Laughing in the Shadow: The Role of Humor in Ghost Story Telling.

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Abstract
The ghost story concert is a popular modern form of presenting ghost stories to ticket buying audiences and is one of the last stomping grounds of the oral tradition. Attendees come to be scared but not terrified. Tellers employ humor to release tension during the tale. When does humor release tension while maintaining the momentum of the story? When does the humor employed deflate it into a comical tale and diffuse suspense altogether?

In an effort to answer these questions, four variants of a single story, Tailypo, were analyzed for the presence of tension and humor inducing stimuli employing Rothbart's diagram of Schematic Representation of Affective Response to Sudden, Intense, or Discrepant Stimulation. Rothbart's model has previously been applied to affective response to horror film; here it has been applied to oral storytelling.

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The stories below will freak you out so it's best to read these with someone. Preferably a friend and not a stranger you've decided to creep up behind on the street. The Cell Phone. She does what she does in the hopes of keeping her memory alive. To that end, perhaps my telling her story to the world is a small act of mercy. Maybe the thoughts I've lent her will ease her pain somewhat. I don't know, but either way that isn't why I wrote all this. History of Ghost Stories Ghost stories began as ancient lore and told of visits to and from the other side of the grave, whereby heroes would learn of their destiny. The earliest of known ghost stories is The Epic of Gilgamesh, written upon cuneiform tablets in the Akkadian language. One of the most famous ghost stories was written by Homer and known as the Odyssey, while other reknown poets, such as Ovid and Vergil, also penned classic ghost stories. In fact, Pliny the Younger might have told one of the first ghost stories about a haunted house in 62 AD! Ghost Stories: Origins Many famous authors Part 2: more ghost stories. A School Story The Rose Garden The Tractate Middoth Casting the Runes The Stalls of Barchester Cathedral Martin's Close Mr Humphreys and his Inheritance. * * part 1: ghost stories of an antiquary. It was not in the personal appearance of the little, dry, wizenedold man that the interest lay, for he was precisely like dozens of otherchurch-guardians in France, but in a curious furtive or rather hunted andoppressed air which he had. He was perpetually half glancing behind him;the muscles of his back and shoulders seemed to be hunched in a continualnervous contraction, as if he were expecting every moment to find himselfin the clutch of an enemy.