

1

00:00:00,049 --> 00:00:05,470

Nocturne Hall presents an original audio drama intended only for an adult audience.

2

00:00:09,030 --> 00:00:12,121

Devils walk among us.

3

00:00:12,121 --> 00:00:16,100

Some just a mile north of the White House.

4

00:00:16,100 --> 00:00:23,449

Whether conjured or elected, they prey on the innocent all the same.

5

00:00:23,449 --> 00:00:29,020

Most won't even listen, so folks knock on the one door in the district of crime who

6

00:00:29,020 --> 00:00:31,061

will.

7

00:00:34,770 --> 00:00:36,394

Dupont Investigations.

8

00:00:36,394 --> 00:00:39,677

[Music: I never thought my heart would mend]

9

00:00:39,677 --> 00:00:43,486

[Music: You taught me how to love again]

10

00:00:43,486 --> 00:00:47,001

[Music: It's you and me until the end]

11

00:00:47,001 --> 00:00:49,680

[Music: Oh, we'll paint this whole town red]

12

00:00:49,680 --> 00:00:55,341

[Music: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

13

00:00:55,341 --> 00:01:02,705

[Music: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

14

00:01:02,705 --> 00:01:08,759

This is The Scourge from Carthage Part 4.

15

00:01:08,759 --> 00:01:14,420

[THUNDER AND HEAVY RAIN.]

16

00:01:14,420 --> 00:01:15,510

There's a cab with its lights on.

17

00:01:15,510 --> 00:01:16,510

I think we caught his eye.

18

00:01:16,510 --> 00:01:17,510

[CURB SPLASH.]

19

00:01:17,510 --> 00:01:19,198

[VEHICLE SLOWING TO CURB.]

20

00:01:19,198 --> 00:01:22,950

Get in, fellas. [THE CAR DOOR OPENS.]

21

00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:25,049

Evening, pal.

22

00:01:25,049 --> 00:01:26,049

Thanks for saving us.

23

00:01:26,049 --> 00:01:27,520

We'd be drowned rats soon.

24

00:01:27,520 --> 00:01:31,560

Let's see; we're headed to 1350 Connecticut Avenue Northwest.

25

00:01:31,560 --> 00:01:32,329

Umm, hmm.

26

00:01:32,329 --> 00:01:33,222

Your office?

27

00:01:34,120 --> 00:01:36,090

Yeah, we forgot to stop for hooch.

28

00:01:36,090 --> 00:01:38,810

But the office could double as a distillery.

29

00:01:38,810 --> 00:01:40,900

Plus, Calder's journal is there.

30

00:01:40,900 --> 00:01:45,401

Oh, it's not much use to us, but my gal Rowena left us an old tome, which should

31

00:01:45,401 --> 00:01:46,969

really light up your life.

32

00:01:46,969 --> 00:01:50,780

You're about the first person I've met excited by an old tome.

33

00:01:50,780 --> 00:01:53,979

Nige, I tell you, you ought to get out more.

34

00:01:53,979 --> 00:01:57,039

Nothing's better than an old tome on ancient Rome.

35

00:01:57,039 --> 00:01:59,710

Those fools were getting into all sorts of trouble.

36

00:01:59,710 --> 00:02:01,549

We haven't seen anything comparable.

37

00:02:01,549 --> 00:02:06,000

At least not since they paved over Murder Bay to make room for those

new Goliath

38

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:06,941
federal buildings.

39

00:02:06,941 --> 00:02:10,910
So, the ghost Calder encountered is Roman?

40

00:02:10,910 --> 00:02:11,910
Carthaginian.

41

00:02:11,910 --> 00:02:13,760
Which, at the time, was part of Rome.

42

00:02:13,760 --> 00:02:18,000
C'mon. It's been a while since I read the Aeneid, so where the heck is Carthage?

43

00:02:18,110 --> 00:02:19,110
French Tunisia.

44

00:02:19,110 --> 00:02:21,500
But you've seen the amphitheater in your dreams.

45

00:02:21,500 --> 00:02:23,319
I saw some old ruins.

46

00:02:23,319 --> 00:02:24,930
In a round shape.

47

00:02:24,930 --> 00:02:28,860
And the kicker's the column crowned with a cross erected near the southern entrance.

48

00:02:28,860 --> 00:02:30,209
Why's that important?

49

00:02:30,209 --> 00:02:34,500

It corroborates the identity of your lady friend from your dream last night.

50

00:02:34,500 --> 00:02:36,580

Alright, walk me through it then.

51

00:02:36,580 --> 00:02:40,989

After Armistice Day, Calder enrolls in the American Expeditionary Force's University

52

00:02:40,989 --> 00:02:42,519

in Beaune.

53

00:02:42,519 --> 00:02:46,930

He stays a few weeks until he has just one remaining bindle of morphine.

54

00:02:46,930 --> 00:02:47,930

Wait.

55

00:02:47,930 --> 00:02:48,930

What's a bindle?

56

00:02:48,930 --> 00:02:50,480

It's a small envelope of dope.

57

00:02:50,480 --> 00:02:51,480

Sorry.

58

00:02:51,480 --> 00:02:52,480

No, don't apologize.

59

00:02:52,480 --> 00:02:55,090

Must not spend much time around hopheads in ol' Zeugma.

60

00:02:55,090 --> 00:02:56,680

Well, not that I knew of.

61

00:02:56,680 --> 00:02:57,680

Anyway.

62

00:02:57,680 --> 00:03:00,709

Calder's fear of losing his stash drives him to desertion.

63

00:03:00,709 --> 00:03:03,959

He books it to Lyon, where he loots a druggist.

64

00:03:03,959 --> 00:03:07,049

But the resulting heat causes him to flee to Nice.

65

00:03:07,049 --> 00:03:12,010

He decides it's safer to risk lesser crimes and acquire morphine off the black market.

66

00:03:12,010 --> 00:03:16,940

So, he acquaints himself with some low-level pirates and winds up in the city of Tunis.

67

00:03:16,940 --> 00:03:18,690

That's where Carthage is located?

68

00:03:18,690 --> 00:03:19,690

Right.

69

00:03:19,690 --> 00:03:24,560

One early morning, Calder's high begins wearing off as he wanders around the old ruins.

70

00:03:24,560 --> 00:03:27,450

He's been drinking, too, so he's in rough shape.

71

00:03:27,450 --> 00:03:31,959

Two hours before dawn, he rests at the amphitheater ruins.

72

00:03:31,959 --> 00:03:35,830

At that moment, he wishes more than anything to be able to kick his

dope habit.

73

00:03:35,830 --> 00:03:38,260

He didn't seem to be on anything when we saw him.

74

00:03:38,260 --> 00:03:39,819

No, I doubt he was.

75

00:03:39,819 --> 00:03:45,060

Just like those wraith visitors of Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge, the Roman ghost that visited Calder

76

00:03:45,060 --> 00:03:46,430

made quite an impression.

77

00:03:46,430 --> 00:03:50,519

I thought an hour ago you were making fun of Mr. Dicken's ghost stories.

78

00:03:50,519 --> 00:03:51,519

Never.

79

00:03:51,519 --> 00:03:56,239

I was poking at the minds of those who fail to grasp the possible truth in them.

80

00:03:56,239 --> 00:03:57,670

The Bible's got ghosts.

81

00:03:57,670 --> 00:03:59,739

The Bible's got elves and giants too.

82

00:03:59,739 --> 00:04:01,760

Even Christ's a ghost for a minute there.

83

00:04:01,760 --> 00:04:03,099

Look, I get it.

84

00:04:03,099 --> 00:04:05,260
Paranormal apparitions are a hard sell.

85
00:04:05,260 --> 00:04:08,560
Well, they're easy to sell enough in the papers.

86
00:04:08,560 --> 00:04:12,959
Everyone wants to believe, but when you get down to brass tax, most harbor some doubt.

87
00:04:12,959 --> 00:04:15,480
A ghost is like an amusing wooden nickel.

88
00:04:15,480 --> 00:04:17,739
Or a clever tongue chiseling snake oil.

89
00:04:17,739 --> 00:04:20,460
I bet Ms. Krause lives on snake oil.

90
00:04:20,460 --> 00:04:21,460
And Gin.

91
00:04:21,460 --> 00:04:26,742
Though my point exactly, and I'm sure she believes in specters--a deep, profound,

92
00:04:26,742 --> 00:04:28,919
albeit naive belief.

93
00:04:28,919 --> 00:04:30,860
Overzealous to a fault, I'm sure.

94
00:04:30,860 --> 00:04:35,300
Why I'd wager she'd pay a pretty penny to have a paranormal experience but lacks the

95
00:04:35,300 --> 00:04:39,120
depth to evaluate a genuine ghost from a fraud.

96

00:04:39,120 --> 00:04:40,139

Come now.

97

00:04:40,139 --> 00:04:42,520

Maybe she's got a better sixth sense than you think.

98

00:04:42,520 --> 00:04:46,650

Anybody hanging on to every word of Ms. Blavatsky lacks objectivity.

99

00:04:46,650 --> 00:04:51,362

[CAR SLOWS.]

100

00:04:51,362 --> 00:04:52,530

All right, thanks, pal.

101

00:04:52,530 --> 00:04:53,720

Keep the change.

102

00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:55,885

Thank you kindly, sirs.

103

00:04:56,633 --> 00:05:01,270

[THE CAR DOORS OPEN.]

104

00:05:01,958 --> 00:05:03,540

You should have let me get it.

105

00:05:03,540 --> 00:05:06,060

Oh, that's going down in my expenses ledger.

106

00:05:06,060 --> 00:05:08,290

You'll be getting it, don't you worry.

107

00:05:08,290 --> 00:05:14,510

[THUNDER. CLOCK TICKING.]

108

00:05:14,510 --> 00:05:16,830

[A GLASS TUMBLER SETS DOWN ON THE DESK.]

109

00:05:16,830 --> 00:05:18,319

You about done with the tome?

110

00:05:18,319 --> 00:05:22,130

It's proving about as interesting as I imagined, and you still haven't explained

111

00:05:22,130 --> 00:05:23,880

one bit about the ghost Calder saw.

112

00:05:23,880 --> 00:05:25,090

Oh, Nige.

113

00:05:25,090 --> 00:05:26,280

I was right.

114

00:05:26,280 --> 00:05:28,000

Gosh darn it, I was right.

115

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:29,750

What are you bumping gums about?

116

00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:31,240

I should preface.

117

00:05:31,240 --> 00:05:37,890

I can't say for sure Calder's apparition was the same, but the facts are uncanny.

118

00:05:37,890 --> 00:05:39,590

Uncanny, I tell you.

119

00:05:39,590 --> 00:05:41,180

Out with it.

120

00:05:41,180 --> 00:05:44,819

We've got to rewind our clocks to the turn of the second century.

121

00:05:44,819 --> 00:05:48,539

But, I thought this would have been 1918 or 19?

122

00:05:48,539 --> 00:05:53,930

Sure, Calder saw her around then, but if it was her, she's been wandering the site for

123

00:05:53,930 --> 00:05:56,830

seventeen hundred years or more.

124

00:05:56,830 --> 00:06:00,680

Her name's Perpetua, and she's no ordinary ghost.

125

00:06:00,680 --> 00:06:02,170

What makes her so special?

126

00:06:02,170 --> 00:06:05,479

Has any Methodist minister ever mentioned her to you?

127

00:06:05,479 --> 00:06:06,780

Not that I can recall.

128

00:06:06,780 --> 00:06:10,620

She ain't in the Bible, so you don't feel like you skipped a Sunday School lesson.

129

00:06:10,620 --> 00:06:14,360

So, about a century after the authorship of the New Testament?

130

00:06:14,360 --> 00:06:15,360

Very good.

131

00:06:15,360 --> 00:06:17,039

I bet your preach would be proud of you.

132

00:06:17,039 --> 00:06:18,150

Cut the chatter. It's late.

133

00:06:18,150 --> 00:06:19,868

Geez. Okay.

134

00:06:20,082 --> 00:06:25,022

So, Roman Emperor Septimius Severus supposedly issues an edict against folks

135

00:06:25,022 --> 00:06:28,080

converting to Judaism or Christianity.

136

00:06:28,080 --> 00:06:34,011

At some point, the early Christian historian Eusebius compares the wrath of Severus's

137

00:06:34,011 --> 00:06:38,571

persecutions against the Christians to the coming of the antichrist.

138

00:06:38,571 --> 00:06:39,661

Sounds awful.

139

00:06:39,661 --> 00:06:42,850

Not a great time to be caught a catechumen.

140

00:06:42,850 --> 00:06:43,850

A what?

141

00:06:43,850 --> 00:06:48,650

A young convert receiving religious instruction, gearing up to be baptized.

142

00:06:48,650 --> 00:06:50,550

So this Perpetua's one of them?

143

00:06:50,550 --> 00:06:52,650

Yup, and she's got some friends.

144

00:06:52,650 --> 00:06:56,000
They all get rounded up together.

145
00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,710
Perpetua's twenty-two years old and just gave birth to a son.

146
00:06:59,710 --> 00:07:03,410
However, she's a noble Roman, lawfully wed.

147
00:07:03,410 --> 00:07:07,690
Two other prisoners are also free men, Saturninus and Satorus.

148
00:07:07,690 --> 00:07:13,412
And the last of those locked up are enslaved, Revocatus and Felicity,
but the

149
00:07:13,412 --> 00:07:16,220
kicker is Felicity's pregnant.

150
00:07:16,220 --> 00:07:19,060
Wait, they'd kill a pregnant gal?

151
00:07:19,060 --> 00:07:23,440
No, but she gives birth in the slammer, so she's not off yet.

152
00:07:23,440 --> 00:07:27,361
Perpetua nurses her newborn son in the pen and arranges for her family
to care for

153
00:07:27,361 --> 00:07:28,740
him if she's slain.

154
00:07:28,740 --> 00:07:29,740
Bananas.

155
00:07:29,740 --> 00:07:32,169
Oh, we haven't even got to the bananas part.

156

00:07:32,169 --> 00:07:36,900

It seems Perpetua achieved a level of serenity on the inside.

157

00:07:36,900 --> 00:07:40,379

She even claims the pokey's like a palace to her.

158

00:07:40,379 --> 00:07:41,560

Some palace.

159

00:07:41,560 --> 00:07:48,400

One night, she spots a bronze ladder reaching from her jail cell to heaven.

160

00:07:48,400 --> 00:07:54,650

The narrow structure is lined with swords, knives, and spears, and at its base,

161

00:07:54,650 --> 00:07:58,380

a serpent or dragon waits, deterring her ascent.

162

00:07:58,910 --> 00:08:03,251

Perpetua's pal Saturus is with her, and he's the first climb.

163

00:08:03,251 --> 00:08:09,150

Once he gets up, he shouts for Perpetua to follow suit but warns her not to get bitten

164

00:08:09,150 --> 00:08:11,370

by the beast.

165

00:08:11,370 --> 00:08:15,840

She hollers back; it ain't biting her in the name of Jesus Christ.

166

00:08:15,840 --> 00:08:22,050

The beast trembles at her will and bows its head, so she uses it as the first rung.

167

00:08:22,050 --> 00:08:23,310
Nice trick.

168
00:08:23,310 --> 00:08:26,990
I never met such a cooperative creature in
all my life.

169
00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:30,440
So, she gets up to the top and enters a vast
garden.

170
00:08:30,440 --> 00:08:35,570
A white-headed shepherd is milking sheep,
surrounded by thousands of folks in white

171
00:08:35,570 --> 00:08:36,570
garb.

172
00:08:36,570 --> 00:08:38,839
He welcomes her with cheese.

173
00:08:38,839 --> 00:08:45,191
The masses say, "Amen," and she awakens, still tasting the sweet taste
of the cheesy

174
00:08:45,191 --> 00:08:48,330
morsel back in the Carthage slammer.

175
00:08:48,330 --> 00:08:49,340
Bananas.

176
00:08:49,340 --> 00:08:52,020
Yeah, that part is pretty bananas.

177
00:08:52,020 --> 00:08:54,490
It should also sound familiar.

178
00:08:54,490 --> 00:08:56,180
To Calder's war story, sure.

179

00:08:56,180 --> 00:08:57,720
Even down to the shepherd.

180

00:08:57,720 --> 00:08:59,329
But he didn't get any cheese.

181

00:08:59,329 --> 00:09:01,850
Yeah, but his head was full of cheese at the time.

182

00:09:01,850 --> 00:09:03,480
The dope kind.

183

00:09:03,480 --> 00:09:07,070
So what happened to her after Perpetua awoke back in the pokey?

184

00:09:07,070 --> 00:09:09,930
Her father arrives and begs her to drop the martyr path.

185

00:09:09,930 --> 00:09:12,290
What do you mean by martyr path?

186

00:09:12,290 --> 00:09:13,290
Fair question.

187

00:09:13,290 --> 00:09:19,600
Perpetua and her pals are willing to sacrifice their lives to stay true to Christian teachings.

188

00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:25,272
They believe God will reward their bravery, and the living will take notice and help

189

00:09:25,272 --> 00:09:26,930
spread Christianity.

190

00:09:26,930 --> 00:09:28,730
So, I take it she refuses her father.

191

00:09:28,730 --> 00:09:29,730

Correct.

192

00:09:29,730 --> 00:09:34,751

She is taken to the forum and, before a great crowd, defies her father's pleas to

193

00:09:34,751 --> 00:09:39,350

offer a sacrifice to the Roman Emperor and renounce her faith.

194

00:09:39,350 --> 00:09:43,311

Upon her confession, her father makes a final plea, and the Roman official orders

195

00:09:43,311 --> 00:09:44,842

him beaten with a rod.

196

00:09:44,842 --> 00:09:45,842

Yikes.

197

00:09:45,842 --> 00:09:50,341

She gets sentenced to death and is back in the dungeon when she dreams of her

198

00:09:50,341 --> 00:09:53,580

deceased brother, who died from illness as a boy.

199

00:09:53,580 --> 00:09:59,371

In her dream, he lives in perpetual frustration, straining to quench his thirst by

200

00:09:59,371 --> 00:10:02,400

reaching a water vessel higher than he can attain.

201

00:10:02,400 --> 00:10:03,400

For eternity?

202

00:10:03,400 --> 00:10:04,450
So it would seem.

203
00:10:04,450 --> 00:10:06,810
Bad way to go.

204
00:10:06,810 --> 00:10:11,329
But Perpetua believes she can still rescue
him through martyrdom.

205
00:10:11,329 --> 00:10:16,332
When they bring Perpetua to the stocks, she envisions the boy drinking
from a

206
00:10:16,332 --> 00:10:18,981
golden chalice and running away to play.

207
00:10:18,981 --> 00:10:21,059
Martyrs were a bit full of themselves. Weren't they?

208
00:10:21,059 --> 00:10:22,281
Oh, sure.

209
00:10:22,281 --> 00:10:24,490
They threatened the whole enterprise.

210
00:10:24,490 --> 00:10:28,950
What if you or I could sign up to get slain and see new visions?

211
00:10:28,950 --> 00:10:32,160
What good is reading the good book?

212
00:10:32,160 --> 00:10:34,570
We could become prophets ourselves.

213
00:10:34,570 --> 00:10:37,210
Not to mention, this is a woman's story.

214

00:10:37,210 --> 00:10:41,572

It's important to remember that the unknown editor claims Perpetua authored

215

00:10:41,572 --> 00:10:44,900

her account until the martyrdom itself.

216

00:10:44,900 --> 00:10:50,220

If true, Perpetua's story would be one of, if not the oldest, historical accounts of

217

00:10:50,220 --> 00:10:52,460

a woman in her own words.

218

00:10:52,460 --> 00:10:54,200

You can see the danger there.

219

00:10:54,200 --> 00:10:55,339

So did the clergy.

220

00:10:55,339 --> 00:10:59,399

Oh, the whole martyrdom movement caused quite a stir.

221

00:10:59,399 --> 00:11:04,970

One of her contemporaries, Tertullian, claimed martyr blood seeded the church.

222

00:11:04,970 --> 00:11:06,850

How do you come up with all this stuff?

223

00:11:06,850 --> 00:11:10,019

Told you I'm proficient with the ancients.

224

00:11:10,019 --> 00:11:13,269

That's why I don't bother with Ms. Blavatsky's booshwash.

225

00:11:13,269 --> 00:11:17,854

Anyhow, you fast forward two centuries and some change; Saint Augustine

226

00:11:17,854 --> 00:11:22,800

prescribes people ought to persist rather than lie down to perish.

227

00:11:22,800 --> 00:11:25,510

It's the only way to keep the whole outfit operational.

228

00:11:25,510 --> 00:11:26,880

Back to Perpetua.

229

00:11:26,880 --> 00:11:27,880

Right.

230

00:11:27,880 --> 00:11:31,510

So, all the martyrs are still in their pokey palace.

231

00:11:31,510 --> 00:11:36,371

Meanwhile, everyone who's anyone gathers in Carthage for the feast and games held in

232

00:11:36,371 --> 00:11:39,800

honor of the emperor's late father's birthday.

233

00:11:39,800 --> 00:11:44,421

Rumor is even old emp Septimius Severus attends himself.

234

00:11:44,421 --> 00:11:49,189

Perpetua then dreams of one of the deacons visiting her and bringing her

235

00:11:49,189 --> 00:11:50,231

into the arena.

236

00:11:50,231 --> 00:11:54,120

Attendants strip her naked, and she transforms into a man.

237

00:11:54,120 --> 00:11:56,170

I didn't see that twist coming.

238

00:11:56,170 --> 00:11:58,640

She faces off against a great Egyptian warrior.

239

00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:02,240

I thought you said she transformed into a man?

240

00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:03,240

Good point.

241

00:12:03,240 --> 00:12:08,170

Okay, they whoop the Egyptian warrior good and receive a ceremonial branch from the

242

00:12:08,170 --> 00:12:09,930

master of gladiators.

243

00:12:09,930 --> 00:12:15,133

He kisses Perpetua, who's back to her female form again, and she proceeds in

244

00:12:15,133 --> 00:12:18,769

glory through the amphitheater's Gate of Life.

245

00:12:18,769 --> 00:12:24,449

She understands this to mean she will fight against the devil and be victorious.

246

00:12:24,449 --> 00:12:27,000

Awfully cheerful for a gal headed to the gallows.

247

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:32,670

The night before the games begin, her pal Felicity gives birth and sends the child to

248

00:12:32,670 --> 00:12:34,449

her sister to raise.

249

00:12:34,449 --> 00:12:39,466

So, she's delighted since this means she can participate in martyrdom like

250

00:12:39,466 --> 00:12:40,845

the others.

251

00:12:40,845 --> 00:12:42,850

You'd think she'd want to live and raise her child.

252

00:12:42,850 --> 00:12:46,570

Oh, the zeal of martyrs is really something.

253

00:12:46,570 --> 00:12:50,832

Whoever wrote about their final day says they entered the amphitheater as if they

254

00:12:50,832 --> 00:12:52,700

were entering heaven.

255

00:12:52,700 --> 00:12:54,100

Courageous fools.

256

00:12:54,100 --> 00:12:58,810

Revocatus gets thrashed by a bear and leopard, but Satorus has better luck.

257

00:12:58,810 --> 00:13:03,430

The gladiator who sicks a boar on him ends up getting gored himself.

258

00:13:03,430 --> 00:13:06,060

Then the bear refuses to touch Revocatus.

259

00:13:06,060 --> 00:13:08,430

So the gladiators recall him unharmed.

260

00:13:08,430 --> 00:13:13,533

Next, the Romans bring out the women, throwing them center stage to face off

261

00:13:13,533 --> 00:13:15,550
against some angry cow.

262

00:13:15,550 --> 00:13:18,360
They survive this trial and stumble to their feet.

263

00:13:18,360 --> 00:13:23,139
Then, as he'd foreseen, Saturus is killed
with one bite from a leopard.

264

00:13:23,139 --> 00:13:24,520
What a circus.

265

00:13:24,520 --> 00:13:29,870
Finally, the remaining Christians are huddled together to be cut down
by soldiers.

266

00:13:29,870 --> 00:13:34,065
And you can imagine how it ends, apart from one odd detail about
Perpetua's

267

00:13:34,065 --> 00:13:34,998
demise.

268

00:13:34,998 --> 00:13:35,498
Odd?

269

00:13:35,498 --> 00:13:40,210
The novice soldier sent to cut her down maims her instead of cutting
her throat,

270

00:13:40,210 --> 00:13:45,510
piercing her between bones. She shrieks out in pain, and as he
hesitates

271

00:13:45,510 --> 00:13:51,560

to finish the kill, she brings down the blade upon her own neck.

272

00:13:51,560 --> 00:13:52,560

What?

273

00:13:52,560 --> 00:13:53,840

That's what this reads.

274

00:13:53,840 --> 00:13:55,639

Isn't that suicide?

275

00:13:55,639 --> 00:13:58,490

Not precisely, but maybe.

276

00:13:58,490 --> 00:14:01,199

Martyrs were supposed to get fast-tracked to heaven.

277

00:14:01,199 --> 00:14:03,440

Don't all good Christians go to heaven?

278

00:14:03,440 --> 00:14:04,440

Oh, no.

279

00:14:04,440 --> 00:14:05,880

Not at this time, at least.

280

00:14:05,880 --> 00:14:10,870

In the third century, Tertullian explained, Christians believed they would enter Hades

281

00:14:10,870 --> 00:14:13,449

deep inside Earth's crust upon death.

282

00:14:13,449 --> 00:14:17,000

There, they'll await the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

283

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:21,720

So, seventeen hundred years later, they still hang out in Hades?

284

00:14:21,720 --> 00:14:24,160

With the only exception being martyrs.

285

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:27,879

But no one knows what happens when we kick off, so they may have been wrong

286

00:14:27,879 --> 00:14:30,410

and have to wait it out like everyone else.

287

00:14:30,410 --> 00:14:32,240

Or maybe she's considered a suicide?

288

00:14:32,240 --> 00:14:33,440

Well, sure. Who knows?

289

00:14:33,440 --> 00:14:37,003

Perhaps she's stuck in Hades but gets bored and decides to visit her old stomping

290

00:14:37,003 --> 00:14:38,740

grounds in Carthage.

291

00:14:38,740 --> 00:14:41,630

So, you think Perpetua's also the same one from my dream?

292

00:14:41,630 --> 00:14:42,630

Yup.

293

00:14:42,630 --> 00:14:45,419

If the setting of Carthage's old amphitheater weren't enough,

294

00:14:45,419 --> 00:14:47,504

it jives with Calder's tale.

295

00:14:47,504 --> 00:14:48,718
Which is what?

296
00:14:48,718 --> 00:14:52,959
Calder's down on his luck, the crumb.
Feeling blue.

297
00:14:52,959 --> 00:14:56,529
Before him, he spots a beauty in Roman rags.

298
00:14:56,529 --> 00:15:00,630
It takes him a moment to realize she's a specter.

299
00:15:00,630 --> 00:15:03,130
Her sudden appearance was enough to startle him.

300
00:15:03,130 --> 00:15:06,710
She speaks, but her language is foreign to him.

301
00:15:06,710 --> 00:15:11,519
Then she approaches and displays the fresh cut above her breasts.

302
00:15:11,519 --> 00:15:17,269
He about falls over in horror, but her eyes
convey some universal semblance of hope.

303
00:15:17,269 --> 00:15:21,458
Whatever words she speaks, he understands their meaning without a

304
00:15:21,458 --> 00:15:25,710
translator. He's to kick the dope and live a good life.

305
00:15:25,710 --> 00:15:29,589
Apparently, meeting a martyr can have such
an effect on a man.

306
00:15:29,589 --> 00:15:30,900
That's quite a tale.

307

00:15:30,900 --> 00:15:32,140

That's how he told it.

308

00:15:32,140 --> 00:15:36,020

However, it doesn't appear Calder stumbled onto her story.

309

00:15:36,020 --> 00:15:38,079

He never mentions her by name.

310

00:15:38,079 --> 00:15:42,639

Instead, one of his last entries is about checking out literature on speaking with the

311

00:15:42,639 --> 00:15:46,759

dead or getting in touch with one's past lives.

312

00:15:46,759 --> 00:15:51,029

So, that's why he attended the Theosophists, just like Ms. Krause told us.

313

00:15:51,029 --> 00:15:52,029

Sure.

314

00:15:52,029 --> 00:15:53,269

And my money's on Phillip.

315

00:15:53,269 --> 00:15:58,508

I bet he discovered the connection between Calder's tale and Perpetua.

316

00:15:58,508 --> 00:16:00,889

Say, why don't we go over and check his collection?

317

00:16:00,889 --> 00:16:01,889

Too late.

318

00:16:01,889 --> 00:16:04,620

Lilah had them all donated to the library.

319

00:16:04,620 --> 00:16:05,620

Which one?

320

00:16:05,620 --> 00:16:06,570

We'd have to ask her.

321

00:16:06,570 --> 00:16:10,579

Rats. Well, there's one person who could answer this real quick.

322

00:16:10,579 --> 00:16:11,579

Calder Evans.

323

00:16:11,579 --> 00:16:14,930

Let's see, I've still got his number here. [SHUFFLING PAPERS.]

324

00:16:14,930 --> 00:16:27,464

[THE PHONE RECEIVER PICKED UP. SIX ROTARY DIALS.]

325

00:16:28,774 --> 00:16:32,185

Come on. Come on. Pick up you crumb.

326

00:16:33,485 --> 00:16:34,700

Ah, heck.

327

00:16:34,700 --> 00:16:36,000

He's not answering?

328

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:37,600

You think he's dodging our calls?

329

00:16:37,600 --> 00:16:39,211

I dunno. It's late.

330

00:16:39,211 --> 00:16:40,600

Maybe he's out with a new fella?

331

00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:42,509

Well, let's hope he didn't skip town.

332

00:16:42,509 --> 00:16:45,455

It's late, alright. Is that the end of Calder's ghost story?

333

00:16:45,455 --> 00:16:48,020

Sure, but you know what it means, don't you?

334

00:16:48,020 --> 00:16:49,630

I'm not that dense.

335

00:16:49,630 --> 00:16:51,478

Calder got spooked straight by Perpetua.

336

00:16:51,478 --> 00:16:55,829

Yeah, but the troubling part is there's nothing in Calder's journal about

337

00:16:55,829 --> 00:17:01,027

seeing old Perpetua stateside. So, why would Phillip think she'd cross the

338

00:17:01,027 --> 00:17:02,133

pond to help him?

339

00:17:02,133 --> 00:17:04,490

I don't know, doesn't she dwell deep in the Earth?

340

00:17:04,490 --> 00:17:06,476

Can't she just pop up anywhere she likes?

341

00:17:06,476 --> 00:17:09,853

Most hauntings are tied to a particular place.

342

00:17:09,853 --> 00:17:13,038

I thought some believe they get haunted wherever they go.

343

00:17:13,038 --> 00:17:15,064

That the spirit stays with them.

344

00:17:15,064 --> 00:17:19,356

That's possible, but then we ain't talking no ordinary spirit.

345

00:17:19,356 --> 00:17:20,912

What do you mean?

346

00:17:21,241 --> 00:17:23,839

I'm hesitant to say.

347

00:17:23,839 --> 00:17:28,880

You walk down this path, and you start flirting with mortal peril.

348

00:17:28,880 --> 00:17:32,250

But I know for certain you shouldn't be seeinger in your dreams.

349

00:17:32,250 --> 00:17:33,830

Something's not right there.

350

00:17:33,830 --> 00:17:36,830

What if she visited me to set me on the straight and narrow?

351

00:17:36,830 --> 00:17:38,911

The ghost of a martyr may work differently.

352

00:17:38,911 --> 00:17:40,730

Hmm. That's a novel angle.

353

00:17:40,730 --> 00:17:42,640

I thought you didn't believe in all this?

354

00:17:42,640 --> 00:17:43,670

Oh, I'm a believer.

355

00:17:43,670 --> 00:17:46,010

Bet your two c notes, I believe.

356

00:17:46,010 --> 00:17:49,320

It's just I wouldn't pretend to have all the answers.

357

00:17:49,320 --> 00:17:52,860

I know a human being is only breath and shadow.

358

00:17:52,860 --> 00:17:53,960

Sophocles again?

359

00:17:53,960 --> 00:17:56,520

You're a quick study, Nige.

360

00:17:56,520 --> 00:17:58,100

We're close on this one.

361

00:17:58,100 --> 00:17:59,471

So very close.

362

00:17:59,471 --> 00:18:03,950

Close to what, knowing that Phillip was out of his gourd on morphine chasing ghosts?

363

00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:05,950

Nah. There's more to it than that.

364

00:18:05,950 --> 00:18:08,309

We'll have to see what his manuscript says.

365

00:18:08,309 --> 00:18:10,780

It might confirm my new theory.

366

00:18:10,780 --> 00:18:11,909

What theory?

367

00:18:11,909 --> 00:18:16,830

Oh, don't you know it's poor form for one

gumshoe to spill a half-baked theory.

368

00:18:16,830 --> 00:18:19,280

I don't want to taint your process.

369

00:18:19,280 --> 00:18:21,600

We're just a day or two away from calling it quits.

370

00:18:21,600 --> 00:18:25,070

Soon Lilah and I will be hauling Phillip back to Zeugma.

371

00:18:25,070 --> 00:18:27,000

That's inevitable, I suppose.

372

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,210

But, at the moment, his spirit's tormented.

373

00:18:31,210 --> 00:18:35,720

I think he sought to climb that ladder to free himself from dope.

374

00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:37,960

Instead, he fell to his death.

375

00:18:37,960 --> 00:18:40,320

Now you sound like a Holy Roller.

376

00:18:40,320 --> 00:18:41,320

Ha.

377

00:18:41,320 --> 00:18:46,170

Enjoy your plush room at the Mayflower, and give me a ring at home when it arrives.

378

00:18:46,170 --> 00:18:47,299

The manuscript?

379

00:18:47,299 --> 00:18:48,460

What else?

380

00:18:48,460 --> 00:18:51,030

All I know is Ms. Krause better hold up her end of the bargain.

381

00:18:51,030 --> 00:18:53,890

Or what? You can't be serious about turning her over to the press?

382

00:18:53,890 --> 00:18:55,860

That goes against my client's interests.

383

00:18:55,860 --> 00:19:00,210

Don't worry, I won't offer more red meat to those sharks at the Star.

384

00:19:00,210 --> 00:19:01,890

Good night, Nige.

385

00:19:01,890 --> 00:19:03,010

Night Torsten.

386

00:19:03,010 --> 00:19:04,700

Oh, and Torsten.

387

00:19:04,700 --> 00:19:05,840

One more thing.

388

00:19:05,840 --> 00:19:07,762

You're not my type, either.

389

00:19:07,762 --> 00:19:11,850

Ha. Good cause I ain't got the strength to show you a good time.

390

00:19:11,850 --> 00:19:14,899

Why don't you take a spin around the circle?

391

00:19:14,899 --> 00:19:16,790

Maybe you'll find someone more to you're liking.

392

00:19:16,790 --> 00:19:18,580
I might just take your advice.

393

00:19:18,580 --> 00:19:19,879
Get out of here, ya bum.

394

00:19:19,879 --> 00:19:29,348
[MELLOW MUSIC.]

395

00:19:29,348 --> 00:19:33,132
[HOTEL LOBBY NOISES.]

396

00:19:33,132 --> 00:19:33,867
Morning, sir.

397

00:19:33,867 --> 00:19:38,369
Have any deliveries come for me, Nigel Clemmons in 302, or for the Barrs?

398

00:19:38,369 --> 00:19:39,639
Yes, good morning, Mr. Clemmons.

399

00:19:39,639 --> 00:19:41,799
A courier just came by with a parcel.

400

00:19:41,799 --> 00:19:43,410
Wait one moment, please.

401

00:19:43,410 --> 00:19:45,055
[Footsteps].

402

00:19:45,055 --> 00:19:48,679
Sorry to trouble you, sir, but I overheard you mention the Barrs.

403

00:19:48,679 --> 00:19:52,727

I'm trying to reach Mrs. Lilah Barr, but this gentleman informed me she already

404

00:19:52,727 --> 00:19:53,830
checked out.

405

00:19:53,830 --> 00:19:55,090
I don't believe they've left.

406

00:19:55,090 --> 00:19:56,470
I'm an associate of Mrs. Barr.

407

00:19:56,470 --> 00:19:58,530
May I ask what this concerns?

408

00:19:58,530 --> 00:19:59,614
Her brother, sir.

409

00:19:59,614 --> 00:20:01,978
I read he passed away on Wednesday morning.

410

00:20:01,978 --> 00:20:03,506
Read? Read where?

411

00:20:03,506 --> 00:20:05,510
That story wasn't in any of the papers.

412

00:20:05,510 --> 00:20:09,570
Maybe not the fancy papers white folk read,
but the Washington Daily ran a story about

413

00:20:09,570 --> 00:20:11,210
Phillip's passing on Thursday.

414

00:20:11,210 --> 00:20:13,090
Geez, I wasn't aware.

415

00:20:13,090 --> 00:20:16,669

I don't want to cause any trouble for him,
but my cousin's a bellman.

416

00:20:16,669 --> 00:20:20,650
He said he delivered a bottle of champagne
to Mrs. Barr's suite Thursday night.

417

00:20:20,650 --> 00:20:22,470
Here you are, sir.

418

00:20:22,470 --> 00:20:24,800
Excuse me, is this man troubling you?

419

00:20:24,800 --> 00:20:27,690
No trouble at all.

420

00:20:27,690 --> 00:20:30,380
Is something the matter, sir?

421

00:20:30,380 --> 00:20:31,380
Oh, no.

422

00:20:31,380 --> 00:20:32,380
I suppose not.

423

00:20:32,380 --> 00:20:36,309
It's just I anticipated a larger package, is all.

424

00:20:36,309 --> 00:20:38,280
[UNSEALING OF PARCEL.]

425

00:20:38,280 --> 00:20:40,210
What the devil is this?

426

00:20:40,210 --> 00:20:41,210
What's wrong?

427

00:20:41,210 --> 00:20:42,500

You ever been double-crossed?

428

00:20:42,500 --> 00:20:43,669

All the damn time.

429

00:20:43,669 --> 00:20:45,450

Is it something I can help you with?

430

00:20:45,450 --> 00:20:46,450

I don't think so.

431

00:20:46,450 --> 00:20:47,850

Sorry, I didn't catch your name.

432

00:20:47,850 --> 00:20:49,250

Abe Rhodes, sir.

433

00:20:49,250 --> 00:20:50,250

Nigel Clemmons.

434

00:20:50,250 --> 00:20:52,680

And you wanted to see Mrs. Barr about her brother?

435

00:20:52,680 --> 00:20:53,690

That's correct, sir.

436

00:20:53,690 --> 00:20:55,370

Any more specifics than that?

437

00:20:55,370 --> 00:20:56,820

I'd rather not say, sir.

438

00:20:56,820 --> 00:20:59,070

It's a personal matter.

439

00:20:59,070 --> 00:21:00,070

Excuse me, sir.

440
00:21:00,070 --> 00:21:01,770
Would you call up to the Barrs' suite?

441
00:21:01,770 --> 00:21:03,143
Room number 1010--

442
00:21:03,143 --> 00:21:04,830
Yes, sir. Right away.

443
00:21:04,830 --> 00:21:08,190
Mr. Rhodes, you'll have to give me more to
go on if you want to visit Mrs. Barr.

444
00:21:08,190 --> 00:21:09,640
I understand.

445
00:21:09,640 --> 00:21:12,320
But I'd prefer not to speak of such things
in the lobby.

446
00:21:12,320 --> 00:21:14,429
Sure, I've got a room here.

447
00:21:14,429 --> 00:21:16,290
You can come on up and spill it there.

448
00:21:16,845 --> 00:21:17,845
Well, any luck?

449
00:21:17,845 --> 00:21:19,290
They're not answering, sir.

450
00:21:19,290 --> 00:21:20,544
Perhaps they stepped out?

451
00:21:20,544 --> 00:21:21,544
Fine.

452

00:21:21,544 --> 00:21:22,544

Thanks.

453

00:21:22,850 --> 00:21:25,080

Mr. Rhodes, could you give me a minute?

454

00:21:25,080 --> 00:21:28,309

I've got a call to make, and then I'll meet you right back here.

455

00:21:28,309 --> 00:21:29,309

Alright.

456

00:21:29,309 --> 00:21:31,130

[FOOTSTEPS.]

457

00:21:31,130 --> 00:21:34,077

[PICK UP THE RECEIVER AND INSERT COINS.]

458

00:21:34,077 --> 00:21:45,190

[SIX ROTARY DIALS.]

459

00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:46,608

Hi, Torsten.

460

00:21:46,608 --> 00:21:50,159

You won't believe it, but she reneged on her deal.

461

00:21:50,159 --> 00:21:52,183

Sent us a cease and desist order instead.

462

00:21:52,461 --> 00:21:53,837

I'm reading mine right now.

463

00:21:53,837 --> 00:21:54,559

Yours?

464

00:21:54,559 --> 00:21:56,839

Oh, she served us both, buster.

465

00:21:56,839 --> 00:21:58,741

Some joker buzzed in at my apartment.

466

00:21:58,741 --> 00:22:03,655

I stopped my Maine Coon Griffin from clawin'
his eyes out and grabbed him, he scurried

467

00:22:03,655 --> 00:22:05,684

halfway up the fella's torso.

468

00:22:05,684 --> 00:22:06,462

Should have let him do it.

469

00:22:06,462 --> 00:22:09,428

At least she sent the manuscript, just not
to us.

470

00:22:09,428 --> 00:22:10,270

What are you talking about?

471

00:22:10,270 --> 00:22:11,460

To whom did she send it?

472

00:22:11,460 --> 00:22:12,460

Lilah.

473

00:22:12,460 --> 00:22:14,450

You mustn't have reached the last paragraph.

474

00:22:14,450 --> 00:22:17,419

No, I was a bit distracted by another problem.

475

00:22:17,419 --> 00:22:21,220

There's a strapping gentleman named Abe Rhodes here to see Lilah.

476

00:22:21,220 --> 00:22:24,419

He claims it's personal regarding her deceased brother.

477

00:22:24,419 --> 00:22:26,334

Said he read about it in the Washington Daily.

478

00:22:26,334 --> 00:22:26,889

What?

479

00:22:26,889 --> 00:22:30,233

Did the Daily get the scoop before the Post or the Star?

480

00:22:30,233 --> 00:22:31,317

Well, good for them.

481

00:22:31,317 --> 00:22:34,325

The only thing I can figure is maybe Phillip owed him some money.

482

00:22:34,325 --> 00:22:36,882

I knew an Abe Wheeler once.

483

00:22:36,882 --> 00:22:38,350

He was a hophead dealer.

484

00:22:38,350 --> 00:22:40,059

We called him Wheeler the Dealer.

485

00:22:40,059 --> 00:22:43,710

He seems mighty polite to be a dope pusher.

486

00:22:43,710 --> 00:22:45,460

I'd reckon more of an honest Abe type.

487

00:22:45,460 --> 00:22:48,490

We'll just have to trust your judgment. But if you're wrong--

488

00:22:48,490 --> 00:22:49,890

Hold it.

489

00:22:49,890 --> 00:22:53,859

I told him to wait for me in the lobby to see what he has to say--Christ.

490

00:22:53,859 --> 00:22:55,315

I lost sight of him.

491

00:22:55,315 --> 00:22:57,011

Heck, I gotta scram.

492

00:22:57,011 --> 00:23:00,370

He must have overheard me mention Lilah's room number to the desk clerk.

493

00:23:00,370 --> 00:23:02,720

Get here soon, will you--
[THE RECEIVER HANGS UP.]

494

00:23:02,720 --> 00:23:04,370

[HEELS RUN ON MARBLE.]

495

00:23:04,370 --> 00:23:06,370

Excuse me, that man waiting here.

496

00:23:06,370 --> 00:23:07,820

Did you see which way he went?

497

00:23:07,820 --> 00:23:08,820

Toward to rear, sir.

498

00:23:08,820 --> 00:23:11,960

He either ventured to the elevators or exited onto Seventeenth Street.

499

00:23:11,960 --> 00:23:12,960

Ah, heck.

500

00:23:12,960 --> 00:23:14,309

Do you require any assistance, sir?

501

00:23:14,309 --> 00:23:16,059

Let's hope not.

502

00:23:16,059 --> 00:23:18,559

[OUTRO MUSIC.]

503

00:23:18,559 --> 00:23:25,792

Dupont Investigations is written by Marc Benjamin Langston and directed, edited, and sound-designed by Bryce Bowyn.

504

00:23:25,792 --> 00:23:30,150

Keep your ears in the 1930s by becoming a DUPONT INVESTIGATOR.

505

00:23:30,150 --> 00:23:36,740

Access our private discord server "The Inside Scoop" or explore Torsten Somersby's recovered

506

00:23:36,740 --> 00:23:42,220

case file by visiting nocturnehall.com/investigator

507

00:23:42,220 --> 00:23:46,640

Dupont Investigations: The Scourge from Carthage Part 4 features

508

00:23:46,640 --> 00:23:50,010

Marc Benjamin Langston as TORSTEN SOMERSBY

509

00:23:50,010 --> 00:23:52,890

Jacob Lowman as NIGEL CLEMMONS

510

00:23:52,890 --> 00:23:56,500
Bryan Langston as DRIVER 1 and CLERK and

511
00:23:56,500 --> 00:23:59,820
Claxton Rabb the Third as ABE RHODES

512
00:23:59,820 --> 00:24:05,670
The Original theme song, "Devils of Dupont,"
written and performed by Bryce Bowyn, is available

513
00:24:05,670 --> 00:24:07,380
wherever you stream music.

514
00:24:07,380 --> 00:24:12,650
For individuals and families facing mental
health or substance use disorders in the United

515
00:24:12,650 --> 00:24:19,049
States, listeners can call the free, confidential
National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP.

516
00:24:19,049 --> 00:24:24,211
That?s 1-800-662-H-E-L-P.