Chapter 2

Breaking

escape signal travel director producer prepared decades authentic smuggler investigated control intersperse diplomatic include Canada phenomenon stolen automatic supposed several dismounted

Green Walkers

approach maintain Fairray Maine subdue virtue

Yellows

already breaking tours Lightning pleasure

Final Syllables

reputation stable tremendous humble steeple valuables imagination appearances possible nation explanation maintenance adventure instructions attention directions simple handle plausible

Phrases

a small museum in the country have a hypothesis wasn't seriously injured an overactive imaginaiton stolen valuables had no trouble to the lighthouse

Chapter 2 The Ghost Story

Moira and Jesse followed the path that went through the woods and then traveled along the coast to the lighthouse. The story of the Lighthouse Ghost went back several decades. In the late 1930's, local authorities supposedly pursued a sailboat for smuggling rum and stolen valuables from Canada. They almost subdued the smuggler in Bangor, but he escaped and disappeared in the large national forest. He was never heard of again. At that same time, a black figure began appearing in the lighthouse while the lights in the lighthouse switched on and off.

When the police investigated the appearances, they found crates of rum in the lighthouse. This legend would have been one of the many local stories that come and go, except that this ghost had supposedly turned the lights of the lighthouse off as

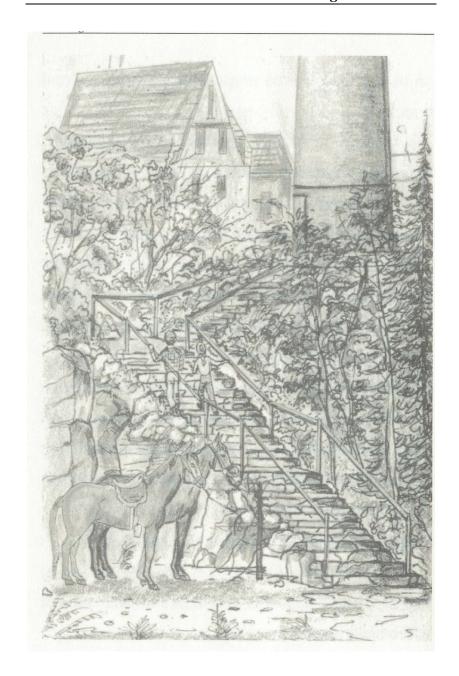
ships approached the coast, which caused several wrecks.

As Jesse and Moira approached the lighthouse, they were impressed with its condition. A house next to it had been turned into a small museum. They dismounted and tied their horses to a post near the lighthouse. They started to climb the long stairway up to the top of the lighthouse. It was a long climb, and both were sweating profusely by the time they got to the control room.

Oak Crusoe was in the control room waiting for Jesse and Moira. He had seen them approach the lighthouse from a distance. He maintained the lighthouse and made sure the automatic controls were in working order.

"Moira, how are you doing?" asked Oak.

"I'm doing fine. Oak, I want to introduce you to Jesse Fairray, who works with us as a ranch hand and will be giving tours," said Moira.



The two men shook hands, and then the discussion turned to the phenomenon of the Lighthouse Ghost.

"This last sighting was different from the others," said Oak. "Four sailors claim they actually saw a black figure floating up the side of the lighthouse. Then they saw it enter the lighthouse through this window. The sailors ran to the lighthouse door to investigate, but it was locked and they could not enter. It was then that whoever or whatever it was that entered the lighthouse turned off all the power. The sailors called me and then went out in the bay and used their lights to prevent ships from crashing into the coast. Something was here that night. I don't think it was their imagination."

As Moira and Jesse prepared to leave, Oak gave Moira a key to the lighthouse, just as he had done for the last several years. Moira would take her tours inside the lighthouse. Some of the money made from the tours helped with the maintenance of the lighthouse.

Moira and Jesse walked on the beach near the lighthouse and attempted to find a plausible explanation for the ghost's appearances. "I have a hypothesis about this ghost," said Jesse, "but we will have to return at night to check it out."

"Well, that sounds like a fun adventure," said Moira. "We should have time after one of the tours later this week."

For the next several days, the ranch was crowded with people who wanted to go horseback riding in the country and also visit the lighthouse. Moira and Jesse took groups of ten to twelve people on their horseback tours. On each tour they would discuss some simple rules for riding.

"Lift the reins and pull slightly to the right or left to get the horse to turn," Moira told her groups. "If you want the horse to stop, you must pull back strongly." They also stressed that riders shouldn't jerk the reins, for then the bit would hurt the horse's mouth.

On Friday, Jesse and Moira led a private tour that included several actors, a director and a producer. They were scouting the area as a possible site for a movie. Right off the bat, Moira knew it was going to be a long day.

One of the actors, named Roe Shylow, was a real nuisance. He was a "know it all" and didn't listen to Moira's instructions. The group wanted to intersperse sightseeing with some riding. That was all right with Moira and Jesse, but Roe was just plain abusive to his horse. He gave it several hard kicks in the ribs, and when the horse didn't respond as quickly as Roe wanted, he whipped it with the reins. He also galloped away from the group directly up the side of the rocky hills.

After several attempts at trying to handle Shylow in a diplomatic way, Jesse had enough.

"Mr. Shylow, get off your horse this minute!" yelled Jesse. Roe didn't pay attention to Jesse, acting as if he didn't hear him. Jesse galloped alongside Roe and attempted to grab the reins to stop the horse.

When Roe saw Jesse approaching him, he gave his horse a quick kick, and it took off into the woods, where it was soon out of control. When Roe gave it another kick, the horse suddenly stopped, and...... (6.1)