

THE BOGGART

*“In the night we saw the lanterns casting blue light and a creature with red eyes in the barn. It’s terrible laughter echoed around the farm. It unhitched the horses and upturned our cart.” - **An account of the Lancashire Boggart, 1861***

Reports of Vandalism and petty mischief have been coming in from all around the area for the past week. Originally it seemed to be focused on a care home for OAPs. Starting with broken windows and scratches defacing cars parked overnight at the facility, paint taken from the handyman’s shed thrown over the gardens and planters and shrubbery pulled up, the vandals escalated to breaking into the building at night and ruining all furniture in the Day Room, and making their way to some of the residents rooms, throwing belongings about and upsetting the elderly folk staying at the care home.

The residents targeted by the vandals could only say that they were woken by childish laughter and that they used very bright torches so there was little description for the local authorities to act upon. The care home has been closed while the owners repair and improve security around the care home, and also restore faith in the families who homed their elderly loved ones at the home.

With the care home now empty the vandals expanded all around the local area. Local parks and gardens torn up, vehicles scratched and tyres slashed and deflated. Most adults blame delinquent children with no respect for elders, and investigations aren’t providing any further clues, there’s talk of a police enforced curfew for all children unless the culprits can be found and stopped.

THE TRUTH

Shortly after scientist in the Soviet Union discovered the Magantrine Effect in 1943, the British Military began to research ways to disrupt the effect, as countermeasures for what they perceived to be the inevitable military applications of this emergent phenomena.

One of the research teams was based in the area and focused on disrupting the Magnatrien Effect via frequency manipulation. The project was producing strong results until there was a death during one of the lab tests of the resonating device. Research and development was suspended pending a full investigation, but then shelved after two

members of the research team, **Sybil Densmore** and Dr Dennis Campbell, broke into the lab and set off the resonating device, triggering an explosion in the lab and the death of Dr Campbell, and the whole project to become shelved. Sybil was convicted with the death of her colleagues Dr Dennis Campbell and Miss Rhoda Bolton. Sybil had a troubled incarceration, frequently on replemant for starting arguments by throwing items at other inmates, or stealing small items and hiding them in her cell. Sybil always blamed a Boggart, and was suitably reprimanded for her lack of remorse and continuation of stories. When she was finally released, the now elderly Sybil was placed in a care home closest to her family members.

Contrary to her superiors beliefs, Sybil was not trying to sabotage the investigation, or a double agent for the Russians, or a jealous woman in a love triangle with her colleagues. Sybil & Dennis were trying to return an entity they dubbed The Boggart, to its original dimension.

Now Sybil is back within the area of The Loop, the Boggart’s attacks are growing stronger. Sybil does not know if the Boggart is just “trying to finish me off, like the rest of the team” or just getting her attention as she’s the only one with the knowledge to send it home.

Sybil’s misbehavior has been a reason to sedate her whilst she has been at the home. No one there wants a cantankerous old convict getting in the way, so she’s confusing the real cause of this problem with the folklore she heard as a child.

Once she’s less woozy, and if she can get her old journal back, she could use salvaged parts from a Fire Walker mech and some household appliances to construct a resonator, and attempt to finally banish the Lancashire Boggart. She’ll just need to catch a part of one in first, to get the right “frequency” and then help fending off the inevitable attack when the Boggart comes to collect.

THE COUNTDOWN

1. Sybil stops taking all her medication from the OAP home, and flushes it all down the toilet.
2. Sybil roots through all the kids belongings and asks them for a wooden box, still exhausted and slightly woozy from medication withdrawal she still confused the Boggart with the folk tale.

3. Street lamps all along the road near where Sybil is living are broken by the energy of the Boggart, Police question the kids and suspect them of vandalism.
4. Boggart possess an Agricultural Drone / Robot and attempts to control it through the area tipping cars and causing damage
5. The Boggart finally finds Sybil and begins lashing out at her surroundings. Family blame Sybil and question if it is her who damaged the OAP home.
6. Sybil captures a price of the Boggart in a wooden jewelry box and attempts to bury it in a nearby park so it's far from her family.
7. The Boggart gathers enough energy to 'possess' a Fire Walker droid and knock down the tree Sybil buried a part of the Boggart she captured.
8. Sybil is arrested breaking into the OAP home trying to collect her journals, so she can use her notes to construct a resonator.
9. Sybil is released into her family's custody and tries to "escape" to finish her makeshift resonator. She breaks Severus household items for parts.
10. Sibyl attempts to send the Boggart back by herself. Another explosion results in her death and also partly destroying the OAP home.

HOOKS

- Sibyl is the great aunt of one of the Kids and comes to live with their family whilst the care home is closed. While they must stay in and "granny sit" until a grown up
- The Kids see the blue light and red glow of the Boggart flickering in the evening as it destroys some street lamps, or dents car doors. The street fills with a sound like crazy high pitched laughter. They have to flee as a grown up hears the noise and spots the damage and thinks the kids are the vandals.
- The Boggart attempts to take over a Firewalker Mech near the kids Hideout. They see the lightning sparking all over the mech. It short circuits and shuts down.

THE BOGGART

The Boggart is an entity from another dimension, and it just wants to get home. Unfortunately it has no meaningful way to comprehend or interact with humans.

It recognises the "frequency" of Sybil, and knows somehow that her frequency is involved in returning to its home.

The Boggart manifests as a an entity of blue lights and two points of red glowing light, almost like eyes. It can build up a charge over a time and lash out at other objects that it can "find the frequency" of, and eventually learn to control robots or drones for short periods of time. Afterwards the machines need repair, all the capacitors or batteries are fried and need replacing.

It began to manifest around the lab the team worked at most during their anti Magnatine experiments. Sybil noted that it seemed to have difficulty with wooden items, and the research team managed to trap a portion of the Boggart in a wooden box. This seemed to cause the entity to dissipate for a short time, giving them a chance to send it "home" before any further damage or death, but as Sybil and Dennis worked in the lab attempting to adjust the resonator to the frequency of the captured portion of the Boggart, the entity reformed and triggered the explosion that killed Dr Campbell.

The Boggart is amplified by the Loop, but has been following Sybil for nearly 40 years and is the cause of all her mischief and to blame for many of the fights she was supposed to have started. It doesn't mean to hurt or injure people, but it has no idea of this dimension or how to get back home.

@GeekOnRadio

If you play this mystery with your friends, I'd love to know! Tweet me @GeekOnRadio, or pop by my tiny Pateron. I'll share new mysteries every month until people get bored!

Thanks to Ty, Ash, Sharon, Mark, Tom, Jess, Simon, Lucy, Craig, Gareth and Catherine for being my play testers, and Dice & Donuts for hosting the events.

Biggest thanks to Who Dares Rolls & TotalParanoia for their Patreon support!