

The Wrong Afternoon at Versailles

STR-GHOST-018 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Two visitors to the Petit Trianon later described strange costumes, oppressive stillness and a woman one identified with Marie Antoinette. Their own book preserves both agreement and differences.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Versailles, France
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Reported visit on 10 August 1901; book published in 1911

THE ACCOUNT

In August 1901, Charlotte Moberly and Eleanor Jourdain went looking for the Petit Trianon. Their later account describes oddly dressed figures and an increasing sense that the gardens were wrong. Moberly remembered trees becoming flat and lifeless, and a seated woman she later associated with Marie Antoinette. Jourdain did not see that woman. The scene is disturbing because the alleged haunting does not announce itself with transparent bodies. It initially looks like a confusing afternoon among people whose clothes, manner and surroundings seem difficult to place.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Their book *An Adventure* appeared in 1911 under the names Elizabeth Morison and Frances Lamont. It prints separate accounts, discussions and subsequent investigations. Those pages are direct evidence of what the authors reported and came to believe. They also show the interpretation developing after the visit, including conversations about the date and the queen. That distinction matters when later summaries present the experience as a single, instantly understood event.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

Read together, the two accounts leave gaps between their observers. Those gaps make the original more interesting than a polished tale in which every witness sees exactly the same ghost.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

An Adventure

Moberly and Jourdain; Project Gutenberg transcription

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/64809/pg64809-images.html>

RETURN TO THE STORY

The Wrong Afternoon at Versailles

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-018>