

abandoned places with dark history

Abandoned Places with Dark History: Exploring Forgotten Shadows

Abandoned places with dark history hold a mysterious allure for many. They stand as silent witnesses to bygone eras, often wrapped in layers of tragedy, mystery, and sometimes horror. These locations, whether once thriving towns, haunted hospitals, or forsaken amusement parks, tell stories that go beyond their crumbling walls. Exploring these sites can provide unique insights into history, human nature, and the passage of time, but they also remind us of the darker chapters humanity has endured.

The Fascination Behind Abandoned Places with Dark History

There's something almost magnetic about ruins and deserted places, especially those tied to grim or unsettling events. This fascination is deeply rooted in our curiosity about the unknown and the macabre, as well as a desire to connect with the past. Abandoned places often evoke a sense of melancholy and intrigue, combining beauty with decay. They serve as poignant reminders of what once was, as well as warnings of what can happen when circumstances change dramatically.

Exploring abandoned locations linked to dark histories isn't just about thrill-seeking; it's about uncovering forgotten stories. Whether it's a ghost town left behind after economic collapse or a hospital where unethical experiments took place, these sites offer a tangible connection to history's shadows.

Notorious Abandoned Places with Dark History Around the World

Pripyat, Ukraine - The Ghost Town of Chernobyl

Pripyat is probably one of the most famous abandoned places with dark history. Once a bustling city near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, it was evacuated overnight after the catastrophic nuclear disaster in 1986. The town, frozen in time, still holds remnants of everyday life—schools, playgrounds, and apartment blocks—all overtaken by nature.

The radiation levels have decreased enough to allow guided tours, but the eerie silence and decaying structures serve as haunting reminders of the disaster's human and environmental toll. Pripyat exemplifies how a sudden tragedy can turn a thriving community into an abandoned ghost town almost instantly.

The Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum, West Virginia, USA

This sprawling psychiatric hospital, built in the mid-19th century, has a chilling past filled with stories of overcrowding, mistreatment, and experimentation. It housed thousands of patients, many of whom suffered under harsh and outdated treatments.

Today, the asylum stands as a macabre monument to mental health care's evolution, with tours focusing on its dark history and alleged paranormal activity. The echoes of suffering and despair seem to linger in its long, empty corridors, making it a prime example of abandoned places with dark history that attract both history buffs and ghost hunters alike.

Hashima Island, Japan - The Coal Mining Ruins

Also known as "Battleship Island" due to its shape, Hashima Island was once a densely populated coal mining facility. At its peak, thousands of workers and their families lived in cramped conditions on this tiny island. However, when petroleum replaced coal in the 1960s, the island was quickly abandoned.

What makes Hashima's history dark isn't just its abandonment but reports of forced labor during World War II, including Korean and Chinese prisoners subjected to harsh conditions. Today, its decaying concrete buildings and rusting infrastructure stand as a stark reminder of industrial rise and fall intertwined with human suffering.

Why Do People Visit Abandoned Places with Dark History?

Exploring abandoned places tied to dark history appeals to a wide variety of people for several reasons:

- **Historical Curiosity:** Many visitors want to learn about the past in a more immersive way than books or documentaries can offer.
- **Photography and Art:** The haunting beauty of decay offers unique photographic opportunities, inspiring countless artists and creatives.
- **Paranormal Interest:** Some are drawn by the tales of hauntings and supernatural phenomena reported at these locations.
- **Adventure and Exploration:** Urban explorers enjoy the thrill of navigating forgotten spaces and uncovering hidden secrets.

However, it's crucial to approach these explorations with respect and caution. Many abandoned sites are structurally unstable or legally protected, and trespassing can be dangerous or illegal.

LSI Keywords to Know When Exploring Abandoned Places with Dark History

When researching or writing about abandoned places with dark history, a few key terms frequently arise that can help deepen understanding or improve searchability:

- Urban exploration (urbex)
- Ghost towns
- Haunted locations
- Historical ruins
- Post-apocalyptic landscapes
- Decay and dilapidation
- Paranormal activity
- Industrial abandonment
- Disaster sites
- Forgotten architecture

Incorporating these terms naturally into conversations or writings about dark history sites helps paint a fuller picture of their significance and appeal.

Tips for Visiting Abandoned Places with Dark History

If you're considering exploring these eerie locations, here are some practical tips to ensure a safe and respectful experience:

1. **Research Thoroughly:** Understand the history, legal status, and risks associated with the place before visiting.

2. **Go with a Guide or Group:** For places like Pripjat, guided tours offer safety and context.
3. **Respect the Site:** Avoid vandalism or removing artifacts. These places are part of heritage, even if dark.
4. **Safety First:** Wear appropriate clothing, bring a flashlight, and be mindful of unstable structures.
5. **Mind the Environment:** Abandoned locations often become habitats for wildlife; avoid disturbing them.
6. **Document Responsibly:** Sharing your experience can raise awareness, but be careful not to sensationalize or disrespect the history.

Abandoned Places with Dark History as Lessons from the Past

Exploring these haunting sites offers more than just a thrill. They act as physical reminders of societal failures, natural disasters, wars, or industrial shifts that dramatically shaped human lives. From the harrowing conditions in psychiatric asylums to the fallout of nuclear catastrophes, these places encourage reflection on how humanity can learn from past mistakes.

In a way, abandoned places with dark history are preserved stories etched into concrete, wood, and steel—waiting for us to listen, learn, and remember. They challenge us to consider the fragility of human endeavors and the importance of compassion and progress moving forward.

Visiting or studying these locations connects us to a broader narrative, bridging the gap between history and the present. The shadows they cast remind us that even in darkness, there is much to discover, understand, and respect.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some famous abandoned places with a dark history?

Famous abandoned places with dark histories include the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in Ukraine, the Eastern State Penitentiary in the USA, Pripjat city near Chernobyl, Hashima Island in Japan, and the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia. These locations are known for events such as nuclear disasters, harsh prison conditions, and inhumane psychiatric treatments.

Why do abandoned places with dark histories attract tourists?

Abandoned places with dark histories attract tourists because they offer a glimpse into the past, evoke curiosity about tragic or mysterious events, and provide unique photographic opportunities. Many people are drawn to the eerie atmosphere and the stories behind these locations, making them popular spots for urban exploration and historical tourism.

Are abandoned places with dark histories safe to visit?

Safety varies greatly depending on the location. Some abandoned places are legally open to the public and maintained for tourism, while others are dangerous due to structural instability, toxic materials, or wildlife. It's important to research the site beforehand, follow local laws, and take necessary precautions if visiting such places.

How do governments manage abandoned sites with dark histories?

Governments may manage abandoned sites with dark histories by preserving them as historical landmarks, converting them into museums, restricting access to prevent vandalism or accidents, or initiating cleanup and redevelopment projects. For example, the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone is controlled and monitored to limit radiation exposure while allowing guided tours.

Can exploring abandoned places with dark histories be considered ethical?

Exploring abandoned places with dark histories can be ethical if done respectfully, legally, and safely. Visitors should avoid vandalism, theft, or disturbing any remains. It's important to honor the memory of those affected by past events and to follow guidelines set by authorities or property owners to preserve the site's integrity.

Additional Resources

Abandoned Places with Dark History: Unveiling the Shadows of the Past

Abandoned places with dark history often evoke a complex mixture of fascination and unease. These sites, left to decay and reclaimed by nature or neglect, stand as silent witnesses to events marked by tragedy, suffering, or mystery. Exploring such locations offers more than just a glimpse into forgotten architecture; it provides an opportunity to reflect on the human stories intertwined with these spaces. From derelict asylums to deserted towns, the dark histories embedded within these places serve as somber reminders of societal failures, wartime horrors, or industrial disasters.

The Allure of Abandoned Places with Dark History

Urban explorers, historians, and photographers are drawn to abandoned places with dark history due to the raw narrative they embody. Unlike preserved historical sites, these locations are often untouched by restoration, preserving a sense of authenticity and evoking a haunting atmosphere. The juxtaposition between decay and the past events that transpired within these walls creates a powerful emotional response. Moreover, they serve as open-air museums, offering insight into forgotten eras and the consequences of human actions, whether intentional or accidental.

However, the exploration of such sites raises ethical and safety considerations. Many abandoned locations with dark pasts may still pose physical dangers due to structural instability or environmental hazards. Furthermore, they can be places of reverence or trauma to local communities, necessitating respectful engagement.

Iconic Abandoned Sites with Notorious Histories

Pripyat, Ukraine: A Ghost Town Frozen in Time

Perhaps the most infamous abandoned city with a dark history is Pripyat, situated near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Evacuated in 1986 following the catastrophic nuclear disaster, Pripyat remains a chilling symbol of technological failure and human tragedy. The city's deserted buildings, playgrounds, and streets stand as stark reminders of lives abruptly disrupted by radiation exposure. The exclusion zone around Pripyat has become a site for controlled tourism and scientific study, highlighting ongoing concerns about nuclear safety and environmental recovery.

Eastern State Penitentiary, United States: The Haunting of Prison Reform

In Philadelphia, the Eastern State Penitentiary represents a darker chapter in criminal justice history. Opened in 1829, it pioneered the "separate system" of incarceration, isolating prisoners to encourage penitence. Over time, the prison became notorious for its harsh conditions and psychological toll on inmates, with numerous reports of abuse and neglect. Abandoned since 1971, it now operates as a museum and historic site, drawing visitors interested in penal history and ghost stories alike.

Hashima Island, Japan: The Coal Mine Turned Ghost Island

Hashima Island, also known as Battleship Island, was once a bustling coal mining facility

populated by thousands of workers. Abandoned in the 1970s after coal reserves were depleted, the island's dilapidated concrete structures and confined quarters reflect Japan's rapid industrialization and subsequent decline of coal mining. The island's dark history includes harsh working conditions and wartime labor exploitation, adding layers of somberness to its ruins. Today, Hashima serves as a poignant reminder of industrial progress intertwined with human cost.

Common Themes in Abandoned Places with Dark History

Exploring these sites reveals recurring motifs that transcend geography and era:

- **Societal Neglect and Decline:** Many abandoned places arose from economic downturns, resource depletion, or shifts in industry, highlighting the impermanence of human settlements.
- **Human Suffering:** Prisons, asylums, and hospitals often carry histories of mistreatment, neglect, or medical experimentation, reflecting darker aspects of institutional care.
- **War and Conflict:** Battlefields, bombed cities, and refugee camps abandoned after conflict narrate stories of destruction and displacement.
- **Environmental Catastrophes:** Nuclear disasters, industrial accidents, and natural calamities have left towns and facilities deserted, emphasizing the fragility of human endeavors against nature's forces.

The Psychological Impact of Dark Histories on Visitors

The emotional response elicited by abandoned places with dark history can range from somber reflection to eerie fascination. Psychologically, these sites confront visitors with mortality, loss, and the consequences of human error. The palpable atmosphere often fuels ghost stories and urban legends, blending historical fact with folklore. This phenomenon reveals society's attempt to process trauma and neglect through narrative, transforming physical ruins into symbolic spaces.

Preservation vs. Decay: The Debate Surrounding Abandoned Sites

One pressing question regarding abandoned places with dark history is how they should be managed. Preservation efforts can protect these locations for educational purposes and

memorialization but risk sanitizing or commercializing the past. Conversely, allowing decay can lead to the erasure of important historical memory and pose safety hazards.

Some sites, like the Auschwitz concentration camp, are meticulously maintained to honor victims and educate future generations. Others, such as the decaying hospitals or factories, are left to nature, becoming subjects of urban exploration but potentially losing historical context.

Pros and Cons of Preserving Abandoned Places with Dark History

1. Pros

- Educational value and public awareness
- Memorialization of victims and events
- Tourism opportunities that generate economic benefits
- Research potential for historians and archaeologists

2. Cons

- High costs of maintenance and restoration
- Risk of trivializing or exploiting tragedies
- Safety concerns for visitors
- Potential conflicts with local communities' sentiments

The Role of Technology and Media in Documenting Dark Histories

Advancements in technology have transformed how abandoned places with dark history are documented and experienced. Drones, 3D scanning, and virtual reality enable detailed preservation of sites otherwise inaccessible due to decay or danger. Documentaries, podcasts, and social media also play crucial roles in disseminating knowledge and raising awareness about these locations.

This digital documentation helps bridge the gap between preserving historical integrity and making the past accessible to wider audiences. However, it also raises questions about authenticity and the commercialization of tragedy.

Ethical Considerations in Urban Exploration

Urban explorers seeking to document abandoned places with dark history must navigate ethical dilemmas. Trespassing, vandalism, and disrespect toward sites of suffering can undermine preservation efforts and community feelings. Responsible exploration involves seeking permission, respecting local regulations, and acknowledging the historical significance with sensitivity.

Continuing the Conversation on Forgotten Histories

Abandoned places with dark history compel society to confront uncomfortable truths embedded in the built environment. They challenge us to remember and learn from past mistakes, whether related to human rights abuses, environmental mismanagement, or industrial decline. As these sites continue to deteriorate, their stories risk fading into obscurity unless actively documented and discussed.

In this light, the examination of abandoned places with dark history becomes a vital exercise in cultural memory and ethical responsibility. It invites historians, communities, and visitors alike to engage with history not as distant events but as living lessons embedded in the ruins around us.

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tools and techniques, we enhance our senses and employ audio and visual recording devices to capture evidence of paranormal activity. Our exploration leads us to the fascinating realm of communication with the unseen. We uncover methods for engaging with spirits, interpreting signs and omens, and facilitating spirit communication through séances and electronic voice phenomena (EVP). Channeling, the art of relaying messages from beyond, opens a window into the ethereal realm, allowing us to connect with those who have crossed the veil. We delve into the world of haunted objects, vessels of eerie energy that carry the weight of their past. With caution and respect, we uncover the hidden histories that bind spirits to objects. Cleansing and purification techniques empower us to remove negative energy and restore balance. As we explore haunted places, from historical sites to private residences, we uncover the secrets that lie within their walls. **Haunted Journey: Unraveling the Mysteries Beyond** is an immersive exploration of the paranormal, inviting readers to delve into the depths of the unexplained. With captivating storytelling and expert insights, this book will leave you questioning the boundaries of reality and the nature of existence itself. Embark on this haunting journey and discover the truths that lie hidden in the shadows. If you like this book, write a review!

abandoned places with dark history: How to Create Dark Worlds A Trevena, 2023-04-11 Want to create a world with a dark and ominous feel, but don't know where to start? Need help worldbuilding the shadows? Not sure if you're evil enough? **How to Create Dark Worlds** breaks the process down into easy-to-follow steps. By completing a series of creative prompts, this book will show you how to cast darkness over your fictional world. This workbook will help you to: -Craft a believable and immersive dark setting -Hit the genre markers your readers will be looking for -Use worldbuilding to enhance the tension and fear in your story -Craft complex characters who embody and amplify the spirit of your world Master the dark art of storytelling with prompts that sharpen your knowledge and confidence of these genres. Learn how to cloak your world in darkness, with just enough light to keep hope alive. Get **How to Create Dark Worlds** today, and bring your shadows to life.

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abandoned places with dark history: Poveglia Island: The Haunting History of Venice's Forbidden Island Benita Bowers, 2025-04-04 Attention! Are you fascinated by the realm of the unknown? Step into the captivating world of Poveglia Island, the forbidden island of Venice shrouded in haunting history. From its ancient origins to the chilling tales of paranormal activity

that permeate its abandoned asylum, this book unveils the secrets of a place where the line between reality and the supernatural blurs. As you delve deeper into the island's enigmatic past, you'll encounter the grim conditions endured during the Black Death, the controversial experiments conducted on helpless patients, and the mysterious fire that consumed the asylum in 1968. Prepare to be captivated by firsthand accounts of ghostly apparitions, disembodied voices, and unexplained phenomena. Experience the thrill of modern exploration, where paranormal enthusiasts seek answers to the island's enigmatic reputation. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a journey that will leave you haunted long after you turn the final page.

abandoned places with dark history: *Helltown, Ohio Legends* Patrick Gunn, 2025-06-20 This book explores the mysterious and sinister legends surrounding Helltown, Ohio, blending history, folklore, and paranormal phenomena. It delves into the town's early origins, revealing how its dark reputation was born from a mix of real events and myth. Readers are taken on a journey through its eerie landscapes, abandoned buildings, and natural features with rumored supernatural activity. The book examines eyewitness accounts, haunted sites, cryptids, and unexplained phenomena, all while considering conspiracy theories and media influence that have shaped its reputation. It also discusses efforts by investigators and sceptics to uncover the truth behind the legends. Ultimately, the book reflects on how Helltown's myths impact local culture and continue to fascinate visitors and residents alike. This compelling blend of fact and fiction makes it a gripping read for fans of paranormal mysteries and American folklore.

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abandoned places with dark history: *Bradt Guides - Roam Alone* Hilary Bradt, 2017-04-05 A unique title from Bradt, showcasing a brand new collection of remarkable travellers' tales with a different slant, following on the heels of *To Oldly Go!*, one of the UK's best-selling travel titles of 2015. All the contributors were initially reluctant solo travellers, apprehensive about taking the plunge to go it alone after years of travel with a partner or friend. Some have embarked on the trip of a lifetime, walking or cycling alone through potentially hostile countries, but finding only kindness and hospitality - with a few hairy adventures thrown in. One story is by Bradt founder Hilary Bradt, who confronted her fears and set out to fulfil a childhood dream to ride a horse through Ireland shortly after her marriage broke up. Others are widows and widowers in their later years who were anxious about joining an organised trip on their own or who wanted to make a difference in the world by volunteering their experience and knowledge. Many ages, many personalities, one goal: to travel, and one stumbling block: anxiety. Part literature, part guide, with tips for successful solo travel. Reassuring, entertaining and inspiring.

abandoned places with dark history: *Shadow Sites* Kitty Hauser, 2007-03-29 At certain times of the day - at sunrise, and sunset - the outlines of prehistoric fields, barrows and hill-forts in the British landscape may be thrown into relief. Such 'shadow sites', best seen from above, and captured by an airborne camera, are both examples of, and metaphors for, a particular way of seeing the landscape. At a time of rapid modernisation and urbanisation in mid-twentieth-century Britain, an archaeological vision of the British landscape reassured and enchanted a number of writers, artists, photographers, and film-makers. From John Piper, Eric Ravilious and Shell guide books, to photographs of bomb damage, aerial archaeology, and *The Wizard of Oz*, Kitty Hauser delves into evocative interpretations of the landscape and looks at the affinities between photography as a medium to capture traces of the past as well as their absence.

abandoned places with dark history: Behind the Scripts Stories in Progress Frank

Lehmann, 2025-02-25 Welcome to a book that offers more than just screenplays, it provides an exclusive glimpse into the very first drafts of two film projects. If you are passionate about the creative process behind a film and want to experience how an idea evolves into a living story, then this book is for you. This book is for readers who do not just consume stories but engage with them, feel them, and want to be part of their development. It is for those who appreciate the raw, unpolished energy of a first screenplay draft and enjoy witnessing the journey from concept to completion. Here, you will not find polished, meticulously refined scripts, but rather exciting blueprints that still have room to grow. We invite you to be part of the journey. Your thoughts, feedback, and enthusiasm can help shape these projects into films. Let us create stories together that captivate and inspire. Enjoy the read and the discovery!

abandoned places with dark history: Don't Wait Till You're Dead Matt Fraser, 2025-08-19

New York Times bestselling author and America's top psychic Matt Fraser presents an immersive guide to intentional living and discovering what life is really all about before reaching the pearly gates. Matt Fraser knows a lot about life...from the dead. We've all heard there is a mystical moment that occurs just before you die—or right after you get to Heaven—in which your life flashes before your eyes in vivid detail. The chronicle of your achievements, your failures, your loves, your losses, your daily rituals, your lifelong friendships presents a new perspective through which to view your life. But what if you did not need to wait until your death bed or the pearly gates to experience this phenomenon? What if you could examine your life right now, while there is time to make changes, heal relationships, manifest your goals and the life you truly want to live? In *Don't Wait Till You're Dead* Matt distills the lessons, stories, and heavenly truths he's learned from his gift of connecting with souls on the other side. Learn lifetimes of secrets to happiness, fulfillment, and gratitude from loved ones that are no longer with us.

abandoned places with dark history: Gothic Horrors of New England Pasquale De Marco,

2025-04-10 *Gothic Horrors of New England* embarks on a haunting journey through the region's supernatural landscapes and eerie folklore, unveiling the dark heritage that has captivated generations. Immerse yourself in tales of spectral denizens, haunted inns, and cursed artifacts that evoke a sense of unease and wonder. Explore the architectural wonders of New England, from crumbling mansions to abandoned churches, and discover the symbolism and history hidden within graveyards and crypts. Witness the revival of Gothic aesthetics in modern interpretations, creating a haunting allure that blends the old with the new. Unravel the cultural impact of Gothic literature and its profound influence on the arts. Discover how Gothic tales have inspired countless works of literature, art, film, and music, leaving an indelible mark on popular culture. Examine the ways in which Gothic themes have been adapted and reimagined in contemporary expressions, revealing their enduring appeal. Delve into the psychological underpinnings of Gothic horror, exploring the darker aspects of the human mind. Analyze the role of fear and anxiety in confronting our deepest fears and the catharsis and emotional release that can be found in Gothic stories. Uncover the moral dilemmas and ethical consequences that arise in these narratives, shedding light on the complexities of human nature. *Gothic Horrors of New England* also highlights the efforts to preserve and honor the region's dark legacy. Discover the role of Gothic preservation societies in protecting historical sites and the significance of Gothic festivals and events in celebrating the unique culture and history of New England. Learn about educational programs and workshops that promote awareness and appreciation of Gothic heritage, ensuring its continued legacy for generations to come. From the spectral apparitions that roam the moonlit streets to the haunting melodies of Gothic music, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of the Gothic tradition in New England, inviting readers to embark on a journey through the realms of darkness and the supernatural. If you like this book, write a review on google books!

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Pasquale De Marco, In the realm of the macabre and the uncanny, *Scary Tales: A Collection of Spine-Chilling Stories* invites you on a spine-tingling journey through the darkest corners of the

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abandoned places with dark history: Old stories of a forgotten village Luis Arturo Acevedo Acevedo, 2019-07-24 The information that will be presented below does not indicate that they are true facts, it is the product of stories told and heard, in order to make known that precious and enigmatic treasure that exists in each area of our region. In what is now the south of the abandoned town of La Serranilla, in front of the El Progreso store, in southern Colombia; there is an old house, from which only ruins can be seen from the outside. A gate barely hides an entrance into the unknown. Perhaps the most bizarre and difficult cases to check or explain due to the lack of

disclosure or oblivion that has been given. It is not known precisely in what time the first supernatural phenomenon of this house happened. The strange facts began to occur and it did not take long for people to ask themselves, what will be inside, or how will it be, to all the anecdotes or stories told by the adventurers.

abandoned places with dark history: *A Natural History of Empty Lots* Christopher Brown, 2024-09-17 An instant classic, this genre-bending blend of naturalism, memoir, and social manifesto is a fascinating study for rewilding the city, the self, and society (Jeff VanderMeer, New York Times bestselling author). During the real estate crash of the late 2000s, Christopher Brown purchased an empty lot in an industrial section of Austin, Texas. The property—abandoned and full of litter and debris—was an unlikely site for a home. Brown had become fascinated with these empty lots around Austin, so-called “ruined” spaces once used for agriculture and industry awaiting their redevelopment. He discovered them to be teeming with natural activity, and embarked on a twenty-year project to live in and document such spaces. There, in our most damaged landscapes, he witnessed the remarkable resilience of wild nature, and how we can heal ourselves by healing the Earth. Beautifully written and philosophically hard-hitting, *A Natural History of Empty Lots* offers a new lens on human disruption and nature, offering a sense of hope among the edgelands. “Brown lives far from any conventional battlefield, but he is surrounded by the wreckage of a different war, and he, too, finds hope in cultivating the ruins of nature...*A Natural History of Empty Lots* is less a departure from the nature writing tradition than a welcome addition to its edgelands.” —New York Review of Books The nature writing we need now. —Michelle Nijhuis, author of *Beloved Beasts* Incredible —Kelly Link, Pulitzer Prize finalist

abandoned places with dark history: *The Day of Resis* Lillian Frances Mentor, 2022-04-06 Excerpt: The following letter and document were the first causes of the long journey, and strange adventure. Dear Miss Cameron:—You will probably be much surprised to hear from me in this out-of-the-way place, but knowing the pleasure you take in everything pertaining to Africa, I thought you might be interested in a matter which came before my notice recently. Some months ago I joined a hunting party bound for the interior of Africa, and on our return march at Rehenoko we fell in with another caravan bound for the coast. Having a common destination, Zanzibar, we travelled together. An Abyssinian, Sedai by name, was in charge of this caravan. He is a large, powerful man, and very intelligent. I often talked with him during the long marches, and one day he told me that he had on this trip, come across a strange manuscript, a part of which he had been able to decipher, but some words of which he could not make out. He asked me to help him decipher the difficult phrases; so that evening, after everything had been made snug for the night, Sedai produced a piece of goat-skin, on which was inscribed the following strange tale. 'Name Philip Harding—English—left England July 6, 1801—Zanzibar, February 16, 1802—expedition just left Bagamayo—myself and nine other sailors started to overtake it—on 26th, lost our way—wandered long and far—hostile tribes—fight—four men killed—others escaped—three die with fever, reach mountains—one man killed by lion—discover opening into mountain—make torches and enter—companion starved—discovered line of broken stones—followed these—found bridge—crossed this—followed stones again—found secret door—Land of On—people thought me from another planet—lived in temple—strange people—no knowledge or connection with outside world—highly civilized in their way—have strange Day of Resis—mysterious ceremonies on this day—people never mention it—day sacred—here nineteen years one month and sixteen days—made escape—looked five days for opening key—removed stone set in cliff behind palm tree under eagle's rock mountain—lifted lever seen in spring—rock door turned giving time to pass through—passed into cave—crossed bridge—dropped torches in lake, am lost—exhausted—starving—if document ever found write friends—growing weaker—can write no mo—' Here the writing ended. The first part, or that part which had been written before entering the cave was in regular lines, but the last was evidently written after entering the dark cave, or passage, as the characters were scattered and very irregular. Sedai intends placing the matter before the next party who are about to enter the interior, and have them look up the mysterious cave and land. He says that the old man, of whom he got the

manuscript, is still living, and knows the entrance to the cave, in which he found the body of Harding still warm, and on it this strange document.

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