

# HAUNTED HOUSE

By

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Feeling very foolish yet very frustrated, a former client called me to seek a solution to an embarrassing problem. It seems that when they are trying to sleep at night, they hear a strange annoying "humming sound" coming from the attic. I had inspected the home six months ago and they remain very pleased with my services.

I listened to their cry for help on the telephone and agreed to investigate but with no promise of being a "ghost buster."

The home is a fairly new two story colonial with a walk-up attic and is situated on a hill. Upon my arrival, the owners complain to me that "the noise seems to come and go and vary in loudness and is keeping them awake at night." Both husband and wife have investigated the attic without any success as to the source of the noise. They called me seeking assistance.

After listening to their complaints (while trying to keep a straight face), I began my investigation by walking around the exterior of the home, taking note of the orientation of the home, the topography and the direction of the prevailing winds. It was a windy day and I had trouble holding my hat on and keeping my Sherlock Holmes pipe going. Other than my own humming and the wind, it was just another "zippity-do-dah-day."

I re-entered the home and suggested that Mr. & Mrs. Homeowner & I sneak up to the attic for a look see. We crept silently into the attic but saw nothing awry. No ghosts made a guest appearance in the daylight and the only noise to be heard was the teenagers stereo downstairs. I asked if someone could request that the music be shutoff for a while and Mr. Owner went downstairs to lay down the law with his daughter.

Wouldn't you know it? As soon as the music stopped, Mrs., Owner said: "there it is do you hear that humming?" Sure enough, I became a believer; the house must indeed be haunted! Her husband joined us and we listened to the melody as the pitch varied in haphazard cords. The husband said: "See, I told you so. We hear that humming sound all the time and I have never been able to track it down!"

I just smiled like a cat for I already knew the answer to their problem. I just smiled a few more moments savoring the opportunity to solve their haunted house noises and bring them a good night's sleep. I directed them over to the eaves where we could see some daylight. We each got down on our hands and knees in the cramped space and listened to the humming come and go. We were getting warm! I pointed out the vented metal drip edge flashing under the first course of roof shingles and finally they "saw the light" or rather they understood.

As the home is situated on a hilltop and is exposed to the prevailing winds, the air enters the attic metal drip edge flashing with enough velocity for the sharp edges of the flashing to vibrate and to

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act as a "tuning fork." They were very grateful to finally learn about the true source of their plight.

As for a solution for their problem, I explained that a continuous soffit vent is preferable for air intake as the vented metal drip edge can be blocked by snow, but that alterations would be costly and invasive with no guarantee against humming. I suggested the use of a little "Yankee ingenuity." I explained that with a tuning fork, if you place your hands on the fork itself, the vibrations and noise stop and that the objective may carry over to the humming flashing. I suggested that Mr. Homeowner perform an experiment and later telephone me with the results.

About a week later, I received a call from a very happy client – my suggestion had worked! I had suggested that the owner set up a ladder against the eaves and that he weave a thin wire in & out of the metal drip edge flashing along the edges of the front and rear roofs. Just call me "ghost buster!"

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