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“THE INTRUSION”

by

Michael J. Bird

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STORY OUTLINE

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DAVID and ANNE BENEDICT, a young and very attractive couple recently married, move into the Victorian rectory which they have bought. Outwardly the marriage seems to be an ideal match and although ANNE, who as a teenager was attacked and raped and is still deeply affected by the experience, is, as yet, unable to cope with the physical side of the relationship, DAVID has been and continues to be very understanding and patient with her.

When the Benedicts bought the rectory it was almost derelict and they have spent a great deal of time and money rebuilding it and imaginatively modernising the interior. And to help pay for these improvements David, who is a professional photographer, has taken on a commission from a magazine to do a ‘before’ and ‘after’ photographic feature on the house.

The Benedicts move into the rectory and for a while all seems well with them. But then David takes some photographs of Anne in the garden and when they are developed and printed there, in the background of each of them, is the menacing figure of a man standing watching, a man who David swears was not there when he framed up the shots in the viewfinder of his Nikon.

And then, when David processes the photographs he took of Anne inside the house, he finds that the intruder appears on them as well.

The horror has begun. And it is an ever increasing horror which pits David Benedict in terrible jeopardy: a lingering horror, born in the past and now intruding into the present.