along with the couple, turned and ran. Father Michael made that demon leave Edgar's body, but he failed to realize that when it left, it was only finding a new soul, not returning to Hell.