

Banff's Bride on the Staircase

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A bride descends the Banff Springs staircase in a flowing dress. Her unfinished wedding became a hotel legend strong enough to appear on a Canadian stamp and collector coin.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Banff, Alberta, Canada
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Legend usually set in the 1930s; commemorated in 2014

THE ACCOUNT

The bride is still coming down the stairs. In the Banff Springs tradition, a woman fell on her wedding day and returned in a long dress, sometimes on the staircase and sometimes dancing in the ballroom. The legend is usually placed in the 1930s. No new ceremony is needed for her appearance: the descent itself is the occasion that keeps repeating. The hotel's imposing public rooms make that image especially effective, because a bride would normally draw everyone's attention. Here the stories offer only a glimpse of an event that should have gathered a crowd.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mint retold the tradition when they commemorated it in 2014. Their announcements attribute appearances to employees and guests and describe the story as regional folklore. They do not name the bride or provide a marriage or death record establishing her identity. The stamp documents the legend's public recognition, not the apparition.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The unusual afterlife is cultural as well as spectral. A story associated with one staircase left the building and travelled on envelopes, carrying an unfinished wedding across the country.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Canada Post revives Canadian-made ghost tales

Canada Post / Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/news/archive/2014/06/canada-post-revives-canadian-made-ghost-tales-collection-five-spine-tingling-stamps.html>

Royal Canadian Mint and Canada Post unveil haunting new collector coin and stamp

Royal Canadian Mint via CNW

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/royal-canadian-mint-and-canada-post-unveil-haunting-new-collector-coin-and-stamp-514399041.html>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-036>