

WIZARD CLIP HAUNTING

Stanley D. Williams

TV Serialization Pitch  
1 Season - 8 Episodes

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WGA Registeed

*After three months of investigation,  
I was soon converted to a full belief of them.  
No lawyer in a court of justice did more than I,  
nor procured more than your unworthy servant.*

– Rev. Prince Augustine Gallitzin  
Servant of God

#### **LOG**

The true early American story of the demonic forces that  
threatened the soul of a farmer and  
the freedom of the nascent United States.

When America was young, reckless, and fiercely independent, an  
equally independent farmer and a devout but renegade Catholic priest  
struggle to accept each other and together battle an ancient Babylon  
spirit that threatens their safety  
and the country's freedom.

## SUMMARY

This is a pitch for a one-season dramatic series, of seven hour-long episodes, based on the real-life events in 1797. The series is an adaptation of WIZARD CLIP HAUNTING (WCH). historical novel that explores the abiding American values of freedom, family, hard work, frugality, patriotism, loyalty, entrepreneurship, and how religious faith sustains and expands the exceptionalism of American life.

Shortly after the American Revolutionary War, when America was young, reckless, and fiercely independent, an equally independent and entrepreneurial farmer, Adam Livingston, and a devout but renegade Irish Catholic priest, Fr. Denis Cahill, struggle to accept each other in the midst of an anti-papist culture and together battle an ancient Babylon poltergeist that threatens their safety and the country's freedom.

As a celebration of traditional American values and themes, the series will be narrated by the historic Russian prince, Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, who became the first Catholic priest to be trained and ordained in the United States. Wanting to fit into American culture, he chose, at first, to be known simply as Fr. Smith, but later answered to Fr. Dimitri. At Bishop John Carroll's direction, Fr. Dimitri investigated and wrote an account of the original events at Livingston's farm, but like a good book loaned, it was never returned. Ostensibly, the WCH novel hopes to replace what was lost, while the series hopes to broaden an awareness of history and to entertain.

The series adapts Parts 5, 6, & 7 of the novel, but skips Parts 1, 2, 3, & 4.

## ORIGIN

As a veteran filmmaker and screenplay consultant to the film industry, the historic story of Adam Livingston and the Wizard Clip came to me from a stranger in Australia who called one day and insisted I make a movie about the mystical, yet well-documented, events.

After a couple weeks of on-line research, I wrote a narrative screenplay. But the final disposition of the historic characters forced me to put the screenplay on a shelf, and travel to the actual locations, interview historians, and search historical achieves.

The trips revealed that the story could not be told in a stand-alone movie. Over the coming years I continued my research, and finally wrote the novel, which allowed application of *The Moral Premise* structural concepts to a long form narrative.

There are nearly 30 historically documented versions of the story, and a half-dozen books about the hauntings on Livingston's farm. But all present the events as curiosities of history, presenting the narrative as a short, sterile non-fiction treatment absent of character backgrounds and motivations. Further, none include the startling discoveries revealed by my research, no doubt due to their scandalous nature.

The WCH novel, therefore, is the first attempt to pull all the personages, places, tragedies, victories, scandals, and supernatural events together into a cogent historical narrative, albeit fiction. Because of the novel's length with its multiple converging subplots, numerous readers have suggested the screen version be told as a serialization.

I agreed, although this pitch is a significant abbreviation. For the record, the *Wizard Clip Haunting* novel is about 20,000 words shorter than *Gone with the Wind*, and about half as many words as *Atlas Shrugged*. Consider it a longish short story.

**MAIN CHARACTERS**  
(and their age in 1797)

**ADAM LIVINGSTON**, 58 (historical person) - Adam's arrogance grows out of an intense work ethic that produces a flax harvest that is the envy of his neighbors. A first-generation American son of German immigrants, Adam detests slavery as does his father. His first wife, Esther, a devout Christian woman talented at weaving linen and embroidery and honored for her hand-made clothing for the poor, is suddenly taken from him by a mystical illness. She leaves behind two children, Eve (8) and Henry (6) and several still born children in graves. From that point on Adam swears revenge on God ... a foolish and impossible task. He trusts hard work and his intelligence above nature and the Almighty. From childhood Adam has experienced premonitions of ambiguous but tragic events that are only made clear to him after it's too late. His home and farm in Virginia is known as Flax Haven.

**FR. DENIS CAHILL**, 31 (historical person) - As an infant, Denis was baptized by an incognito Catholic priest in Ireland, where being Catholic was illegal, and being a priest meant certain death. Denis survives to be educated and ordained a priest in Spain. He's assigned to serve in New Orleans as a novice Capuchin friar. Religious order priests make vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. But Fr. Denis discovers that obedience to his superior, Rev. Père Antoine, is intolerable because Antoine believes the state should have authority over the church. This forces Fr. Denis to abandon his order in New Orleans and travel to America, where his confidence nearly gets him murdered by papist belligerents. Yet, with the help of an American patron, Fr. Denis plants six nascent parishes, all while ignoring the orders of distant bishop, John Carroll, S.J..

**BISHOP JOHN CARROLL**, 62 (historical person) - Carroll was born into an aristocratic family in the colonial-era Province of Maryland. A Jesuit priest, he spent his early priestly years teaching in Europe. Returning to Maryland in 1773, shortly before the Revolutionary War, he supported separating from Britain along with his older brother, Daniel, who signed the U.S. Constitution, and his cousin, Charles, who signed the Declaration of Independence. As a close friend of Benjamin Franklin, John Carroll was an active champion of the Bill of Rights and fought hard for the inclusion of freedom of religion in the 1st Amendment. Appointed as the first bishop of the Catholic Church in America in 1789, Carroll had only 25 priests to work with, and many of them came to be known as frauds or "presumptuous renegades," as was Fr. Denis Cahill with whom Carroll shared a contentious relationship. Fr. Demetrius Gallitzin (Fr. Dimitri) was the first priest to graduate from St. Mary's Seminary and be ordained by Carroll. Shortly thereafter, Carroll sends Fr. Dimitri to investigate Adam Livingston's haunts. Years later, Carroll met Livingston and remarked that he had never met a layman as well educated in the Catholic faith. Georgetown University was founded by John Carroll.

**THE CLIPPING WIZARD** (CYN NAMRASIT) (historical entity) - The Wizard is the seminal, demonic antagonistic of the story. It is by far the most arrogant and confident of our characters. Its hellish charge is

to bring its targets to perdition by causing them to reject religion in all its forms and curse God before they die. The Wizard is not always successful, but it tries hard...too hard for many who have experienced its wrath in history.

**THE LAND** (historical place)- At the center of the story is a 35-acre plot of land in Virginia (now West Virginia)-the site of a murder, the buried corpse, a forged deed, and a temporarily entombed demon (the Wizard) whose spirit is free to terrorize, but whose poltergeist ability paralyzed. After the land becomes part of Livingston's larger estate and after the estate falls under the Stranger's curse, the poltergeist is released to terrorize its occupants. Years later when the demon is exorcized, Adam donates the 35 acers to the Catholic Church for the keeping of a priest. Today that land is Priest Field Pastoral Center, a Catholic retreat in Middleway, West Virginia, which continues to memorialize the Wizard Clip and Livingston's generosity.

**(PRINCE) REV. DIMITRI AUGUSTINE GALITZIN, 27** (historical person) - A Russian prince by birth, Fr. Dimitri is the story's narrator and participant with Fr. Cahill in the exorcism. In real life he spends three months interviewing the real-life characters and documenting them. He loaned the hand-written story out, but like a good book it was never returned. The WCH novel is the invented reclamation of what Gallitzin lost. Dimitri came to the United States as a young man with his tutor to expand his education and to avoid the political vagrancies that led to the French Revolution. But, he quickly became the first man to be trained and ordained in the United States as a Catholic priest. Later in life he founded the city of Loretto, Pennsylvania using money from his royal inheritance, although he nearly died in debt.

**EVE / HENRY LIVINGSTON, 17/15** - Adam and Esther's two living children. The novel begins with them 8 and 6 years old and ends when they are 17 and 15. Eve emulates and carries on the deep faith of her mother who dies early on in the story. Eve is the noble reflection and mentor who attempts to draw Adam toward faith. She is stalwart and unwavering in her purpose. Henry is more like his father in the faith department, but the opposite when it comes to responsibility and work-concepts missing from his DNA. He tends to mischief and sloth. Adam doesn't know where he came from.

**MARY ANN LIVINGSTON, 50** (historical person)- Was married previously to the Revolutionary War hero, Col. Alvin Babbit who fought bravely under General Benedict Arnold and General Gates in the Battle of Saratoga. Col Babbit witnessed the surrender of General Burgoyne before succumbing to his battle wounds. After receiving Alvin's last pittance of war pay, Mary Ann donned black and wore it for over a decade, even her night gowns were black. By the time she made acquaintance with Adam Livingston she had hardened into a proud war widow. Being well educated, in her widowhood, she was a letter writer for the illiterate and an interpreter of contracts and deeds in Winchester County before she met Adam. Like Adam she is bitter for losing her first love and husband, and like Adam she hates all religion and particularly Christianity. This made her attractive to

Adam. She becomes the domineering and bitter stepmother to Eve and Henry; fully alienating Eve by revealing her destructive envy for anything associated with Esther, Eve's deceased, biological mother whom Eve idolizes. Although, when she married Adam believing she was barren, with Adam she gives birth to twins: George and Martha who are five years old in 1797. Mary Ann is a trickster and sides often with the goals of the Clipping Wizard, although she hates its haunts.

**SAM AND BETHANY DARK**, late 30s - The Darks are former married slaves of General Horatio Gates whose plantation home is known still today as Travelers Rest near Kearneysville, West Virginia. Adam buys the Darks from Gates, immediately manumits them with the aid of John Adams (a friend of Gates), and then signs them to an indentured work agreement as freemen. Although illiterate, they are devout Christians, know their place, and are loyal to Adam for his generosity. Sam is the farm's manager, and Bethany manages and cooks for the household. They live in a cabin near the Livingston house.

**RICHARD MCSHERRY**, 50 (historical person) - Richard is the twin brother of William (a minor character in the novel). They were born in Ireland and made their fortune trading hard goods in Jamaica before coming to the United States. William established a trading concern in Baltimore, and Richard came west to Virginia and became an established land speculator. In the first part of the novel, he looks for a priest to attract Catholic settlers to his land holdings. In the latter part of the novel, and in this serialization, Richard has become Denis Cahill's proxy bishop. Richard is entrepreneurial, a good businessman, assertive, and devout.

**ANASTASIA MCSHERRY**, 25 (historical person)- Anastasia Lilly was the sixth and middle child of eleven born to Richard Lilly and wife Mary Ellen of Conewago, Pennsylvania. Although her father owned several slaves and treated them mostly with respect, Anastasia despised slavery. Anastasia is intelligent, determined, and attractive. Her trim, slight frame, delicate features, piercing blue eyes, and rust-red, curly hair, always under a bonnet, entranced everyone that met her, especially the men. She told her many suitors she was not the least bit interested in marriage. At 16 she took an offer from her Maternal Uncle Arnold to work as an inventory clerk at his Hagerstown Textile company. A devout Catholic she starts attending Fr. Cahill's Magdala Chapel and goes regularly to confession with him. It's then that she confesses her sin of lying just a little bit to her suitors. In the first part of the novel Fr. Cahill plays matchmaker and marries Anastasia and Richard McSherry. In the latter part of the novel and in the TV serialization, they live on McSherry's estate named Retirement in Lee Town only a few miles east of the Livingston's farm. Anastasia is industrious and generous. She and Richard have three young boys named after Richard, William, and Fr. Denis who in 1797 are respectfully 5, 4, and 3 years of age.

**CATHARINE CAHILL**, 16 - Fr. Denis' kid sister immigrated to the United States from Ireland ostensibly to find a husband, as all the Irish boys (and one particular) are rakes. Her parents would not let her travel alone, so she comes with her best friend, the older, wiser and more cunning **LETICIA MCCARTNEY**, 19, a dedicated siren who from first

sight is determined to marry Fr. Denis Cahill, having heard much about him from Catharine and the elder Cahills. Together, Catharine and Leticia are live-in nannies for the McSherry's three boys. Catharine is domestic and loves to knit. Leticia is a siren and loves to ride horses ... bareback.

### **TONE**

There is nothing sacrosanct, idealized, or sanitized about this series or the lives of the characters (real or fictionalized). This is a gritty series that at once involves the difficulties of pioneering life and the hope that gives way to freedom, faith, and love. Few settings or characters are pristine, but yet the goals and aspirations of the human characters and settings inspire optimism, humor, emotion, and romance. As in real life, there is an element of horror in this story, yet its end is not dark, but redemptive and filled with hope.

### **THEME**

(Moral Premise)

Skepticism & Pride leads to frustration, loss, and despair, but  
Faith & Humility leads to confidence, gain, and hope.

### **MAIN SETTINGS**

1797s - Virginia (now West Virginia)

**FLAX HAVEN FARM** - Adam Livingston's 350A plantation in Smithville, Virginia (now Middleway, West Virginia) comprised of a two-story wood-frame MAIN HOUSE (the major set), a three-level BARN, the managers' log cabin (DARK'S CABIN), and various outbuilding (CHICKEN YARD/COUP), and acres of vegetable fields. There are two milk cows, half-dozen horses, several wagons, and stone-wood fences. The MAIN HOUSE consists of a GATHERING HALL that contains, from front to back: a large loom, a large plank table, hearth and fireplace, and at the rear a food prep area with hutches and dresser drawers for linen. There is also a separate but attached summer kitchen for cooking, a parlor, a STORAGE/OFFICE, and upstairs there are four BEDROOMS. The house is well furnished but not luxurious. Livingston is a successful farmer with practical, utilitarian interests.

**RETIREMENT** - A large estate with a two-story, stone residence of Richard and Anastasia McSherry, located in Leetown, three miles east of Flax Haven, and Smithfield. It has a PATIO GARDEN, and a shrub defined ROSARY GARDEN in the shape of a cathedral cross (exists today).



**MAGDALA** - Fr. Dimitri's chapel and rectory on a main street in Hagerstown, Maryland. Two isolated sets: (1) Front PORCH depicting a two story, 18<sup>th</sup> century house on the town's MAIN STREET that can accommodate a coach-and-four; and (2) Fr. Dimitri's STUDY and desk for writing.

**ST. AGNES CHAPEL** - The primitive, white, clapboard chapel on a hill above Shepherdstown. Inside is a NAVE that might seat 100 at most, with an attached apartment for a traveling priest. There's a door from the side of the nave into the apartment hallway (doubles as vestry).  
The "CONFESSIONAL" consists of two chairs, a screen, and a kneeler in the hallway.

### EPISODES' STRUCTURE

Each of the 7 episodes is structured into the following 6 steps:

1. TEASE: Flash forward to 30 seconds of high tension, of the episode's concluding "MAIN ACTION" leaving the audience on a cliff.
2. INTRO: The elderly Fr. Dimitri (Gallitzin) writes to his bishop. We hear his VO as he bridges the events of the last episode to this one.
3. OPENING CAHILL THREAD: This step only in Ep. 1-5. Sets up Cahill beats in Ep. 6-7.
4. MAIN ACTION: This is the main body of the episode summarized below..
5. CLOSING CAHILL THREAD: This step only in Ep. 1-5. Sets up Cahill beats in Ep. 6-7.
6. REFLECTION: Cyn Namrasit's reaction to its superiors regarding what just happened and what next steps to take in their attempt to fully obstruct and lead the characters to perdition.



The beat breakdowns on the following pages focus only on Step 3-5.

## EPISODE 1 - STRANGER<sup>1</sup>

Fr. Cahill writes an introductory letter to Bishop John Carroll, informing the bishop of his pioneering ministry the last 9 years in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He asks for money.

A sojourner Stranger comes to Adam and Mary Ann Livingston's farm (Flax Haven) and asks for room and board for the night. He's mysterious and doesn't tell them much. That night he realizes he's going to die and asks the Livingstons to fetch a Catholic priest to give him last rights. The Livingstons are incensed that a Catholic has entered their house unawares. He confesses he's a Catholic priest. His hosts become livid and tell their guest to rot in hell. The Stranger curses the house, the Livingstons and their farm just before he dies. Eve Livingston (17) secretly requests the Stranger priest's prayer book, missel, and crucifix.

Even before he's buried, the haunts begin—lanterns and candles mysterious extinguish, there are sounds the family does not recognize, windows open and close on their own, and swirls of black vapor enter the window and seep into the cracks of the wood floor..

The Stranger is buried, and Adam orders his workers to leave the grave level and unmarked, to be forgotten. But Eve secretly covers it with a blanket of moss, and a cross on top made with stones.

Fr. Cahill shares with Richard McSherry, his patron, the return letter from Bishop Carroll. Carroll is upset—he's never heard of "Fr. Denis Cahill" or his work, is curious of the priest's credentials which have never been presented to the bishopric, and that the church has no funds to send for the work that has never been authorized. Denis questions his calling after nine years of labor and jokes that Richard should be his bishop.

## EPISODE 2 - HAUNTS<sup>2</sup>

Fr. Denis asks Richard McSherry if his kid sister, who is coming to America, can stay with him. She's looking for a husband and all the men in Ireland are rakes.

Livingston's home is filled with pervasive and nuisance disturbances—the constant sound of shears opening and closing, tremors that shake the floors, the sudden opening or closing of windows and doors, and swirling black vapor.

Mary Ann invites the Stuarts to dinner. Linda Stuart, Mary Ann, and Bethany prepare supper, while Adam demonstrates the reassembled loom to Jack Stuart ... all amidst the sounds of clippings. Eve removes her birth mother's large herringbone table linen and is shocked—it is shredded with cut outs of crescent moons that fall to the floor. Linda Stuart thinks the cloth is exquisite. Adam vents his rage at the damage done to Esther's linen—one of her finest creations. During desert, the sound of the loom's flying shuttle and beater bar is heard, but no one sits at the loom. That's it, the Stuarts quickly leave.

In the middle of night Eve sees a vision of her deceased mother sitting on the loom's bench. Esther tells Eve, "You must make what the Wizard wants to destroy. Make things beautiful again."

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<sup>1</sup> WCH Novel's Part 5A

<sup>2</sup> WCH Novel's Part 5B

When the Hendershots come to supper, the haunts are worse, and the family's China is destroyed by invisible hands that shove dishes off shelves crashing to the floor.

Adam is upset because a bag of gold is missing. He thinks his children or wife took it. Eve suggests it may be the wizard. "Who's the Wizard?" Adam asks. "That's who mother said destroyed the linen."

Cahill meets with Richard and tells him a Fr. Bodkin, a Dominican Preacher, has come to Magdala, sent by Bishop Carroll ostensibly to replace Cahill.

### EPISODE 3 - MINISTERS<sup>3</sup>

Catharine Cahill and best friend, Leticia McCartney, arrive at Magdala. Cahill is joyful to see Catharine, but Leticia's another matter—he's unfortunately smitten with her.

Adam is assailed by Gregory McCullough over a thick rope across the road that prevents passage of McCullough's wagon. Adam whips the horse through the phantom rope, but the rope stops McCullough who tries to chase after the wagon. It's another Wizard disturbance.

Adam rides to Winchester to find Appleton, a conjurer who can dispel curses. Appleton lays out Tarot cards. The results scare Appleton, and he chases Adam off the mountain screaming: "Leave me, You're condemned. You need a robust man of God."

Adam and Mary Ann experience an earthquake in bed and hear a wagon stampede encircling the house. Adam rushes to confront the swirling mass. Eve screams a prayer, "MAMA, PRAY FOR US. THE WIZARD HAUNTS US..." The prayer works, sort-of....

Adam begs Rev. Streit, a Lutheran minister, to come. He does, with his wife and two women in hoop skirts. They kneel in the gathering hall and pray but are attacked by a quaking floor, orbiting boulders, red hot coals ...that burn the skirts on the hoops and reveal their shredded petticoats. Streit leaves mad at Adam's trickery.

Bethany suggests her Church Mother, Regina Robinson, who comes with her large son, Wallace. They pray in tongues, the floor vibrates, the sky rumbles. Wallace shakes like a leaf, table and chairs bounce. A thunderous BOOM sends sparks and embers into the room. Tongues of fire appear above their heads. Wallace stumbles out, followed by Regina yelling obscenities at Mary Ann.

Fr. Cahill writes a scathing rebuke to Bishop Carroll telling the bishop that he (Cahill) has forbade Bodkin from ministry due to his health, and asks, again, for money, and threatens the Bishop with scandal.

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<sup>3</sup> WCH Novel's Part 6A

#### EPISODE 4 - CONFESSION<sup>4</sup>

Fr. Cahill hears Catharine and Leticia's confessions at St. Agnes. Leticia confesses her love for a priest who she claims should not be one.

Since she's been teaching them to read, Eve helps Sam and Bethany negotiate a new work indenture with her father, but with more liberal terms.

Rev. Hoover Horace Hhoats, a boisterous, "eradicator of curses," pays Adam a visit and cons him out of a silver crown.

While Eve is alone at home threading her loom, three teen boys arrive to harass her. Tom and Dick are inebriated, Ben is sober and polite. The Wizard scares the boys by turning the porch into a tilting fun-house. They wet their clipped pants and run off. Ben lingers and apologizes to Eve.

Adam and Eve travel to visit Ben's father, Rev. Jeremiah Williams, a Methodist, and ask him to come and do what he can about the demonic haunts. Williams tells Adam prayers of exorcism are not his thing, but he comes nonetheless with his wife and Ben and prays before a meal. His prayer is understated, devout, and not conspicuous or pretentious. The disturbances disappear for several days to Adam surprise.

Eve asks if she can pray, now, before meals. Adam and Mary Ann are quick to say no.

Suddenly their flock of chickens are beset by large invisible shears that behead all their chickens. Mary Ann has a nervous breakdown thinking the twins could suffer the same fate. Adam takes Mary Ann and the twins to Travelers Rest where the Randalls keep Mary Ann and the twins safe.

That night, Adam experiences a foggy and indistinct nightmare of a man in robes performing an incantation and beckoning Adam to participate.

Richard McSherry shows Cahill a letter, that Bodkin had written to Carroll, in which Bodkin lies about Hagerstown and Cahill. Bodkin suggests the rectory at Hagerstown be closed and a circuit priest be supplied from Emmitsburg. Fr. Cahill believes he's going to lose his faculties.

#### EPISODE 5 - BLUDGEONED<sup>5</sup>

Fr. Cahill writes Bishop Carroll a scathing letter of rebuttal that threatens the bishop with a scandal of simony and informs the bishop that Bodkin has suddenly gone south for his health.

Adam brings home from Travelers Rest Mary Ann and the twins who take immediately to Eve, which unnerves Mary Ann making it clear to Adam that Mary Ann's mind has not completely healed.

That night in bed, Adam has a second nightmare about a swamp and a man in robes performing a mysterious incantation. Adam wakes to the noise of the loom in operating at breakneck speed by invisible hands. The woven cloth is black silk with crescent moons already cut out, the warp and weft missing.

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<sup>4</sup> WCH Novel's Part 6B

<sup>5</sup> WCH Novel's PART 6C

In fearful rage Adam takes his shillelagh and destroys the loom. The noise brings Eve to see her loom in rubble. But there is no black silk cloth, only Eve's linen herringbone warp and weft in the tangled mess.

Days later, again at night, Adam secretly follows Eve to the Stranger's grave where she kneels and prays with the Stranger's requisitioned prayer book. Adam reveals himself and kneels with her as she reads several Psalms out loud.

Back at the house they are greeted by a surreal stampede of horses and wagons circling the house in a cloud of swirling smoke. Adam fearlessly attacks the specters with his shillelagh until they disappear, but he's left bludgeoned and bloody. He falls unconscious and finds himself once again in his swamp and the nightmare facing the man with the robes who holds out a gold chalice. Adam hears a voice, "This is the man who can relieve you."

Denis reads a letter from Bishop Carroll who demands Cahill come to Baltimore with his credentials and face charges of insubordination and possible removal from the priesthood.

## EPISODE 6 - PRIEST<sup>6</sup>

Adam takes Eve to visit Anastasia McSherry and ends up telling both about his nightmare. Anastasia recognizes the descriptions of the incantations as the Catholic Mass.

The McSherrys take Adam and Eve to the next Mass at Shepherdstown. Adam recognizes Cahill as the man from his nightmare and begs Cahill to come to his house. Cahill demurs and thinks the haunts are trickster neighbors. Adam unbuttons his waist coat and shows Cahill his clipped shirt. "Is this what our neighbors have done while we slept, and our clothes were folded in a cupboard?"

Cahill and his deacon come and bless Livingston's house with holy water. The disturbances are real; and they exhaust Cahill, as he attacks the activity in every room, and aggressively rebuffs the disturbances. He doesn't hesitate, falter, or run off. When he's done the hauntings have disappeared.

As Cahill is about to leave, he trips on a small bag lying on the threshold. It is Adam's pouch of George Eshelman's gold. Adam immediately offers it to the priest, as an offering, but Cahill discerns something different and tells Adam to return the gold to its rightful owner. Adam, embarrassed, agrees. Then Cahill tells Adam that he must be baptized and convert, or the hauntings will return 100-fold. Adam returns the gold, but he ignores Cahill's warning.

The events at Flax Haven motivate Cahill to make things right with Bishop Carroll and seek permission to perform an exorcism at Flax Haven. Carroll remonstrates Cahill, then leads Cahill through the rite of Holy Orders, updating his credentials. As penance, Carroll prohibits Cahill's ministry at all his parishes except Shepherdstown. Carroll also forbids Cahill the exorcism rite at Livingston's but promises to send another priest to investigate. Depressed but acquiesced, Cahill questions his own priestly calling.

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<sup>6</sup> WCH Novel's PART 7A

## EPISODE 7- DESTRUCTION<sup>7</sup>

Cahill returns from Baltimore to inform Richard McSherry of Carroll's direction, but Richard is away collecting rents. Cahill tries to avoid Leticia but is unable; they talk at length and grow close. Richard returns and discovers both the bishop's decisions, and the budding Leticia romance, both which distress him.

Richard and Cahill decide not to contravene the bishop, so Cahill informs Adam of the Bishop's decisions and again warns Adam to seek shelter in the Church. But Adam falls back on his arrogance, now that the Wizard has evidently departed.

In the middle of the night Adam is suddenly awakened by the sound of explosions. He wakes to discover his barn engulfed in flames, and his animals explode in front of him. Utter destruction. When neighbors, including the McSherrys come to help, Mary Ann chases Cahill and the McSherrys off the property, blaming the Catholics for the problem.

Back at Retirement, Cahill rides on to Shepherdstown. Richard lets him go, but Leticia scolds Richard for his callous heart toward a man he owes so much. Richard warns Leticia to let Cahill go and not be involved with him. But Leticia rides after Cahill to bring him back for dinner. Hours later she returns alone.

Richard brings his extended family to confession at St. Agnes. Bothered by Leticia's conspicuous pursuit of Fr. Denis and their relationship, when she goes behind the closed door for confession, Richard steals around back of the church and looks through the window where Fr. Cahill's makeshift confessional sits. What he sees angers him. In a rage he throws a sharp rock down the hill and cuts his hand open. Moments later, in the front of the church, it is Leticia that sees the injury and nurses the injury and bandages his hand.

## EPISODE 8 - JUDGEMENT<sup>8</sup>

Fr. Dimitri Gallitzin, (our narrator) is sent by Bishop Carroll to exorcise Livingston's premises. But the haunts are so severe that Dimitri can't read the exorcism rite. Unable to even stand on his feet, Dimitri tells Adam they need a more robust priest. "That would be Denis Cahill," says Adam. But the bishop has said no.

With Bethany, Mary Ann returns from town to find the haunts active and her family hiding in the Dark's cabin. She's miffed that a priest has been present causing the disturbances. Defiantly, she takes the twins into the house and puts them to bed for the night. She then sets up a lethal ambush for the Wizard. Adam thinks she's nuts, but what's there to lose? In their foyer at the foot of the stairs to the second floor, she puts a stool covered with

Virgin linen, while she waits half-way up the stairs with a loaded pistol and long-barrel rifle.

At midnight, the virgin linen begins to undulate, they hear the clipping of scissors, and finally crescent moon clippings fall to the floor. Mary Ann takes aim and fires both the pistol, then the rifle, blowing holes in the linen and the stool. The gun shots wake the twins, and they cry from their cribs. Mary Ann goes to them ... but

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<sup>7</sup> WCH Novel's PART 7B

<sup>8</sup> WCH Novel's PART 7C

she can't enter the bedroom ... when the bedroom door is opened a thick, black poisonous vapor spills out of the bedroom. The cries of the twins, hidden in the thick vapor, morph into hacking coughs, then wailing agony ... and then silence. Deadly silence. The twins die.

Adam rides to Leetown and tells the McSherrys, and Dimitri of the twins' death. Leticia rides to Shepherdstown to get Cahill. At Retirement, Cahill and Dimitri confer and make plans inside the bishop's limitations.

Over the coming weeks, before the next new moon, Adam and his extended family are instructed in the Catholic faith, and all are baptized except for Mary Ann, who refuses. At the next new moon, Fr. Cahill, his deacon Gabriel Menghini, and Fr. Dimitri prepare to enter the Livingston's home. After a soaking of holy water, the McSherry women, Bethany, Eve, Henry and Mary Ann will stay and pray on the Dark's porch. A procession is formed with Fr. Dimitri leading with a crucifix, followed by Adam, Sam, Rev. Williams, and then Fr. Cahill. But as they process up the steps the porch shakes violently. Not to be denied, Eve leaves the Dark's porch, jumps past the procession, into the house, up to her bedroom and retrieves an unclipped table covering from her protected hope chest and returns to give it to Deacon Menghini for use as an altar covering.

During Mass, the disturbances are worse than Adam has ever experienced. It is a physical battle against a raging poltergeist and two priests, and Adam. The demon personifies into a towering skeleton-like wraith with flaming eyes, and a razor sharp guandao blade to battle Adam to the death. It's chaotic, punishing, and bloody. When Adam is about to succumb to a lethal blow from the Wizard's moon shaped blade, Eve, tending to her fallen and bloody father, sees the Wizard for the first time and SCREAMS a prayer. As the Wizard turns to look at Eve, Adam rams his shillelagh into the Wizard's one remaining eye, delaying the beheading slice of the guandao. At that moment Cahill places a consecrated host on Adam's tongue ... and ... that does it. The Wizard contorts, twists in agony, utters a profane prognostication, and dissipates into swirling vapor along with all the haunts, disturbances, and specters ... never to return.

Moments later Adam receives a premonition, but this time without ambiguity. Rushing to Retirement with the Cahill and Dimitri, Adam reveals the vision to Richard who lies sick in bed—Richard will die very soon unless he allows Cahill to administer to him the Rite of Penance, something Richard is loathed to do since he witnessed Cahill and Leticia's passionate embrace. As Cahill pronounces absolution, Richard rises miraculously from bed ... and prepares supper for the household.

At supper Denis Cahill tells the group he is leaving the priesthood so he and Leticia can be married.

In Baltimore, Bishop Carroll reads Cahill's report ... of the exorcism and Cahill's resignation and marriage. Stunned on multiple levels, Carroll wonders to where the demon has escaped. At that moment, a dispatch arrives from the wharf: Vatican City has been occupied by Napoleon's forces and Pius VI has been imprisoned.

THE END