

Owen A.

A Headmaster Tale

Terry Rook was walking the halls of the orphanage as any headmaster would. The sound of the rotating floorboards echoing in his ear. He walks with the posture of a noble: shoulders wide, long continuous steps, and a stonecold face like a gargoyle. He was not always like this. Terry was once a happy man with no fears with his compatriot and his brother Bartholomew. They romped the hall of the orphanage giving the orphans treats and sodas. A favorite of the pair was a young boy named Tomas. A genius student who at a young age lost his parents in a house fire. Terry and Bartholomew were connected to this orphan because they too lost the family in a house fire. Then one dreaded night one orphan forgot to turn off his lamp. This orphan in particular had horrible nightmares. In this frightened state he did not hear the crash of the lamp as it hit the floor. The flames engulfed the room. Then the child's eyes open startled as flames leaped across his vision. He let out a horrid scream worse than a banshee and ran from the room in terror. The scream had woken the brothers; they simultaneously leap from their beds and sprinted to the rooms of the orphans. They rushed the orphans outside at once and did a head count but what was this Tomas was not in the group. Where was Tomas and who would save him? Bartholomew rushed into the burning orphanage without a second thought. He never came out. Terry was heartbroken. He was so grieved he couldn't even attend the funeral. A new orphanage then housed the orphans. Terry, not knowing what to do, became the headmaster. Terry as he walked throughout the halls of the orphanage. Terry thought he saw a flicker of light behind the door of an orphan. He knocked on the door very loudly and said "Lights out was an hour ago, turn off the light before I have to go in there". Still the lights were there he pushed open the door very quickly to find a fire burning bright in the room. He ran in and woke the child. He tried to beat out the flames with all his might yet all he achieved was a half incinerated jacket. He told the child to run and wake the other children. They rushed outside to take a headcount. He found that a little boy named Todd was missing. Terry told the children to wait and ran into the burning building. Seconds tick by then minutes Terry and a small boy marked in soot rushed out of the building. Merely seconds after the door frame crumbled leaving ash and dust in the air. After the dust had settled Terry took a deep breath and said "Alright, new rule no lamps in bedrooms."