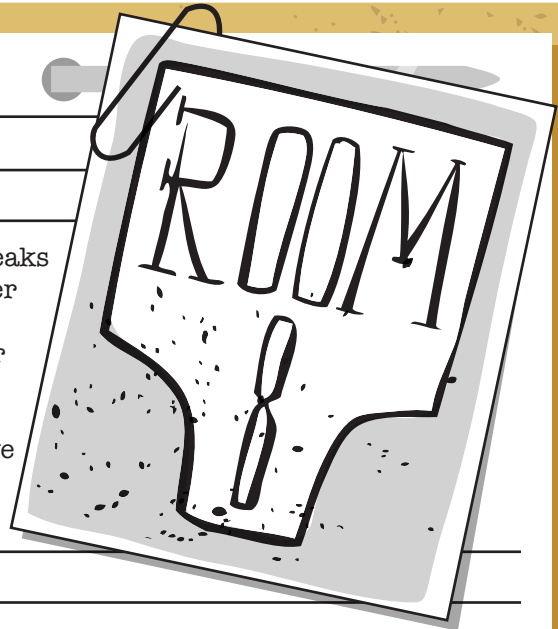


## CASE: The Russell Hotel

**LOCATION:** Australia

The Russell Hotel served as a hospital during deadly outbreaks of smallpox and bubonic plague in the early 1900s, and later became a rooming house and hostel for sailors. Guests of Room 8 report waking to find a dark presence looming over their bed, peering down at them. Others claim to have seen ghosts wandering the hall, or doors opening and closing. Some claim that recent renovations on the old building have only served to rile up the old spirits, and activity is reportedly up.



**WITNESS:** Arya Chadha, guest:

I'd just checked in earlier that evening. Exhausted from traveling, I fell into bed the minute I entered my room, Room 8. I was sleeping soundly until a chill woke me up. I opened my eyes and saw that a dark figure was looming over me! In the darkness I could just make out a strange man dressed in what appeared to be a hospital gown. He had boils all over his face and body, and pus oozed from the boils. He reached out a hand towards me and, terrified, I squeezed my eyes shut and screamed. I don't know how long I screamed for, but the next thing I knew a bellhop was shaking me awake, asking if I was all right. I opened my eyes and, with the lights now on, didn't see the figure anymore. There was, however, a bloody handprint on the bed sheet.

**WITNESS:** Stephen Woon, guest:

I got in from a long flight at an odd hour, around 1 or 2 in the morning, and I can't even tell you how tired I was. They handed me my key—Room 8—and I dragged myself into the room.

However, I was still on California time. I was jet-lagged and couldn't sleep. I don't know if it was because I was sleep-deprived or what, but I could swear I saw a dark form, even darker than the darkness in the room, in the corner. The longer I stared, the more I was able to make out some clear features: a face, arms, and a torso. Then, very slowly, it began moving towards me. I tried to just close my eyes, still thinking I was imagining it, but I could just feel it getting closer and closer. I could feel the slightest hint of hot breath on my neck. I opened my eyes to see its grinning face right up against mine, and I froze in fear. Then, just as soon as it had come, it disappeared. I didn't sleep at all that night.

The weirdest part was the next morning, going down to the lobby and seeing everyone going about their business, as if nothing unusual had happened.

**Fill out the Venn diagram with information about the two stories.**

