

Charlotte’s Housekeeping at Nottingham Road

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Nottingham Road’s Charlotte is said to rearrange small things for hotel guests. A journalist went looking for the friendly ghost and recorded the tradition, including the fact she never appeared.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Legend set in 1902; reported hotel tradition in 2019

THE ACCOUNT

Charlotte’s most characteristic haunting sounds like unsolicited housekeeping. Nottingham Road Hotel stories credit her with moving a facecloth from a bathroom to a bed and unpacking a guest’s suitcase. The legend associates her with Room 10 and a tragic love story during the Anglo-Boer War, but even her role at the hotel varies: she is described as a guest or an employee. The modern accounts make her a helpful lingering presence, someone who continues paying attention to visitors long after the story says her own life ended.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Travel journalist Clinton Moodley visited the hotel for a 2019 IOL article and interviewed its owner and reservationist. His report sets the traditional death in 1902 but supplies no contemporary identification record. He also plainly says Charlotte did not appear during his visit. That admission belongs in the account; the reporter’s imaginative descriptions should not be converted into sightings.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The suitcase is the memorable intrusion. A guest expects a room to be private, even when someone tidies it. The legend blurs that reassurance by suggesting the helpful person never checked in and cannot be called to the desk.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

In search of Charlotte, the friendly ghost

IOL; Clinton Moodley

<https://iol.co.za/travel/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/2019-10-17-in-search-of-charlotte-the-friendly-ghost/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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