

LADY ESTELLE AND THE DEVIL

From where we stood in the woods, it looked like a castle rising out of the mist at the top of the hill. We couldn't make out from the distance just how many windows we could see, but there seemed to be a thousand. There was only one cure for our curiosity.we had to go and explore.

Crunch, crunch, crunch went the leaves underfoot. We were walking through the woods, my sister and I. It was Kitty's idea to explore the castle in the first place. "It'll be fine," she would say. I had heard stories of people disappearing in the castle. I was told that hundreds of years ago a Lady named Estelle had lived there. I was told that she had a husband who died at war. I was told that his spirit lived in the house with her, but when Lady Estelle herself passed away his spirit got trapped in the house and it was said that his spirit still haunts it today. "We'll never know for sure if it's true or not, if we don't have a look!" Kitty told me. I wasn't very much looking forward to the visit, but Kitty told me it would be fine.



We marched up the long narrow lane leading up to the castle. There were arched trees leaning over it as if they were

watching whoever walked up it. We came to the door. There were two huge solid rectangles of oak wood with giant knockers on each one. On the front of the door there was a doorbell the size of a post box! Kitty knocked on the door. We waited patiently for five minutes. We were just about to leave when we heard a BANG! It came from the other side of the door. Kitty and I shared a worried look. Slowly the door creaked open, to reveal a long narrow hallway with a red carpet. There were portraits hanging on either side of the walls and there was a staircase that started at the two ends of the room and met in the middle. "This isn't a good idea Kitty," I warned. "Listen....Can you hear that?... Footsteps!" Kitty announced. I took a step back. "I'm not going in!" I cried. Kitty took a step forward into the castle. Suddenly the doors slammed shut behind her. "Kitty!" I cried.

I ran around the back of the castle. There were way more than a thousand windows! Suddenly something caught my eye. A tunnel. Should I? Shouldn't I? Will I? Won't I? I will! I dived into the tunnel and went down, down, down. The tunnel was quite narrow. It was dusty as well. At the end of the tunnel there was a creepy mat saying "Welcome!" I was in a large room with tiled floors and a huge table. The table was laid out with cutlery and bowls. There was an oven and a sink in the corner and a massive pot on the hob over the oven.

I shuddered. "Kitty!" I screamed. "Are you okay?" I waited for a response.

"Yes.... I'm here, alive and well !" Kitty spoke. "Would you like some of my eye ball soup?" she asked. "Um, no thanks, come on let's go!" I urged. Suddenly I noticed that Kitty's eyes had turned a crimson red. Her voice had changed too. It was deeper and croaky. Kitty stared at me. She opened her mouth to show huge canines. She suddenly started to charge at me. I quickly turned and jumped back into the

tunnel and climbed up desperately. As soon as I got up into the fresh air, I froze. What was happening? I ran home as if I were Usain Bolt. I burst through the door into my bedroom and burst into tears. My sister was gone. How would I explain this to my parents? Or... I could turn her back myself! But first, I needed a plan....



I thought I knew what had happened to Kitty. I thought she was being held hostage in Lady Estelle's body. I was certain I could save her. A few hours later I crept back to the castle. I peeked through the keyhole. I saw a man's figure. I looked again, scanning him, only to find he had a cloven hoof! He was the DEVIL! Now I was having second thoughts about my plan. I still had to save Kitty first. Without thinking I

suddenly burst through the doors. I ran straight through his back. I have to admit, it really hurt my head. The Devil turned to ash instantly. "Yes!" I cried. I did a little victory dance but was interrupted by six people who stammered into the room. I searched through the people. Where was Kitty? I searched and searched but I couldn't see her anywhere. I sat in the corner sobbing when suddenly I heard a Bang! "Hello?" I called. "Niamh?" Kitty asked. "Kitty, it's me! Where are you?" "I'm here" she replied slowly walking into the room. "I'm free!" she called "I'm free!" I pushed the doors open and let everyone out. I had freed everyone from the devil! Horray!



By Niamh