

Cold Whispers



The GHOST at THE GRAND INN



by Michael Teitelbaum

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The GHOST at THE GRAND INN

by Michael Teitelbaum

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Worst Weekend Ever!

Craig and Melanie Hoffman sat in the backseat of their parents' car, just inches away from each other.

Twelve-year-old Craig slid his left hand toward his sister.



"Hey! You're on my side!" cried eleven-year-old Melanie.

"Am not!" Craig shot back.

"Mom!" Melanie whined. "Craig is on my side."

"Am I going to have to listen to you two fight all weekend?" asked Mom.

"Yeah," replied Craig, "since we're going to some dumb old hotel instead of to a water park, like we wanted! I could have gone on a giant water slide. Instead, I'll be stuck at some hotel with *her*."

Craig leaned over toward Melanie and stuck out his tongue.

“The Grand Inn at the Mountaintop is hardly ‘some dumb old hotel,’” Dad said. “It’s one of the most **historic** inns in the whole country, just filled with amazing stories from the past.”

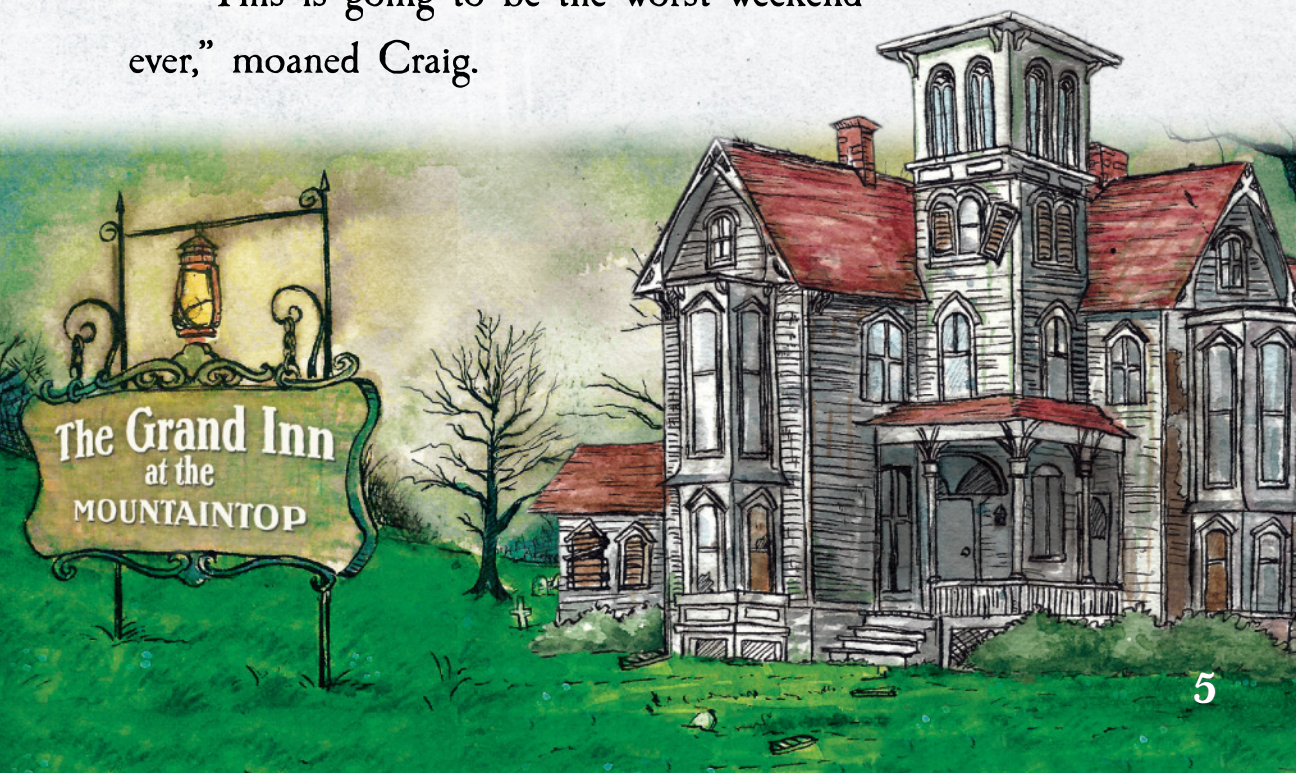


A few hours later, the Hoffmans turned onto a narrow, bumpy dirt road. As they drove around a bend, The Grand Inn at the Mountaintop came into view.

“Oh no,” said Melanie. “This is even worse than I thought!”

The inn was covered in peeling paint. Shutters dangled from windows, flapping in the breeze. The front porch **sagged**.

“This is going to be the worst weekend ever,” moaned Craig.



As they got out of their car, the Hoffmans noticed a small cemetery beside the inn.

"That's kind of creepy," said Craig.

The front door of the inn creaked open, and a man stepped outside. He was hunched over, and he **shuffled** more than he walked. The soles of his shoes scraped along the porch's splintered wooden floorboards.

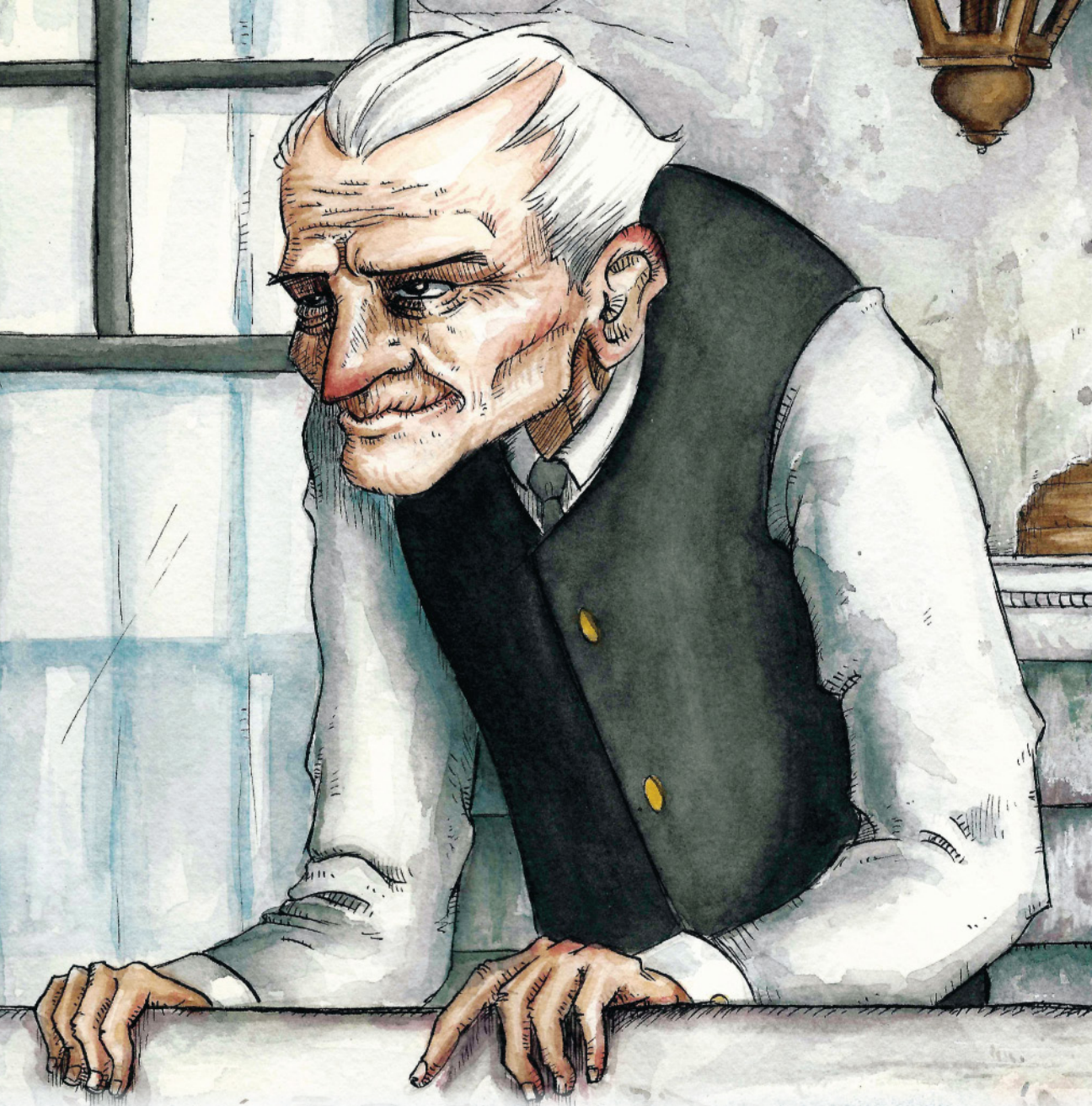
"Speaking of creepy," whispered Craig.

"I am Mr. Underhill, the innkeeper here at the Grand Inn," the man said in a raspy, wheezing voice. His coal-black eyes were sunk deep into his face, set off by his pale white skin.

"Welcome. Come in," he said.

Walking through the doorway, Craig saw the inn's old, dusty lobby. It looked like something out of a horror movie.





"This place looks like it could be haunted," Melanie whispered to Craig.

"As a matter of fact, young lady," said Mr. Underhill, overhearing Melanie's whisper, "many people believe that it is."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Teitelbaum is the author of more than 150 children's books, including young adult and middle-grade novels, tie-in novelizations, and picture books. His most recent books are *The Very Hungry Zombie: A Parody* and its sequel *The Very Thirsty Vampire: A Parody*, both created with illustrator Jon Apple. Michael and his wife, Sheleigah, live with two talkative cats in a farmhouse (as yet unhaunted) in upstate New York.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Anthony Resto graduated from the American Academy of Art with a BFA in Watercolor. He has been illustrating children's books, novellas, and comics for six years, and is currently writing his own children's book. His most recent illustrated books include *Happyland: A Tale in Two Parts* and *Oracle of the Flying Badger*. You can find his other illustrated books and fine art works at Anthonyresto.com. In his free time he enjoys restoring his vintage RV, and preparing for the zombie apocalypse.

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The **GHOST** at **THE GRAND INN**

It had started out as one of the most boring family vacations ever for Melanie and her brother—a trip to a dusty old inn. But all that changed when Melanie heard that the place was haunted. And then, she suddenly found herself alone, trapped in a hidden room . . . with a skeleton!

Beware the Pharaoh's Tomb!

Curse of the Haunted House

The Doomed Amusement Park

The Ghost at The Grand Inn

The Horror in the Cave

Night of the Gravedigger

The Secret of the Tragic Theater

Terror at the Ghost Town Mine

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