

# **GhostWritings**

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**THE GHOST OF ANNA BOLEYN**

**The spirit of Henry VIII apparently sleeps peacefully. But the two wives he executed – Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard – still haunt the world they once lived in... This is the story of Anne Boleyn, who was believed to be guilty of treason, incest, adultery and... witchcraft!**

As a young girl, Anne Boleyn was sent to the French court and exposed to the influence of an immoral society. While her sister Mary was the mistress of Henry VIII, Anne thought she could do better and become the wife of the King of England. For six years she played the "hard-to-get" game she learned in Paris, and when Catherine of Aragon failed to produce a male heir, both Anne and Henry felt she could be the next Queen of England...

It is a fact that Anne was an arrogant Queen, causing endless troubles by her jealousies and improprieties. But she did not deserve to be accused of the worst of crimes, such as treason, incest (with her brother George, Lord Rochford), adultery (with four other men) and witchcraft.

To marry Anne, Henry broke with Rome and brought Protestantism to England. Roman Catholic writers have never forgiven her and attributed unspeakable crimes to her. In 1536, bishop Fisher was beheaded for refusing to acknowledge Henry as head of the Church. It was said Anne had his severed head brought to her on a dish, so she could stick a silver bodkin through his tongue. There also were rumors that "the concubine" had tried to poison Queen Catherine and Princess Mary, and that she – as a witch – was devoted to the foulest diabolism.

The one and only true crime of Anne Boleyn was that she – as Catherine of Aragon – was not able to produce an all-important male heir. So, Henry turned from her in disgust, not suspecting that the despised daughter she gave birth to would become England's finest Queen, Elizabeth I...

In April 1536, five men were arrested as being Anne's lovers, including her brother. Before they were tortured, all men said Anne was innocent, but under torture the Flemish musician Mark Smeaton accused her of being unfaithful to the King. Anne was arrested and, together with her brother, taken to the Tower of London.

In his anxiety to rid himself of her, Henry said Anne had bewitched him. At that time, it was widely believed Anne possessed a third nipple and a sixth finger on her left hand, and that - as a child - she had a curious dislike of church-bells. This was an aversion common to witches. Now it was clear that Anne Boleyn had entered into a pact with the Devil and that the King had been a victim of her devilish sorcery...

The five men were executed on May 17 and two days later Anne was beheaded. She wore a gay robe of damask over an underskirt of red and upon her wonderful black hair she had a pearl-embroidered hood. As she stood there on the scaffold, her dark eyes shining, laughing in the face of death, she made a joke about her little neck and the skill of the executioner. Her bravery caused the Governor of the Tower to write that "this lady had much joy and pleasure in death".

Anne was beheaded in the Tower and buried there. Her scornful courage was open to various interpretations by the superstitious minds of the 16th century. Some thought that her bravery merely proved she was anxious to go to her true consort, the Prince of Darkness...

In the Tower of London, Anne penned this poem:

*Oh Death  
Rock me asleep  
Bring on my quiet rest  
Let pass my very guiltless ghost  
Out of my careful breast*

*Ring out the doleful knell  
Let it sound  
My death tell  
For I must die.*

But Death brought no quiet rest for the spirit of Anne Boleyn... She has been seen in various places, particularly at the several homes where she once lived, and accompanied by the phantom coaches and headless horses that have always been associated with witchcraft and devil worship.

At Blickling Hall in Norfolk, Anne Boleyn makes a spectacular appearance every year upon the anniversary of her death. She drives up the avenue to the Hall in a coach, drawn by headless horses and a headless horseman, holding her dripping and severed head in her lap... Sometimes the whole grisly equipage vanishes into the air, sometimes Anne alone enters the Hall and walks the corridors until dawn. A similar ghastly vision has been seen driving furiously along the roads of Norfolk, followed by an otherworldly strange blue light.

Every Christmas-time, the ghost of Anne Boleyn has been reported in Kent, being driven up the avenue of Hever Castle at a furious pace and in a funeral coach drawn by six black headless horses. It was here, in this thirteenth-century castle, under the magnificent oak, that Henry courted both Anne and her sister Mary.

Also during Christmas-time, the Rochford district of Essex is haunted for twelve nights by a headless witch, dressed in a rich silken gown. Anne Boleyn lived at Rochford Hall when she was a girl.

The ghost of Anne Boleyn has often been seen standing at a window at Windsor Castle, but Anne's most persistent haunting is in the Tower, where she met her death...

Anne Boleyn was buried in the Church of St. Peter ad Vincular, within the Tower itself. Many years later her coffin was opened and she was identified by her infamous sixth finger. She is said to haunt this little church with a ghostly ritual in the aisle. Around 1880, this was witnessed by an officer of the guard, who noticed a light shining inside the church and asked the sentry outside what it was. The soldier said he did not know, nor did he wish to investigate the phenomenon. So the officer mounted a ladder, peered into the window and saw the church filled with an eerie glowing light, and a procession of people dressed in Elizabethan costume moving along the aisle. At the head of the procession was a splendidly dressed and bejeweled woman whose face resembled the portrait of Anne Boleyn. Suddenly, the procession vanished, leaving the church in utter darkness.

The ghostly appearances of Anne Boleyn in the Tower are, as a rule, more horrific. In 1817 a sentry had a fatal heart attack after meeting her on a stairway, and in 1864 a soldier was court-martialled for being found asleep on duty. He claimed to have gone in a swoon after meeting the white figure of "a woman wearing a queer-looking bonnet with no head in it." – "Who goes there?" he yelled, and when he got no reply he made a thrust with his fixed bayonet. The following moment "a fiery flash" ran up his rifle and gave him a burning shock. Several witnesses told the court that they had seen the same headless woman in white near the Lieutenant's Lodgings that night. One officer who was in the Bloody Tower had heard the sentry yelling and saw him thrusting at the ghostly intruder with his bayonet. He saw the spectre walking through the bayonet... and through the sentry as well. The court-martial found the sentry not guilty.

In 1933, according to some newspaper reports, the ghost of Anne Boleyn again walked straight into the bayonet of a guard, and scared him so much he fled from his post shouting for help. The headless body of Anne Boleyn also appears near the place of her execution and some have even witnessed her walking in the Tower, carrying her head...

## FAMOUS PHANTOM VISITORS OF HAMPTON COURT

**Hampton Court Palace, on the banks of the Thames, is considered one of the most haunted buildings in the United Kingdom. Most of the famous phantom visitors are contemporaries of Henry VIII, like Cardinal Thomas Wolsey who gave the palace to Henry, two of Henry's beheaded wives... and maybe the Tudor King himself returned to the palace in December 2003!**

It was Cardinal Thomas Wolsey who has built the luxurious palace, not more than ten miles from central London, in 1514. And it was the infamous Tudor King Henry VIII who, ten years later, received it from Wolsey. Nevertheless, Wolsey fell from favor and was arrested for treason, but he died before he met his executioner. Since then, Cardinal Wolsey still visits frequently his former apartments.

Hampton Court offers tours and lodging, and ghostly sightings are only one of the many attractions for visitors and tourists who love the ancient atmosphere of this celebrated haunted house in Surrey. Maybe you will meet two phantom soldiers of King Charles I during the night, the ghost of a boy dressed as a page of Charles II or the White Lady of Hampton Court.

Walking into the magnificent courtyard, maybe you will find architect Christopher Wren, who still is supervising the renovation of Hampton Court. Christopher Wren designed more than fifty London churches, including St Paul's Cathedral and he died here in Hampton Court, in 1723. On February 25, the anniversary of his death, his footsteps have been heard and other paranormal phenomena have been witnessed.

Maybe you will see somewhere in the maze, or in the morning fog, the famous Ghost Dog of Hampton Court...

A few days after he had disposed of his second wife Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII married Jane Seymour. Anne was beheaded for alleged treason, incest, adultery and witchcraft. She has been seen, most of the time headless, in the Tower of London and in the castles where she once lived. At Hampton Court, she is seen as a lady dressed in blue or black.

Jane Seymour, the third wife of Henry VIII, died in 1537 after giving birth to the child who became Edward VI. Her life was deliberately sacrificed by the performance of a Caesarean operation in order to ensure the safety of the precious male heir. Jane had an uneasy conscience concerning the circumstances in which she supplanted Anne Boleyn, and after her death her worried spirit remained earthbound, seeking contact with the ghost of Anne. Jane Seymour haunts the Silver Stick Gallery in Hampton Court every year on the birthday of the baby whose birth had meant her death. On moonlit evenings, dressed in white and carrying a candle, she ascends in a melancholic way the staircase leading to the Gallery, where she glides wreathed in a silvery light.

Maybe the most famous Tudor ghost is that of Catherine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII. For only one year, this attractive girl was Henry's "rose without a thorn". He forgot all about her youth of fun and games with a variety of young men, from spinet teachers to page boys. Henry wept over her reputation that was the talk of the Court and sent her to the block, together with her lovers, past and present. She was arrested at Hampton Court, but she broke away from the guards and ran along a corridor now known as the Haunted Gallery, to the chapel where Henry – "the professional widower" – was praying for her soul. Catherine tried to make a last plea for her life, but the guards dragged her back, shrieking and lamenting, into a barge and then down the Thames to the Tower, where she was beheaded on 13 February, 1542.

You can still hear her chilling shrieks there, in Hampton Court, and her ghost has been seen on many occasions, racing along the gallery, chased by spectral soldiers. As a consequence of a true invasion by these otherworldly spirits, the Haunted Gallery was closed up and for centuries was used as a lumber room for worn-out furniture and moth-eaten tapestries. In April 1918, the Office of Works, had the Haunted Gallery cleared out, renovated and opened to the public – but Catherine's ghost seems to prefer the Hampton Court gardens nowadays, where she is seen on sunny afternoons, reliving the memories of more pleasant times. And then there was this man, who heard someone knocking on a door and who saw a woman's hand wearing the elaborate ring Catherine wore in a royal portrait...

Dame Sybill Penn, also known as the Grey Lade of Hampton Court, was the foster-mother of Edward VI. When the young king died, she mourned him as her own son. Afterwards she was granted a residence at Hampton Court, where she died in 1562 of smallpox and was buried in an imposing tomb in the old church of Hampton-on-Thames. Until 1829 she rested there in peace, but when the old church was demolished, her tomb was disturbed... and so was her soul. The ghost of Mrs. Penn returned to her old rooms at Hampton Court, where angry mutterings were heard, and the sound of a spinning wheel echoing through the southwest wing. Workers traced the sound back to a brick wall and uncovered a secret room with a 16th century spinning wheel and a variety of curiosities... Hampton Court records showed that this room once had been occupied by Mrs. Penn who had often used the spinning wheel. Since then, people sleeping in the Palace have been awoken many times by the icy hands of Mrs. Penn placed upon their faces, and a luminous figure in grey bending over them...

In December 2003, Hampton Court was in the news again, this time with a ghost caught by a security camera. The astonishing piece of CCTV showed a tall figure wearing a long dark coat, shutting a double fire door situated in a part of the palace that is forbidden for the public and where the costumed guides don't go. The figure had a face that was, according to a security guard "incredibly spooky, because it didn't look human". There had been a security alarm sounding, but the guards had found the fire doors closed and there had been no-one around...

The camera footage of the ghost closing the door baffled researchers of the paranormal. Maybe it was nothing more than a publicity stunt to attract more visitors? A spokesperson for the tourist attraction declared it wasn't a joke: "We genuinely don't know who or what it is."

Could it truly be the Ghost of a Professional Widower, an arch-villain who doesn't sleep that peacefully?

Judge for yourself: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sjzjyfPJqA>

## **THE SAUSAGE MEAT MURDER MYSTERY**

### **When a true crime meets a ghost story, somewhere in Chicago...**

Adolph Louis Luetgert was a German immigrant who started his Sausage & Packing Company in Chicago, with four thousand dollars he had saved up. Two months after the death of his first wife, he married Louise Bricknese, on January 18, 1878. He had two children with his first and four with his second wife. Only three survived past the age of two.

Luetgert first came to the attention of the police when he went down to the station to complain that his wife had a secret lover. But the officers knew Mrs. Luetgert as a frail, sickly woman, who wouldn't excite many men, and they also knew the sexual appetite of Mr. Luetgert was, well... far above "normal". He often entertained the ladies in his plant after

hours. So the officers did nothing about Luetgert's odd complaint, until Mrs. Luetgert in May 1897 suddenly disappeared. Luetgert said his wife had deserted him for the secret lover he complained about, but the police began nosing around the sausage plant. The couple had a history of domestic violence, and according to one source, Luetgert had financial troubles and started courting a rich widow who he would marry once he got rid of his wife.

The theory was that the missing Mrs. Luetgert had been cooked down to something as easily disposed of as sausage meat. Now, a strange odor emanated from one of the vats in the factory. The vat was drained, but the police found nothing except a few unidentifiable bones and a gold wedding ring. Luetgert admitted it was Louisa's – her initials "LL" were engraved on it - but he insisted he had been carrying it around in his pocket ever since she left him, in memory of their happier days. The ring must have dropped from his pocket into the vat while he was burning foul sausages.

But the police found other incriminating evidence: the bills, for instance, of the arsenic and potash Luetgert had bought the day before his wife disappeared. Potash, when boiled with water, can do a thorough job on the human body. "I was working on a secret formula to develop a new soap," Luetgert explained. Now, soap with a potash base would certainly remove dirt... but skin too.

In a factory furnace bone fragments were found, identified as metatarsal bones, a toe phalanx, a rib and a head of a human female. Still claiming his innocence, Luetgert was arrested and put on trial. The police could not prove beyond any doubt that Louisa's body had been cooked into sausage meat and disposed of, but the authorities saved their little surprise until the trial. Mrs. Luetgert's doctor testified that Louisa's knuckles were so painfully swollen from arthritis that she was unable to remove her wedding ring. "The only way it could have been gotten off would be for her finger to have melted out of it," he said.

And that was precisely what had happened. Adolph Luetgert missed melting in the electric chair. He got life in Joliet Prison, where he babbled incoherently to the guards. Though he still insisted to be innocent of her murder, his dead wife was haunting him and seeking her revenge. Meanwhile, the Murder in the Sausage Factory, led to false rumors that Luetgert had turned his wife into sausages that were sold to an unsuspecting public.

Luetgert died, insane, in 1900. His attorney believed his client was telling the truth and that Louisa had simply disappeared. He spent over \$2,000, devoted his life to finding Louisa and went insane too. And Louisa? Well, she did not rest in peace either...

After her husband was sent to Joliet, neighbors claimed to have seen her ghost, dressed in white, wandering through the Luetgert house, leaning against the mantel in the fireplace. The ghost of Louisa Luetgert also was reported wandering the streets of Northwest Chicago, and inside of the sausage factory. Later, the plant was abandoned and recently, parts of it were turned into condominiums.

If you are in the 601-629 Diversey Parkway area on May 1, the anniversary of her death, maybe you'll see the lonely specter of Louisa roaming the streets where she once lived and died.