

# The Landlady: The Basement

Billy carefully tiptoed over to the elevator. It was 01:00am. It is pitch black outside and the Landlady's distant snores can be heard. Billy cautiously pressed the 'up' button. Horrifyingly, the doors cranked open, screeching and creaking. Billy stopped. He didn't move a muscle. He listened intently for the sound of the Landlady. Thankfully, she was still snoring away. He made his way over the threshold and the doors slammed shut.

Groaning, the elevator slowly moved upwards. Billy lingered around until the elevator came to a halt and the doors swung open. To Billy's horror, the Landlady was standing before him. Billy's eyes widened and his breath stopped. "Oh, were you looking for me?" the Landlady grinned.

"Actually..." Billy began.

"Would you like some tea?" she asked, apparently not searching for an answer. She guided him back into the elevator and pressed 'B' for basement.

"The basement? Why are we going to the basement?" questioned Billy.

"I want show you something" replied the Landlady.

The doors lurched open as we reached the basement and the Landlady led him over to a rather large coffin. She pulled the lid off. Billy was bewildered by the amount of taxi dermal specimens that lay within. There were all sorts of animals.

"This is my collection" stated the Landlady. All Billy could muster was a simple "Wow". Then came an unusual, raspy sound.

"HELLO?" came a voice. "SLAM!" the Landlady promptly shut the coffin. "What was that?" Billy wondered aloud.

"What was what? I didn't hear a sound," muttered the Landlady. "Tea?"

It's now been a day since the incident in the basement. Billy longed to investigate. Now was his chance. Again, he could hear the Landlady's snores but he had learned from his previous mistake. He quietly tiptoed down to the first floor; where the Landlady slept.

The door stood ajar and Billy peaked in. He gasped as he saw that the Landlady was nowhere to be found. This could only mean one thing; the Landlady was waiting for him somewhere in this colossal boarding house. She was expecting him. Billy regretted not going to The Bell and Dragon. Billy felt as if he was a coward, he wanted to go home and escape this abhorrent, abominable place. Despite his longing, he was determined to investigate what that raspy voice came from.

He was returned to the elevator. Once again, the doors cranked open. Billy stepped over the brink. He pressed the 'B' for basement and the elevator slowly descended. As he was scanning through solutions as to what he would do if he came across the rapacious Landlady. The elevator's lights flickered and then blacked out. The elevator came to a shaky halt. "Oh no" Billy thought to himself.

Almost immediately, the lights flicked on again. Billy yelped at what he saw. There, right in front of him, stood the Landlady. The atmosphere then became very calamitous. She had a creepy grin spread across her face and seemed to be holding something behind her back.

"I suspect you want to know who that voice came from," bawled the Landlady. "The one we heard yesterday in the basement" she continued.

"Y-ye-yes..." replied Billy. "Who was it?"

"That my dear, was indeed Mr. Mulholland," she chuckled. "Mr. Temple is also in there" she added. Billy was speechless.

"And soon," she continued. "You will be too" she cackled. The Landlady drew her weapon from behind her back and struck it towards Billy...