

The Night at the Union Oyster House

Brigid O'Rourke

April 5, 2012

English 210 Introduction to Creative Writing

Going back to 1826 and Capen's Dry Goods has Turned into the ye olde Union Oyster House where Daniel Webster eats on a regular basis. It has been through a lot in its day. Its been around since the 1700's and the walls of the venerable structure have seen many things from the King of France living there and the American Revolution where at this time the Massachusetts Spy was printed. Ebenezer Hancock works there to pay the soldiers of the Revolution. Many people are coming in and out all the time with their stories about the war and strategies they have. This place holds so many secrets that it cant even handle it anymore.

Now back to the present. Its a bustling restaurant with 2 hour waits for a table. The history is appreciated making it a tourist trap with decent food. The goal of the workers are to get people in and out, make sure they and enjoy it and then make room for the next round of people. The bartender Adam walks up to the hostess desk and asks,

“How much longer for Nancy party of two”

The hostess replies,

“Tell them twenty more minutes.”

These kind of conversations go on all night for Adam as well as interesting ones with his customers. It was a very routine night for him, made a decent amount of money and now its time to close up the bar and go home. He as well as the other bartenders and manager Troy are the last to leave every night. They're used to the place when it is quite and dark but Adam always had a strange feeling about it whenever he was alone. Downstairs in the basement was the last place he wanted to be alone but he didn't want to lead on that he was scared in anyway. He had a tough guy appearance and he planned to keep it that way.

So he goes down to do inventory on what the bar had for supplies. He books it down the creaky old stairs and runs to the light switch. He feels the cold air of the basement and gets that uneasy feeling he always gets down there. He grabs his pen tucked above his ear and starts writing down everything they have. He can barely read his writing his hand is so shaky. He squeezes his pen tightly trying to control himself. He is barely paying attention to what he is supposed to be doing because he is so distracted by his fear and continually tries to convince himself that its fine. He says,

“There is nothing here, it's just an old building of course there's gonna be creaks and stuff. Relax Adam just relax!”

Him speaking to himself is also a way to block out any noises if he were to hear them. He finally comes to the last shelf to finish inventory and the light starts to flicker. The door from upstairs starts to creek, as if it were slowly closing. As much as he wants to get to that door to leave, he is frightened to go near anything paranormal that would be pushing said door. All he can do it pretend it's not happening but he gets nervous and wants to run but again tries to convince himself that it would be too cliché for that to be a ghost, too much like the movies. That only helps a bit so he finishes up quickly and runs back up stairs. Everyone else is gone except for Troy. He sees Adam and says,

“Wow Adam, are you okay? You are chalk white and sweaty. Either you are sick or think you just saw a ghost.”

“Oh, no I'm fine I just ran quickly and it caught up to me”. Adam says. He wants to tell Troy about his uneasy feeling of the place but he doesn't want to seem scared or crazy.

“Oh well that's too bad then. The spirits here are quite the sight to see!” Says Troy. “ I've had my fair share of sightings and I thought maybe you had this time.”

“What?! There are no such thing as ghosts Troy, you've got to be kidding me.” Adam says hoping he appears to not believe or even slightly concerned.

“Well then you let me know when you've seen one and then you'll know what I'm talking about.” Troy says this and then walks away, telling Adam to lock all the doors and registers on the way out.

Hearing Troy say this, his own trustworthy manager confirm that there are ghosts in the

restaurant really makes Adam nervous. He locks everything in such a hurry that when he gets to his car he doesn't even remember if he locked everything correctly. At this point he doesn't care and he just wants to get home to his wife Alissa.

Once he arrives at his house, after a drive that felt like the longest drive he has ever taken, he finally feels safe. He goes inside, takes a deep breath and flops himself on the couch. He turns on the TV and watches a standard half funny late night talk show. Alissa walks in, half asleep with her pajamas on to see how her husband is.

“How was your night at work honey? Make a lot of tips?”

“Oh yea it was alright.” Adam says, seeming distracted but not even by the TV.

“Is everything alright”, Alissa says, “ I mean I'm sure you're exhausted but you don't seem yourself, you look like you've seen a ghost or something.”

“Oh my God! Would people stop freaking saying that!” Adam says as he gets up from the couch. “I'm fine alright, I'm just really tired, I just worked a 9 hour day with hundreds of people who won't shut up!”

“Hey I'm sorry I was just asking if you were okay I didn't mean to upset you!”. Alissa starts crying, she got so upset. All she wanted to do was to see her husband happy and she had missed him all day. She just wanted him to know she was interested in what he does. Now Adam feels bad. He didn't mean to blow up on her but he is just so stressed and nervous.

Alissa and Adam have been married for six years now and they have lived happily for the most part. They had recently been having money issues and as much as Alissa was worried, she always was optimistic and believed the couple would make it out okay. Adam on the other had was not so hopeful. He got the job at the Oyster House from his uncle who has bar tended there for thirty years now. He knew for a restaurant it was a good way to make money while looking for a real job. They were doing alright while he has been working there, paying their rent and all their bills on time but it just wasn't

enough for Adam. He had dreams of living the luxurious life and knowing that it isn't coming anytime too soon, really aggravates him. Because of this he has been a bit stressed and anxious. Now with his extreme fear of the supernatural coming into play, he has been pushed over the edge and completely taking it out on Alissa. As much as this just isn't fair for her, she is there for him and is so eager to help him in any way. The major issue in her not being able to help him is that he has not told her of the ghosts, not yet anyways.

Adam starts, "Honey, I'm sorry. I know I have been taking things out on you lately. I don't mean to, I really don't it's just...." He sighs uneasily, nervous about what he is preparing to say. "I have something to tell you, and please believe me."

Alissa is starting to feel a bit anxious and all sorts of bad thoughts run through her head. Is he cheating on her? Did he get fired? Does he not love her anymore? So many emotions are flooding her and all she says is, "Okay."

So Adam stands up, he is clenching his hands now, it has always been a nervous habit of his and Alissa recognizes that he is doing this. He goes to say something then hesitates. Alissa waves her hand, signaling for him to say it. He then finally blurts out,

"Alissa, do you believe in ghosts?"

A slight smile comes across her face, a sign of relief for her. She knows he is being dead serious so she doesn't want to laugh so she tries her hardest not to.

"Alissa! Please answer me I am being so serious right now."

She replies, "Well I can't say I have ever seen a ghost or anything. I mean I watch Ghost Hunters but I'm not too sure how real that stuff is. Why do you ask? You really seem anxious about it?"

"Alissa, no joke here, the Oyster House is haunted. I swear to God. I am terrified at night of that place. And I am not the only one who knows about it. Troy, you know, my manager? He has seen ghosts too! You're the only one who I have told about this, Troy doesn't even know I believe but I needed to tell someone, and of course I am going to tell my wife."

"Um I'm not sure what to say here honey. I'm so glad you told me first honey but are you sure there isn't another explanation for what you think you are seeing or hearing? I'm really not trying to

offend you I am just trying to help you look for a possible different answer”

He answers,” No Alissa, no. This is real. I can feel it. I don't know how to explain it but it is. Come visit me at work tomorrow. I'll show you. You'll see its real!”

“Alrighty honey, if you really want me to.”

So the next day Adam worked his double shift, busy day as always. He had a few customers ask if the place was haunted. One of the usual questions he gets asked from the tourists. He answered them saying he bets that it is and laughed it off as he usually does while in the back of his mind he was just waiting for it to be the end of the night so Alissa would come and be able to see what he means.

He was feeling brave about it for some reason this day. He had an urge to want to see a ghost as much as he was terrified. It was such a strange feeling but he just wanted to see something so badly now.

It was now 12:30 a.m. and the bar had done last call. There was nobody left but Adam and Alissa who had come in just a half an hour before to come visit. The manager had left early that night. Seemed like a coincidence to Adam. He was starting to get nervous.

So Alissa waited on one of the stools at the bar while Adam closed up. He was extra quiet and seemed extremely focused. Alissa didn't want to interrupt him but wanted to know how he was feeling. Alissa wasn't too nervous at all. She found it kind of exciting, she felt like she was on an episode of Ghost Hunters. She was sitting there, imagining the restaurant using the night cameras and all the sensors the TAPS team use to find ghosts. She was starting to really get into this day dream until she realized Adam had been saying her name.

“Alissa. Alissa. Alissa! Hello?!” Adam kept saying until finally she jumped and apologized real quick. It was time to explore. They had flashlights and a video camera ready, not as high-tech as Alissa imagined but good enough. They both stood there, looking at each other and Adam finally suggested that they pray. He wasn't the most religious person but if any of these spirits happened to be evil, he

knew he needed God on his side. Alissa agreed and the thought that there could be an evil spirit and they needed God's help made it a bit more real for Alissa but she still wasn't too worried.

The two walked around the entire restaurant, with all of the lights on. Nothing. They neither heard nor seen anything. Alissa was starting to crack a few jokes about how creepy it was and it was not helping Adam in the slightest. He knew this wasn't it.

The two walk over to the front desk and just sit there for a minutes. Adam is facing Alissa with his back to the four rows of booths that sit there, the original booths that were there before it was even a restaurant for soldiers to sit and wait for their pay as well as wives of soldiers and officials to work. Alissa is standing facing them and Adam and she jumps real quick. She hears something and tells Adam to stop talking.

“Sshhh! Oh my God. What was that?” Alissa says as Adam looks at her in shock. The two of them are dead silent, both getting a tense feeling through their bodies.

Adam's face feels as though it is 300 degrees. He is horrified. He turns around ever so slowly and looks at the booths. Booth 12 specifically. This one juts out just a bit and is the biggest one there. He looks closely and sees the table moving, shifting out a bit as though someone was trying to squeeze in. then it suddenly stops. He turns back to Alissa and she is crying. To her amazement she is actually frightened, not what she expected at all. Adam is too scared to even think to say, “I told you so” or something along those lines.

Both too afraid to move they just stand there. Alissa fumbles to turn the camera on. When she is looking down Adam lets out a huge gasp. This was something so much more intense than just a tables moving. There is now a man sitting in the booth dressed in colonial garb, facing them, staring at them. They are both so horrified yet fascinated.

Alissa says “ This is crazy! Oh my God, what do we do?! What do we do?!?!”

Adam is shaking, with tears welling up. He can tell Alissa is a lot more excited than he is. He finds it amazing that he can see this but is so scared he doesn't know what to even do with himself. He wants to be brave though, he must be brave.

So he puts his fear aside, as much as he could and grabs the camera and starts filming. Right when he presses record. The spirits face changed, from indifferent to demon-like then quickly faded.

Both Adam and Alissa screamed and ran upstairs. They ended up in the Pine Room. Up here they are both panicking. Adam scared to know his fear to be true and Alissa in shock that what she had been joking about was actual truth. They can't catch their breath until Adam looks into the small window on the swinging doors into the kitchen. It is that demon-like face again. Its beat red eyes, gray scaly skin, fangs for teeth and horns. It had horns! They didn't notice that before. What had happened to this man? With no time to wonder they run get ready to run back downstairs and hear the swinging door to the kitchen slam open, but see nothing there. Where was this evil spirit now they wonder.

A thought popped into Adam's head. Did Troy deal with this every night? He wanted to try something, not knowing if it would make things better or worse, if anything at all. He yells out,

“Do you know Troy?! Do you know him?!”

With that a loud bang was heard from downstairs. They go back down there, camera in hand like before, not ready to see what will happen. They know down is the only way out anyway so they had to go downstairs at one point. Adam is feeling adamant to get answers. The adrenaline is pumping through him and he feels ready for anything. Alissa on the other hand is not okay with this and is absolutely ready to leave.

“ Adam, this is terrifying. I thought you were scared why are you instigating this thing?! Let's just leave. Please?! I'm begging you!”



“No we are too far into this, I have to know. I am scared but we are alive, he is not, we have the upper hand”

“You are acting completely different from like two hours ago. It is like you've gone crazy! Please, let's go!”

Adam didn't feel himself but he didn't care. He was anxious and thrilled at the same time. Downstairs, he again yells,

“Do you know Troy?!”

With that it sounded as if someone was running down the stairs, they couldn't see anyone though, then suddenly Adam gets shoved to the ground. Alissa tries to help him up, shaking uncontrollably and she gets thrown against the wall. It was as if Adam got the sense knocked into him and he tried to get Alissa. She was thrown so hard that her head was bleeding. He grabs her and throws her over her shoulder and runs across the first floor to the door. Every step he took felt like he was running into a wall. Something was trying to stop him, nothing he could see. He finally gets near the door and there is the demon faced man. He is just standing there staring, when suddenly Troy comes through the door, and through the ghost.

Adam yells, “Troy help! Why are you here?!” Troy says nothing to him and starts mumbling in an other language. It sounded Latin to Adam but he was not sure. Adam is begging him now to let him go. He can't believe Troy was not the man he thought he knew. Then suddenly the ghost disappeared and Adam no longer felt the shoving from the unknown entity. He goes to run to Troy and he vanished into thin air right in front of him.

“What?! What was that?! Alissa honey, are you okay?! We need to get out of here.”

They get home, both stunned, exhausted and too afraid to even sleep. Adam instantly starts to research the history of the Union Oyster House and everything it was before. How had Troy seemed to be so real for so long and then suddenly vanish? Adam had so many questions that he knew would not be answered. He looked up the names of soldiers who had been there before and came across the names

Troy Grant. The very faded, picture of a painting right next to the name looked just like Troy. Adam could have had a stroke. How was this man still working at the Union Oyster House and getting away with it?

Adam goes into work the next day, to say that he is quitting. He is done. There is no way in hell that he will ever return to that place after today. Of course he walks in and the first person he sees is Troy. Adam's heart starts racing and he starts to sweat.

Troy says, "Hey Adam, How goes it?"

Adam does not know what to say to that. Why is he acting like nothing happened? He doesn't want to question him though so he grabs his paycheck and runs out as fast as he can. Once he is home he tells Alissa that he quite. She is so excited to hear that they will never have to deal with that again. As much as Adam needed that job, he would rather be strapped for money then seeing anything of that nature again. At home with his loving wife is where he feels safe. Her optimism will rub off on him soon he expects and they will be financially stable some day. For Adam, he is relieved that money is now his only concern a lifetime of that is better than another ghostly night at the Union Oyster House.