

The Smith Family

George woke up in the middle of the night, his breathing was very loud. He had dreamt of Sophie, like every night. The face of this girl never left him. He looked at Juliette who was asleep beside him. He rose and walked to his office. George sat down on the chair and began to write. George had the habit to write at night when he felt stressed, anxious or lost. It was normal for him; he was trying to erase all of his sorrows. Juliette was like George. The couple had lost their daughter who was only nine years old. Since the day of her death, George had dreamed of Sophie. It had been the same dream for a year: Sophie was playing in the castle garden, but was eventually getting carried away by a black shadow.

George walked up to the huge, gloomy dining room and took a copy of today's newspaper. Seeing the date written on it, a tear flowed down his cheek; he closed the newspaper and put it on the table. It was the anniversary of Sophie's death. He wanted the day to end quickly, and decided to go back to his office but was surprised by a glimmer from his diary. He jumped when he saw a small profile behind the desk. It was a little girl. She turned around with a big smile and a stuffed animal in her hand. George began to tremble out of fear. He ran out of the room. When he saw Juliette, he took her in his arms. Juliette understood why her husband was doing this but had not seen what her husband had before. George tries to tell her what he had seen in his office but she didn't believe it: "Calm down George, these are just hallucinations." No, it was not an hallucination: George had seen a girl who looked like Sophie. He could recognize the face of his dead daughter.

Someone knocked violently at the front door. George went to open the door, followed by Juliette. A young man in his twenties began to shout that there was a fire at the nearby castle - the Williams' castle. George ordered Juliette to stay home while he went to see the massacre with his own eyes. Arriving in front of the castle, it was crowded with people who watched the flames invade the building. George had seen the housekeeper of the Williams' family and went to her. She was afraid. He asked her what happened and she started to cry. She replied that the Williams' family had all been murdered and then she saw the fire spread, she ran away and asked for help. A glimmer attracted George's curiosity, he thought it was only fire that gave this impression, but the light became larger and larger - as if it was calling on George. He walked towards that almost blinding light that brought him into a forest. It was her again. It was Sophie, with blood stains on her clothes - she was laughing.

It had all happened during one morning: George was scared, but trying to stay calm. He trembled with fear. "I'll take revenge, I warned you every night!" At these words, George understood that Sophie had returned from the dead for revenge.

But revenge for what? She haunted his nights and it was to warn him that she would return. George so wanted Sophie back, even though he knew it was impossible. But now that Sophie's ghost was in front of him, he was afraid. George asked Sophie why she had killed the Williams' family and what she wanted. Sophie replied: "Because I wanted to play and Mrs and Mr Williams' son pushed me into the lake and everyone thought I drowned myself but he was a murderer and what I want is for you to pay for believing the Williams family who were lying to protect the murderer."

George started to cry, he had to protect Juliette and himself at all costs. Still frightened, he ran to try to escape from the forest. He entered his home and saw Juliette in the living room. He ran to her and asked her to pack her bags with the bare minimum. Juliette did not understand why her husband did this: it was true that today was the anniversary of their daughter's death, but why all these excessive reactions? As for George, he had to protect his wife. Juliette did not want to leave

until her husband explained. "I don't have time to explain now, please, do as I say." George kept on crying and Juliette stood and said nothing. "Hello!" The couple turned to the owner of this voice. The little girl with black hair and the little green dress was in front of them. Juliette screamed out of fear, she was paralysed. "Why are you afraid?", said the little girl. At these words, Juliette lost consciousness. Sophie laughed and approached George. Sophie was disappearing, little by little, all the time wondering herself why was she disappearing back into her world? After all, she had no right to be in the human world. George was lost but he tried to raise his wife who was lying on the ground and said: "let's go away from here and never come back."

The end.