

“THE FACE AT THE WINDOW” - Megan - F - 20s

INT. CLEAN PLATE DINER - DAY

Paranormal investigators Henry Pope and June Pollock have been looking into a series of violent disturbances plaguing the new owners of the Loft Estate mansion. After some digging through town records reveals Loft Estate was once an orphanage, June tracks down one of its former boarders, Megan, to her job as a waitress at a local cafe. Henry and June sit with Megan at a booth by the window.

Megan: I've only got a few minutes of my break left. My boss gets pissed when I talk to customers all day.

June: Why is that?

Megan: You're not the first people to come in here asking about Loft. Reporters, podcasters, "local historians". Every six months somebody comes in writing a book. And you all ask the same questions. "What was it like?" "Was it haunted?" "Did anything bad happen there?" *(Pause.)* Suddenly I'm not waiting tables, so I'm not making tips ... I just can't talk long.

Megan looks out the diner window, down to the road that would lead to Loft Estate.

I suppose you want to hear about the face at the window. That's the story people come for. I used to be kind of a screw-up when I was there, so I was constantly being ordered to go to the woodshed and fetch firewood for the stove.

And then one day I was coming back from the shed and I noticed this face staring out from the top floor window. It was strange because the top floor was off-limits. You know about the fire in '78? *(They do.)* Right, so there literally wasn't a floor to stand on where that window was: "catastrophic structural damage." And yet, once a week, when I'd piss the Sisters off for whatever reason, I'd go outside to the woodshed and the face would be there: looking down on me, smiling and waving.

Megan leans in across the table.

I wasn't frightened at first. More confused: the angle of the wave was off, the eyeline, the something... And then one night I realised what was happening. The face in the window wasn't looking at me. It was looking at something behind me. I refused to get firewood after that. I scrubbed dishes in the kitchen 'til my hands were bloody.

A "ding" from the diner counter. Megan collects the plates from the table and leaves Henry and June alone.