

Berry Pomeroy's Gothic Afterlife

STR-GHOST-006 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Berry Pomeroy's ruined walls became a stage for jealous lovers and returning spirits. Its haunting has a traceable literary life, tangled with the history visitors imagined for it.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Devon, England
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	A ruined castle; ghost fiction published in 1806

THE ACCOUNT

A roofless castle leaves plenty of room for another story. At Berry Pomeroy, the ruins became associated with jealousy, murder and ghosts returning for revenge. The dark family drama looks as though it ought to have been waiting inside the stone all along. Yet the haunting also has a recognisable publishing history: an 1806 Gothic novel, *The Castle of Berry Pomeroy*, helped carry that reputation beyond Devon. Its imagined horrors fitted the secluded ruin so well that the building and the book began to reinforce one another.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

English Heritage identifies the novel and its Victorian reprints as important to the castle's ghostly reputation. It also corrects an older misconception: this was not an ancient Norman fortress. The first castle belongs to the late fifteenth century, followed by ambitious Seymour building work. A picturesque ruin is not automatically evidence for the family crimes attached to it.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

Here the unsettling object is the ruin itself: a real structure made stranger by generations of readers. The useful question is how fiction becomes something visitors half remember as local history.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

History of Berry Pomeroy Castle

English Heritage

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berry-pomeroy-castle/history>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Berry Pomeroy's Gothic Afterlife

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-006>