

Room 13 and Other Ghost Stories by M.R. James

ROOM 13

1 He was writing a book on the history of Denmark. He wanted to study the history of the town. 2 (a) Nearly 350 years old. (b) Room 12 and room 14. (c) Room 12. 3 It did not open. Then he saw that the number on the door was 13. 4 He thought that the room looked smaller by lamplight. 5 They said he was a bad man, a magician. 6 Someone walking around and talking in a strange voice. 7 His suitcase, and the table it had been on. 8 (a) Two. (b) It was of someone wearing a tall, pointed hat. 9 His suitcase was on the table beside the wall. His ashtray was on the middle window-ledge. 10 He wanted to visit his neighbour in room 13, but he found that the next room was number 14. 11 'There isn't a room number 13. Your room is next to room number 14.' 12 They saw a red light coming from the window of the next room and a shadow on the wall opposite. The shadow was dancing wildly but there was no noise. 13 The door opened suddenly and an arm came out. It was thin, covered in grey hairs and the fingernails were long and dirty. 14 The door of number 13 disappeared. The axes hit a wall. 15 Nicolas Francken. 16 Student's own answer.

THE WHISTLE

1 (a) Two. (b) Two. (c) There were no curtains on it. 2 In India. 3 Someone who studies history by digging up old buildings. 4 He wanted to look for the old church. 5 A piece of metal about four inches long. 6 There was a strange figure behind him. 7 *QUIS EST ISTE QUI VENIT*. The wind blew strongly through the open window and the candle went out. 8 He dreamt he was on the beach. He saw a man running and looking behind him. The man fell and lay still. Behind him was a strange black figure. It stopped, then it jumped straight towards the man. 9 Both beds had been slept in. 10 The boy saw something horrible. It was waving at him. 11 To throw it into the sea. 12 (a) A figure covered with a sheet. (b) Very old and very horrible. (c) Colonel Wilson. 13 They remind him of the figure under the sheet.

THE MESSAGE OF DEATH

1 He thought it was nonsense. 2 *IN MEMORY OF JOHN HARRINGTON. DIED 18TH SEPTEMBER 1899. HE WAS GIVEN THREE MONTHS TO LIVE.* 3 HARRINGTON. 4 Dunning suddenly felt cold. 5 He invited them to a tea-party and showed films which made them very frightened. 6 He fell out of a tree. 7 They became ill. They had eaten some bad fish. 8 He had a bad night. He heard someone on the stairs. When he opened the door of his bedroom he felt a warm wind. The lights would not go on. When he put his hand under his pillow, he felt a mouth with sharp teeth and fur. 9 He had written in a newspaper that Karswell's book was nonsense. 10 (a) Strange red and black letters. (b) A warm wind blew it into the fire. 11 He thought that Karswell could kill people by giving them a piece of paper with magic writing on it. Dunning had taken the papers which Karswell knocked to the floor in the British Museum Reading Room. 12 He caught the paper before it got to the candle. 13 He must give the paper back to Karswell. 14 (a) To France. (b) The boat-train, Thursday night, 22nd of July. (c) He said that Dunning must wear a false beard and different clothes. He would get on the train at Victoria Station and sit near Karswell. Dunning must get on the train at Croydon. They would try to give the paper to Karswell. 15 Karswell put his wallet on top of his coat. Harrington knocked the coat and wallet to the floor. Harrington picked up the coat and kicked the wallet to Dunning. Karswell did not see this. He left the carriage to talk to the ticket collector. Dunning put the paper in Karswell's wallet. When Karswell came back,

Dunning gave the wallet to him. 16 That Karswell was dead. He had fallen from the tower of St Wulfram's Church at Abbeville in France.

THE MAZE

1 His uncle, Mr Wilson, died. He left Mr Humphreys his house and his money. 2 He was the estate manager at Mr Humphreys' new house. 3 Mr Wilson's grandfather. 4 A pile of stone blocks. 5 Mr Wilson's grandfather. 6 Because Mr Wilson never let anyone go in there. 7 He gave orders for the stones to be taken out from the maze. 8 *SECRETUM MEUM MIHI ET FILIIS DOMUS MEAE*. 9 Because he walked to the centre without getting lost. 10 A metal globe. There were drawings and writing on it. 11 He thought that someone was watching him. 12 No one knew. 13 Lady Wardrop, Mr Humphreys' neighbour. 14 It was called 'The Secret of the Maze'. 15 (a) A red light. (b) He thought the gardeners had lit a fire to burn the dead wood and leaves. (c) A yew tree, half-way between the maze and the house. 16 A valuable red jewel. Yes. 17 (a) 'This is the Garden of Peace. You may go in, but you may never leave the Garden again. Choose between the Garden and the jewel. You cannot have both.' (b) The jewel. (c) No. 18 He was standing near a gate. A man came to open the gate. But Humphreys saw that this man's face was his own face. 19 (a) A strange creature. (b) The words: *UMBRA MORTIS* – 'the shadow of death', and: *PRINCEPS TENEBRARUM* – 'the Prince of Darkness'. 20 They could not find it. 21 If the stones were numbered, Humphreys could put them in order. Then they would spell words. 22 A yew tree. 23 (a) It was a hole that got larger and larger. (b) A grey and black ball, with two holes like eyes – a horribly burnt face. 24 (a) He wanted to know if there were numbers on them. (b) He wanted Cooper to open the metal globe. And he wanted him to cut down the trees and burn them. 25 The burnt body of a man. 26 The path to the centre of death.

THE LOST CROWNS OF ANGLIA

1 On the east coast of England. 2 Three. 3 Something strange had happened to him. He wanted to talk about it. 4 They disappeared. 5 They believed that the crowns were magic/they were buried in different places/the crowns guarded the coast against enemies from across the sea. 6 That they were guardians of the third crown. 7 On 21st December, 1918. In the churchyard at Freston. 8 He thought that someone was watching him. 9 He was going to put it back. 10 One. 11 (a) 'Will you leave me in peace now, William Ager?' (b) 'Never!' 12 He went out. 13 William Ager's grave had been opened. The hotel porter told the Storyteller. 14 The marks of feet without flesh – only bones. 15 He was killed. The Storyteller and Henry found him dead on the beach. His mouth was full of sand and stones and his neck was broken. 16 They thought that the police would not believe them. 17 They did not want to meet the ghost of William Ager.