

The Three Investigators in The Secret of Terror Castle

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Side 1

music

Alfred Hitchcock presents:

The Three Investigators in The Secret of the Terror Castle

Written by Robert Arthur

Dramatized by Edward Kelsey

My name is Alfred Hitchcock – I am a teller of tales of terror. Those of you who are easily frightened should listen no further. Those of you who think you are brave, now is the time to prove it! The story you are about to hear happened in the 1960s before any of you were born.

Narrator I was a not entirely unknown director of thriller movies in Hollywood in the United States of America. One day my secretary sent two boys into my office. They presented me with a printed card which I read aloud:

Alfred Hitchcock The Three Investigators, We Investigate Anything, ???, First Investigator Jupiter Jones.

Jupiter That's me Mr. Hitchcock.

Alfred Hitchcock Second Investigator Peter Crenshaw.

Peter That's me.

Alfred Hitchcock Records and Research Bob Andrews.

Jupiter Bob is not with us because he's doing research at the moment. He is somewhat handicapped in operations requiring athletic powers as he is suffering from the after-effects of a badly broken leg. However, as he works part time at the library he is eminently suitable as a researcher.

Alfred Hitchcock Hmm, no doubt. But what are doing here in my office? I do not require the services of one investigator, not alone three

Peter Jupe thinks you do, Mr. Hitchcock

Alfred Hitchcock Jupe does, does he? The gateman has strict instructions not to allow strangers in to see me.

Jupiter Well, I can explain that, Mr. Hitchcock. I was fortunate enough to win a competition.

Peter Jupe is really very clever. You can tell from the way he speaks. He's got a great brain.

Alfred Hitchcock And a great impudence.

Jupiter I'm sorry you should feel that way, Mr. Hitchcock. You see, the prize for being successful in the competition was the loan of a Rolls-Royce sedan automobile for thirty days.

Alfred Hitchcock Not much use to you. You can't be old enough to drive.

Jupiter That is true, Mr. Hitchcock. But the Rolls came complete with its own chauffeur to drive us.

Peter And its own telephone.

Alfred Hitchcock I'm impressed.

Jupiter And so was the man on the studio gate. He was so impressed to see us arrive in such a smart English auto driven by a smart English chauffeur called Worthington that he thought we must be related to you, Mr. Hitchcock, as you are such a smart English film director. So he let us in.

Alfred Hitchcock I see. Well, now, you can both get back into your smart English auto and ask your smart English chauffeur to drive you smartly away. I'm very busy.

Jupiter We know that Mr. Hitchcock, and we are here to help you. That is why we gave you our card.

Alfred Hitchcock The Three Investigators - ? ? ? - may I ask what the question marks are for? Do they indicate a doubt in your own ability?

Jupiter No, sir. They are our trademark. They are symbolical of questions to be answered, of mysteries to be solved. And if we wish to indicate to each other where we have been we leave a small chalked question mark. A different color for each of us.

Alfred Hitchcock Most original.

Jupiter And the question marks on the card make people ask questions like you did, sir. And that helps to remember us.

Alfred Hitchcock I see. **clearing his throat** You are publicity-minded.

Jupiter A business cannot succeed if people don't know about it.

Alfred Hitchcock A statement which cannot be disputed. But speaking of business, you have not yet stated yours.

Peter We want to find a haunted house for you, sir.

Alfred Hitchcock A haunted house? What makes you think I want a haunted house?

Jupiter We understand you want to find an authentic haunted house to use in your next suspense picture, sir. The Three Investigators desire to assist you in the search.

Alfred Hitchcock **chuckling** I have people searching for a proper house at this moment all over America. I'm sure they will find me the right house for my purposes.

Jupiter But if we could find you the right house here in California, it would be a lot simpler to make your picture here, sir.

Alfred Hitchcock I'm sorry, my lad, it is out of the question.

Jupiter We don't want any money, sir. But all famous detectives have someone write up their cases for people to read – Sherlock Holmes, Ellery Queen, Hercule Poirot, all of them. I have deduced that that is how they become famous. In order to get potential customers to know about The Three Investigators, we will have our cases written up by the father of our other partner, Bob

Andrews. He works for a newspaper. And he will turn our adventures into a play and record them.

Alfred Hitchcock

Well...

Jupiter

Well, Mr. Hitchcock, I thought if you could just introduce our first case—

Alfred Hitchcock

You certainly do have a cheek.

Peter

We're very well organized, Mr. Hitchcock. We've got a secret Headquarters hidden away at Jupe's uncle scrap yard and —

Jupiter

It won't be a secret long if you tell every one, Pete.

Peter

Mr. Hitchcock isn't every one, Jupe.

Alfred Hitchcock

Thank you for that.

Jupiter

And Pete is right, sir. We are well organized. We've built ourselves a very well equipped headquarters out of an old trailer in my uncle's scrap yard. And we've had a telephone installed that we pay for by doing chores for my uncle. And for thirty days we have the Rolls for transport. All we need is our first case, Mr. Hitchcock, just we can get started

Alfred Hitchcock

Very well, I certainly admire your initiative. If you can come up with an interesting story, I'll introduce whatever you write about your case.

Jupiter

Oh thank you Mr. Hitchcock. Then you want us to investigate the haunted house situation for you?

Alfred Hitchcock

Oh yes, I suppose so. I don't promise to use it even if you find it, but investigate by all means.

Jupiter

You won't regret it, Mr. Hitchcock. Bob Andrews is researching at this very moment. By the time we get back to our Headquarters he will be ready to give us his first report on Terror Castle.

music

Bob Terror Castle is located in a narrow little canyon up above Hollywood, called Black Canyon. It was originally called Terrill's Castle, because it was built by a movie star named Stephen Terrill. He was a big star back in the silent-film days before talking pictures were invented. He used to play in all kinds of scary pictures about vampires and werewolves and stuff like that. He built his house to look like the haunted castle just like the ones in his pictures, and filled it with weird things that came from the different pictures he'd acted in

Jupiter Very promising, Bob!

Peter That depends on what you're promising! What became of this Stephen Terrill?

Bob He was known all over the world as The Man with a Million Faces. Then talking pictures were invented. And people discovered he had a squeaky, high-pitched voice and lisped.

Peter Great! A monster who lisped in a squeaky voice. They must have laughed themselves right out of their seats.

Bob That's just what they did. And Stephen Terrill had to stop making pictures. He sent away all his servants, even sent away his best friend – his business manager Mr. Jonathan Rex. He shut himself up in his castle and brooded. People began to forget about him. Then one day a wrecked car was discovered, it had run off the road and crushed down over the cliffs, almost into the ocean.

Peter What did that have to do with Stephan Terrill?

Bob The police traced the license number and learned that the car belonged to Terrill. They didn't find his body but that wasn't surprising. It would have washed away at high tide.

Peter Gee! Do you think he drove off the cliff on purpose?

Bob Police weren't sure. But when they went into the castle the door was wide open, and they found a note which said: - I copied it out, here it is.

Peter "Though the world will never see alive me again, my spirit will never leave this place. The castle will be forever accursed." And it was signed "Stephan Terrill".
music in background – Wow! The more I hear about this place, the less I like it.

Jupiter On the contrary, it grows steadily more promising. Continue, Bob.

Bob Well, the police never found any trace of Terrill. But it turned out that he owed the bank a lot of money. So they sent out some men to collect Stephan Terrill's possessions. But they became very nervous although they couldn't say why and wouldn't stay. One real estate agent went there to spend a night just to prove it was all imagination. He ran out at midnight, so frightened he ran all the way down the canyon.

Peter Gee!

Jupiter Go on, this is better than I hoped for.

Bob Several other people tried to spend the night. A movie starlet did it for the publicity. She ran out even before midnight, her teeth chattering so hard she could hardly talk. All she could do was whimper about a blue phantom and a fog of fear.

Peter Nothing else, huh? No headless horsemen, no ghosts with clanking chains, no-

Jupiter If you'd let Bob finish, we would be able to proceed faster.

Peter As far as I am concerned, he IS finished. I don't want to hear anymore

Jupiter Anything else, Bob?

Bob Well, just other incidents of the same kind. Muffled screams from underneath the castle, a misty figure

walking up the stairs. A lot of people reported having heard weird music coming from the ruined pipe organ in the music room. And several actually saw a ghostly figure, a sort of shimmery blue blob playing the organ. They named it the Blue Phantom. No tramp would go within a mile of the place.

Peter

I'm not surprised. You couldn't hire me to go there.

Jupiter

Nevertheless, Pete, we are going there, you and I – tonight!

music

car approaching

Jupiter

Is this it, Worthington?

Worthington

I fear we can proceed no further in the Rolls, Master Jones. This rock fall bars our passage. But it is my impression that the castle should be just around that turning ahead

Jupiter

Thank you, Worthington. Come on, Pete, we'll walk the rest of the way. Have you got the tape recorder?

Peter

If I have to use it, all you'll hear will be the sound of chattering teeth.

Jupiter

We'll be back in an hour, Worthington.

Peter

If we're lucky...

footsteps

Peter

Golly! Look, Terror Castle. Gee! It looks scary. I think we ought to come by daylight, Jupe. So we can find our way around.

Jupiter

Nothing happens here in the daytime. It's only at night that this place scares people out of their wits.

Peter

I don't want to be scared out of my wits. I'm half that way already.

Jupiter So am I. I feel as if I had swallowed some butterflies.
Peter Then let's go back. We've done enough for one night. We ought to go back to Headquarters and make some more plans.
Jupiter I've already made my plans. My plans are to stay in Terror Castle for one hour tonight. Come on.

rustling noise

Peter What's that?
Jupiter Just a jackrabbit, we frightened it.
Peter We frightened it? What do you think it did to me?
Jupiter **grinning** Forward, Pete. Here we are. The entrance to Terror Castle
Peter Whoa! There's a bat around my head.
Jupiter Bats only eat insects, they never eat people
Peter Maybe this one wants a change of diet. Why take chances?
Jupiter Stop kidding, Pete. Here's the door. We just have to walk through it.
Peter I wish I could get my legs to believe that. They think we ought to go back.
Jupiter So do mine. But my legs take orders from me. Come on

spooky music

Peter Wait! Do you hear spooky music?
Jupiter Probably just imagination
Peter What if it was the ruined pipe organ being played by the Blue Phantom?
Jupiter Then we certainly want to hear it. Let's enter.

door opening

footsteps

Jupiter We're here. This is the main hall. We'll stay one hour, then we'll leave.

L-E-A-V-E – L-E-A-V-E

Peter Did you hear that? The phantom told us to leave

Jupiter Wait!

W-A-I-T – W-A-I-T

Jupiter As I thought. Merely an echo. And it only works when you stand in the exact middle of the hallway. The walls are circular. Mr. Terrill built it this way specially. He called it the echo room.

Peter I was just kidding. I knew it was an echo all along. Ha-ha-ha-ha... - Did I do that?

Jupiter You did. But please, don't do it again.

Peter I won't.

Jupiter Shine your flash light on the wall over there. That's right.

Peter Gee! It's covered with pictures.

Jupiter Yes, they all appear to be of the same man wearing different costumes

Peter I suppose they are all pictures of Stephen Terrill playing different roles from his films

Jupiter I guess so.

Peter Gee! Whiskers!

Jupiter What is it, Pete?

Peter That picture of the one-eyed pirate, that one eye is real. It's looking at us!

Jupiter Where?

Peter There, look!

Jupiter No, it's just a painted eye like all the others.

Peter I guess I was wrong. But I certainly thought I saw it blink. Hey, you feel what I feel?

Jupiter I – I feel very cold. Cold spots are frequently found in haunted houses.

Peter Then this one is haunted. I feel a cold draft as if a whole parade of ghosts were rushing by. I've got goose flesh. I'm scared.

Jupiter Look! A mist forming in the air!

Peter It's a ghost! Materializing!

Jupiter Come on, back to the car. Run, run!

music

footsteps

car approaching

Worthington Here you are Master Jones. Back home at your uncle's scrap yard.

Jupiter Thank you, Worthington.

Peter Yes, thank you for getting us away from Terror Castle.

Worthington Better luck next time, Master Jones. I must say I enjoy this kind of assignment. It's quite a change from driving for fat bankers and rich old ladies. **chuckling** Good night, Master Jones.

Jupiter Right, let's get over to our Headquarters. Bob will be waiting for us.

Bob What was it that happened exactly, Pete. What made you run from Terror Castle tonight?

Peter I don't know exactly. First, I began to feel uneasy. After a while I was feeling extremely nervous. All of the sudden the extreme nervousness became sheer terror, and I wanted to run.

Jupiter Hmm, your experience was exactly the same as mine. We actually saw and heard nothing to frighten us. Yet we felt frightened. The question is, why?

Peter What do you mean, why? Any old deserted house is frightening, and that place is so scary it would frighten spooks.

Jupiter Perhaps that is the answer. We must visit Terror Castle again, and–

ring

Bob The telephone!

Jupiter Who could call us? No one knows our number.

Peter We haven't had it long enough to be listed in the telephone book.

Bob Haven't we better answer it?

Jupiter Yea - Hello? - Hello? - Hello? No one there. Must have been a wrong number. **ring** Hello? - Hello?

Gypsy Stay away! Stay away! Stay away from Terror Castle!

music

Jupiter I've been thinking about that phone call we had last night. It seems to me we have a problem. In fact, we have two problems.

Peter I can tell you how to solve our problems. Just pick up that phone and call Mr. Hitchcock and tell him we've decided not to find a haunted house for him. Tell him we break out into lumps of goose flesh whenever we go near one. Tell him our legs go all wobbly and start running on their own accord.

Jupiter I will ignore those remarks, Pete. While Bob is busy at the library, we will endeavour to solve our problems. First we must determine who made that phone call last night?

Peter Not who. What! Was it a phantom or spook or a werewolf , or just a disembodied spirit?

Jupiter Disembodied spirits are not known to use telephones.

Peter That was in the old days. Why shouldn't they change with the times and be modern, too? That voice last night didn't sound like a human voice to me.

Jupiter I agree. The whole problem is made more perplexing by the fact that, except for us and Worthington, not a living soul knew of our visit to Terror Castle last night.

Peter But what about souls who aren't living?

Jupiter If Terror Castle is actually haunted, we wish to prove it. And if Stephen Terrill is the one who put a curse on the castle then presumably it's his ghost haunting that place now.

Peter That sounds reasonable.

Jupiter Our first line of action then, is to locate someone who knew Stephen Terrill in the days when he was a silent-picture star, and who can tell us more about him.

Peter But that was a long time ago. Who'd we find?

Jupiter Our best bet would be Mr. Terrill's business manager, The Whisperer.

Peter The Whisperer? What kind of name is that?

Jupiter That was his nickname. His real name was Jonathan Rex. Here's a picture of him and Stephan Terrill that Bob copied for us at the library.

Peter Wow! So that was what Stephen Terrill looked like! He didn't have to do any acting to scare people. With that terrible scar, the bold head, and those eyes he would freeze a guy in his tracks.

Jupiter You're looking at the wrong one. Mr. Terrill is the smaller man, the one who looks so friendly and harmless.

Peter Him? He's the one who played all those ferocious monsters? That nice-looking guy?

Jupiter Apparently, off the motion-picture set Stephan Terrill was so shy, because of his lisp, he could hardly talk to people. So he hired The Whisperer to handle all his business affairs. The Whisperer had no trouble getting people to agree to the terms he desired.

Peter I'll bet he didn't. He looks as if he would draw a knife on a person if anyone said no.

Jupiter If we can locate him, I'm sure he can tell us all we need to know. Look him up in the telephone books, Pete, while I phone for Worthington and the Rolls.

Worthington This is the mountain road that leads to Mr. Jonathan Rex' residence, Master Jones.

Jupiter Good work, Worthington!

Worthington Thank you, sir.

Peter It's lucky for us that Jonathan Rex still lives in the neighbourhood

Jupiter Yes, and I have an idea. Worthington-

Worthington Sir?

Jupiter I believe this road will pass within a mile of the entrance of Black Canyon and Terror Castle.

Worthington That is so, Master Jones.

Jupiter Then let's pay a quick visit to Black Canyon on the way. There is something I want to ascertain.

Jupiter There's Terror Castle again.

Peter To think we went into that place after dark – wow!

Jupiter And came out rather in a hurry.

Peter You can say that again

Jupiter As a matter of fact, we're going back in again, right now, and have a look around by daylight

Peter Look out!

Jupiter What is it?

Peter Up there! The one side of the mountain go towards us, a gigantic boulder. It will crush us!

Jupiter Wait! Stand still! It will miss us by some yards.

Peter Gee! Whiskers! If that boulder had hit us, Terror Castle would have had some new ghosts tonight!

Jupiter Look! There's someone up on that slope hiding behind the bushes. I'll bet he rolled that stone down on us!

Peter If he did, we'll teach him better manners. Come on, Jupe, let's get him!

climbing

Jupiter Can you still see him, Pete?

Peter No, he must be hiding. Look, above us. The whole side of the Canyon is coming down on top of us

Jupiter Quick, get into this crevice in the rock

Peter Jupe, we can't **coughing** get out. We're trapped. We'll suffocate.

Jupiter Breathe through your handkerchief until the dust settles. Don't worry about the air. This crevice must go a long way into the hillside, so there's plenty of air in here for now. But our exit appears to be effectively barricaded.

Peter Even at a time like this you use long words? Why don't you just stay we can't get out. We're stuck!

Jupiter I won't say we can't get out because that fact remains to be proved. Look up there! You can see daylight through that tiny hole.

Peter We'll never get out through there.

Jupiter Not until we make the hole bigger. And fortunately, someone has been in this crevice before us and left a stick behind. If I poke hard enough with it, I should be able to disturb a rock. There! The hole is bigger. A little more poking and the hole will be big enough for us to get through.

Peter Jupe, you're a genius.

Jupiter Please, I simply endeavour to exercise my native intelligence to its fullest ability. Now help me enlarge

this hole so that we can get out and return to Worthington and the Rolls and continue our journey to the home of Mr. Jonathan Rex.

Worthington We've reached the end of the road, Master Jones. But I do not see any habitation.

Peter There is a mail box. It says Rex 915, the house must be around here somewhere.

Jupiter There are some rocky steps going up the hillside. They must lead to Jonathan Rex's house. Stay here, Worthington.

Worthington Sir.

Jupiter We'll go and visit with The Whisperer.

Peter Gee! We've come the wrong way. What's all that noise?

Jupiter Birds. Parakeets. Look, by the side of the house! Cages of them.

Peter And look there. A man with a bald head...

Jupiter ...and a terrible scar.

Peter He's got an axe in his hand. Its razors are sharp.

Jonathan Rex Stand right where you are! Don't move a step, do you hear?

Peter He's coming towards us!

Jonathan Rex Stand absolutely still, boys! Don't move if you value your lives!

Peter Jupe, what do we do? He's going to throw the axe!

music

Side 2

music

Peter Jupe, he wants to kill us! He's throwing the axe at us.

throw

Jonathan Rex Missed!

Peter I'm glad of that. Come on Jupe, run!

Jupiter It's all right, Pete.

Jonathan Rex There was a snake in the grass behind you, boys. I don't know whether it was a rattler or not. I tried to get it with the axe, but I hurried too much. Would you like to join me for a lemonade?

Jupiter We'd be glad to, Mr. Rex.

Jonathan Rex I've been cutting the brush along the hill.

door

Jonathan Rex Dry brush is a bad fire hazard but it's hard work. A lemonade is already. Let me pour you a glass.

Jupiter Thank you Mr. Rex.

Peter Thank you very much.

Jonathan Rex You're welcome. I raise parakeets for a living as you may have noticed.

Jupiter We can certainly hear.

Jonathan Rex Yes, they are rather noisy. Will you excuse me for a moment?

Jupiter Of course, sir. - Well Pete, what do you think of Mr. Rex?

Peter Why? He seems pretty nice. I mean after you get used to his voice.

Jupiter Yes he's very friendly. I wonder why he said he was cutting brush with the axe, however. His hands and arms were quite clean. They would have had small twigs and bark on them if he'd really been cutting dry brush.

Peter But why would he bother to make up a story for two kids he's never seen before.

Jupiter I don't know. But if he'd been cutting brush for any length of time, how could he have a pitcher of lemonade with the ice hardly melted at all standing in here now?

Peter Shht, he's coming back.

Jonathan Rex I've just been to put on this scarf around my neck. It bothers some people to see my scar. So I cover it when I have company. It's a relic of a little scrape I got into in the Malay Archipelago many years ago. But tell me, how do you happen to be calling on me?

Jupiter Our card Mr. Rex.

Jonathan Rex Hmm, the Three Investigators, eh. And what are you investigating?

Jupiter We'd like to ask you some questions about Stephen Terrill.

Jonathan Rex What is your interest in my old friend?

Jupiter We wondered if Mr. Terrill was the kind of man who would become a vindictive spirit, bent on haunting his former home to keep people out of it forever.

Jonathan Rex A very good question. Let me answer it this way. My friend Stephen, though in his movie roles he played phantoms and monsters, pirates and weird creatures, was really very shy and gentle. That was why he needed me for his business manager. I had a way with people. They didn't like to argue with me. You understand?

Peter Yes, sir.

Jonathan Rex That allowed Steve to devote himself to his acting. He enjoyed being able to thrill and scare audiences. When his poor speaking voice made his final picture such a laughing matter, it broke his heart. That was one thing he couldn't face – being laughed at.

Jupiter Yes, sir. I know how he felt. I hate being laughed at, too.

Jonathan Rex Exactly. For weeks after the picture was released Steve wouldn't leave his home. He sent the servants away. I did all the shopping. The reports kept coming in that audiences shrieked with laughter everywhere the picture was shown. Finally he ordered me to obtain all of the prints of his old pictures that were in existence. He was determined that no one would ever see them again. I managed to get them and brought them to him. But it took all his money, and I had to tell him that the bank which financed the building of his home threatened to take the castle away from him. We were alone in the main room of the castle. He looked at me with burning eyes. "They will never get me to go, he said. No matter what happens to my body, my spirit will never leave this building."

Peter Golly! That certainly sounds as if he was planning to go into the haunting profession.

Jupiter Yes, yet Mr. Rex, you say Mr. Terrill was a gentle individual. Such a person would hardly turn into a malevolent spirit capable of inspiring unreasoning terror in everyone who entered the castle.

Jonathan Rex That's true my boy, but you see, the unseen force that causes the sense of terror in everybody may not be the spirit of my old friend. It may be one of the other much more sinister spirits that I strongly suspect now manifest themselves there.

Peter Other more sinister spirits?

Jupiter Oh yes, when Stephen Terrill built the castle, he sent all over the world for materials from various buildings supposed to be haunted. From Japan he obtained timbers of an ancient ghost-ridden temple where a noble family had been wiped out in an earthquake.

Then he brought material from a ruined mansion in England where a beautiful girl had hanged herself rather than marry a man her father had picked out for her. And he imported stones from a castle on the Rhine supposedly haunted by the ghost of a mad musician who was imprisoned in the cellars for playing music his Lord did not like. After the musician's death the tune which brought about his imprisonment was often heard coming from the locked music room of the castle.

Peter

Gosh, if all those dead characters are wandering around the Terror Castle now, no wonder it's so hard to live in.

Jonathan Rex

I cannot swear that Terror Castle is haunted by my old friend or any one else, but personally I would not enter that front door and spend the night there now for ten thousand dollars.

music

Bob

It's been two days now, Jupe, since you and Pete interviewed Mr. Rex. When are we going to have a conference about it?

Jupiter

As soon as we can, Bob. But my aunt has been keeping us so hard at work here in the scrap yard, we just haven't had a moment to spare.

Peter

Things seem to be easing off a little now, Jupe.

Jupiter

Well, that is true, Pete. And as we are unobserved at the moment perhaps we could have a quick meeting here in the yard before aunt Mathilda announces lunch.

Peter

Good idea, Jupe. We could sit on the hood of this old car. We can easily get on with something if anybody comes.

Jupiter

Right, now the first subject to discuss is the mysterious telephone call we received immediately after our first visit to Terror Castle. Until I learn otherwise, I shall

refuse to believe that disembodied phantoms can use telephones.

Bob Well, okay. What's next? The mysterious person who rolled the rocks down at you?

Peter Yes, what about him? He's one guy I'd like to get my hands on!

Jupiter It may have been somebody wandering in the canyon who started the rocks rolling by accident.

Peter He had an awfully good aim for someone who didn't mean it.

Jupiter Well, he must remain an enigma until further facts emerge. I am thinking now of the untruths which Mr. Rex told us when Pete and I visited him. Why did he say he was cutting dry brush when it was obvious that he wasn't? And why did he have a pitcher of fresh lemonade ready as if he was expecting us?

Peter Whiskers! The farther we go, the more mysteries there are.

Bob Look out! There's someone coming over here.

Peter It's an old gypsy woman, probably got some junk to sell.

Gypsy I have a message for Jupiter Jones.

Jupiter I am he. What's the message?

Gypsy Three times I've seen a warning for you in the cards. You are to avoid the letters TC or anybody or anything with the initials TC. You are in terrible danger. Take notice of a gypsy's warning. Avoid TC, avoid TC...

Peter Hey, come back. What do you mean?

Gypsy Keep away from TC.

Peter Hey?!

Jupiter It's all right Pete. Let her go.

Bob TC – Terror Castle!

Peter Somebody or something doesn't want us fooling around Terror Castle. First, we get a weird warning over the

telephone. Then, this something uses a gypsy fortune-teller's cards to send us another warning. I think Mr. Something means it. I vote we stay away from Terror Castle as warned. All in favor, vote aye.

Bob Aye!

Peter Aye! That makes a majority vote.

Jupiter Is it not apparent to you that these warnings add a new mystery to the case?

Peter How do you mean?

Jupiter No one else who investigated Terror Castle received any warnings. This leads me to believe that we are closer to the solution of the mystery of the strange terror that pervades it than we realize. I've reached certain conclusions, which must be tested. And we have to work swiftly to report to Mr. Hitchcock on time. Therefore you must both get permission to stay out late tonight. For tonight, we make our final assault upon the secret of Terror Castle

Jupiter Well, here we are again, Pete. Terror Castle. Open the door.

Peter Why does it always has to be us. What about Bob and Worthington sitting comfortably in the Rolls back there?

Jupiter They're our backup team. Now come on, open the door.

Peter It won't, it's jammed.

Jupiter I feel sure we can effect an entrance elsewhere. Suppose we try one of those French windows down there. Come on. – We're in luck. This window isn't shot properly. In we go! – **footsteps** It's the dining room. There seem to be several doors to the rest of the house. I wonder which we should take.

Peter As far as I am concerned - Ugh!

Jupiter What is it, Pete?

Peter It's the ghost of a woman with a rope around her neck.

Jupiter The one Mr. Rex told us about

Peter What do we do?

Jupiter When I say NOW shine your flashlight on her and I'll shine mine too. - Now!

Peter She's vanished.

Jupiter But there is nothing there but a mirror.

Peter A mirror?! Then the ghost must be behind us.

Jupiter She's not there now.

Peter She's gone, and I'm going too.

Jupiter Wait! A ghost can't reflect in a mirror.

Peter Well, this one did. Come on, let's go. We've proved the house is haunted. Let's go and tell Mr. Hitchcock, now!

Jupiter Not yet, I want to examine this mirror. **knocking**
Seems solid enough. **knocking** –

door opening

Jupiter Well, look at that! A secret door.

Peter Leading to a secret passage.

Jupiter Come on, we must discover where it leads.

footsteps

door closed

Peter Oh no! The door is shut, we're locked in!

Jupiter Never mind, Pete. We don't want to go back the way we've come.

Peter Don't we?

Jupiter Of course not, we're investigators, aren't we?

Peter Listen to that.

Jupiter The Blue Phantom plays again.

Peter The music seems to come out of the stone wall.

Jupiter I'd say we are probably directly behind the ruined pipe organ in the projection room.

Peter You mean the Blue Phantom is on the other side of that wall?

Jupiter I hope so. After all the whole purpose of this expedition is to try to catch the phantom.

Peter Suppose he catches us first. That's what worries me.

Jupiter According to all available records, the blue phantom has never harmed anyone. I've come to some conclusions about this case which I've kept to myself in order to verify them. I think we will soon find out if I am correct or not.

Peter But suppose you're wrong and the Blue Phantom decides he wants us to join his gang of spooks, what then?

Jupiter Then I will admit I was wrong.

Peter Look at the mist coming out of the floor, out of the walls, everywhere.

Jupiter Fog of Fear! The ultimate manifestation of Terror Castle. Now let us try to catch the blue phantom while he thinks we are paralysed with fear.

Peter I am paralysed with fear! I can't make my legs move.

Jupiter The time has come, Pete, to tell you what I deduced. Terror Castle is really haunted...

Peter That's what I've been telling you all along!

Jupiter Let me finish. Is really haunted but not by a ghost. It is haunted by a man who is very much alive. In fact, according to my deductions, the Phantom of Terror Castle is Mr. Stephen Terrill, the supposedly dead movie star himself.

Peter What? You mean alive and living here all these years?

Jupiter Exactly. A living ghost scaring people away from his home so that he will not lose it. Does that make you feel better?

Peter It sure does.

Jupiter Now, there appears to be a door in the passage here. It's my belief that if we go through it, we shall find Mr. Stephan Terrill. – Mr. Terrill? Mr. Stephan Terrill?

Peter Are you here Mr. Terrill?

Jupiter It's all right Mr. Terrill. We don't mean you any harm – Ahh, Uhh!

Peter What is it, Jupe? – What's - Ahh!

Jupiter I'm caught in a net! I can't move.

Peter Neither can I. What's going on?

Gypsy You small fools! Why did you not heed my warning?

Peter It's the old gypsy woman who came to the scrap yard.

Gypsy Why could you not be sensible and stay away like the others? Now we must take care of you.

Jupiter Who are you?

Gypsy We can tell you all because you will never be able to tell anyone else. **laughing** We are smugglers of jewels from the orient. This is our headquarters. It is unfortunate for you that you have discovered it.

Gypsy What shall we do with them?

Gypsy Lock them in the dungeon and throw away the key. **laughing**

music

Bob Worthington, don't you think we should go and see what has happened to Jupe and Pete? They've been gone off for a long time.

Worthington Not so long as all that, Master Andrews. Master Jones gave me very strict instructions as to how long I was to wait before coming to his aid if necessary. The time has not yet expired.

Bob I hope Jupe and Pete haven't expired.

Worthington That is a joke I take it, Master Bob. Master Jones is much too resourceful a character to allow anything unfortunate to occur.

Bob I hope you're right, Worthington.

Jupiter “(How are you feeling)”, Pete

Peter I can’t move. I’m all tied up.

Jupiter Me too.

Peter What are we going to do, Jupe? We’ll never get out of this dungeon. The smugglers will never allow us to escape.

Jupiter Don’t worry, Pete. If my estimation of the passage of time is correct, help should be with us very shortly. I have great faith in the abilities of Bob and our English chauffeur Worthington

Peter But how will they know where to find us? **door opening** - Oh Gosh, the smugglers are coming back.

Worthington Oh, is that you Master Crenshaw? Is Master Jones with you?

Jupiter I am, Worthington.

Bob Are you both all right?

Peter We are now, Bob.

Worthington Will you allow me to sever the bonds that bind you, Master Jones?

Jupiter With pleasure, Worthington.

Worthington There - and there.

Jupiter Oh, thank you Worthington, that’s better.

Worthington Now you Master Crenshaw, there - and there.

Peter Oh thanks a lot, Worthington.

Worthington I am sorry that our appearance on the scene was a little delayed.

Bob We were able to follow your secret signs, but we took a wrong turning, and we were attacked by enormous birds.

Jupiter Birds?

Worthington Yes sir. Not exactly enormous, parakeets I would say they were

Jupiter Parakeets! I got it!

Worthington How did you come to be in such a good predicament, sir? We noticed the Chinese gentleman hurrying along the tunnel. Was he in any way responsible?

Peter He certainly was. We were looking for-

Jupiter We'll explain later. Take us to where you were attacked by the birds.

Worthington Certainly, sir. Follow me.

Bob You can hear the birds now. Be careful.

Jupiter I don't think they're dangerous, Bob. Have you heard that sound before, Pete?

Peter Yes, I think I have. But where?

Jupiter You'll know soon

Worthington There appears to be a wooden door ahead, sir

Jupiter And it's open, the end of the tunnel. Come on

Bob Where are we? We're trapped, we're in a cage!

Jupiter We're in a cage, all right, but we are not trapped. You recognize where we are, Pete?

Peter Yeah, we're inside the big cage where Mr. Rex raises his parakeets.

Jupiter Exactly. Terror Castle must lie parallel to Mr. Rex's house with only a few hundred feet of rocky ridge separating them. The two houses are connected by a secret tunnel. I think we should pay a call on Mr. Rex.

Jupiter Okay, Pete. Ring Mr Rex's front door bell.
door bell
barking

Peter Right, Jupe.

Bob Do you think Mr. Rex has anything to do with the haunting of Terror Castle?

Jupiter We shall soon find out.

Jonathan Rex Well, what is it?

Jupiter We'd like to talk with you, Mr. Rex.

Jonathan Rex Worthington And supposing I do not wish to be bothered, boy?
In that case we shall have to call the authorities to investigate.

Jonathan Rex Jupiter Oh no need for that. Come in. Come in.
Thank you, Mr Rex.

Jonathan Rex Charles Grant This is my old friend, Charles Grant.
How are you?

Jonathan Rex Charlie, these are the boys who have been investigating Terror Castle. Well, boys, have you found the ghosts yet?

Jupiter Yes, we have solved the secret of the castle.

Peter Have we?

Jupiter We have!

Jonathan Rex Indeed? And what is the secret?

Jupiter You two men are the ghosts who have been haunting the castle and scaring people away. And just a short while ago you tied up Pete Crenshaw and me and left us in the dungeon under the castle.

Jonathan Rex That's a very serious accusation, boy. And I'll wager you can't prove it.

Jupiter Look at the tips of your shoes. I chalked them with our secret mark while you were standing beside me, tying me up.

Peter But we were tied up by the old gypsy woman and the old Chinese-

Jupiter Both these men were connected with the film industry, they're masters of disguise.

Jonathan Rex He's right. We were acting the part of an imaginary gang of smugglers to give you boys a real scare. But I don't want you to think we actually intended to harm you. I was on my way back to untie you when your friends caught sight of me..

Charles Grant We're not murderers nor smugglers either. We're just ghosts.

Jonathan Rex But I am a murderer. I killed Stephen Terrill.

Charles Grant Oh, that's right. You did away with him, *laughing* but that hardly counts.

Worthington The police may think otherwise. Lads, I think we had better go and summon the authorities.

Jonathan Rex No wait! Give me a moment and I'll let you talk to Stephan Terrill himself.

Peter You mean talk to his ghost?

Jonathan Rex Exactly. Talk to his ghost. He will explain to you why I killed him.

Bob Quick! Stop him, he's trying to escape!

Charles Grant No he's not. Don't worry. He won't be a minute. There is something he has to do.

Stephen Terrill Good evening, I am Stephan Terrill. You wanted to see me?

Charles Grant He really is Stephan Terrill.

Jupiter I get it! Mr. Terrill, you are also Jonathan Rex the Whisperer, are you not!

Stephen Terrill That is so, you've guessed my secret. When I attached this plastic scar to my throat, took off my wig and put on elevator shoes, I stopped being Stephen Terrill. I reduced my voice to a sinister whisper and became that frightening individual known as The Whisperer. I faked my own death, and I've been trying to frighten people away from Terror Castle until, as Mr. Rex, I could raise enough money from breeding my parakeets to buy back the castle from the bank. I had almost succeeded but I reckoned without the persistence of you boys.

Charles Grant It was all quite harmless. No one ever got hurt.

Peter No one got hurt? We almost got killed by that rock fall.

Charles Grant Yeah, well, that was an accident. I'm very sorry about that. I dislodged the rocks as I was watching your movements.

Stephen Terrill Charlie Grant is my lookout. Just at the entrance to Black Canyon there is a small bungalow, barely visible. Charlie lives there. Whenever he sees anyone enter the canyon he telephones me, and I hurry through the tunnel to be ready for them. He used to be my film make-up man.

Jupiter And he was the old gypsy woman who warned us off. How did you know who we are?

Charles Grant I read about you winning the Rolls-Royce in the papers. It's an easy car to recognize.

Worthington Quite so, sir.

Bob But how did you manage to make Terror Castle seemed to be haunted?

Stephen Terrill I learned many tricks and special effects when I worked in movies, trade secrets, but not difficult if you know how. Well, now you know the whole story. What are you going to do?

Jupiter Mr. Terrill, do you still have the copies of all the wonderful scary films you made, which no one has seen for many years?

Stephen Terrill I do, I look after them very carefully.

Jupiter Then I have an idea how you can get your castle back and still go on entertaining people by scaring them.

Stephen Terrill How?

Jupiter Turn the castle into a special haunted cinema to show your old films.

Stephen Terrill Show my old- ? You know, that might work

Jupiter I'm sure it would. But now, we must prepare our report for Mr. Hitchcock.

Alfred Hitchcock When the boys reported back to me, I had to tell them I had changed my plans and no longer required a haunted house. However, I have kept my word and introduced the story of their adventures. And, what is

more, I suggested another mystery for them to solve which I shall also introduce: The Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot. Listen to that, if you dare...