

Kate

It was a bitter Halloween night; the wind was whistling and the leaves were

# *The Ghost of the Strand*

twirling. Samantha peered at the door in despair; so many thoughts ran through her mind. Standing in the empty ally way, Samantha had to decide whether or not she should enter the Strand the theater.

Earlier that week Samantha's brother told her about all the legends that were believed about the Strand. In disbelief, Samantha ended up in front of the Strand. Fear overtook her body. She did not anticipate feeling this way, she thought for sure that the legend of the Strand was untrue but her doubt made her quiver. She had to do proceed into the theater just to prove the legend to be fallacious.

She slowly made her way onto the side walk. Samantha felt as though she could not move, paralyzed with terror, but her curiosity told her to keep going. She finally reached the door and the stars in the night sky beamed down on her as she opened it. She stepped inside and lurked around. As she searched, she concluded there were no signs of any spirit in the theater. She turned around and felt somewhat embarrassed for being fearful in the first place. As she walked towards the door she could smell a horrible stench so strong it stung her nostrils. It was the smell of death causing chills to reenter Samantha's body. She froze; she didn't know where the smell was coming from. No more then a second later, she heard the shriek of a woman. The shrieks were ongoing. Her gut instinct told her to find where this sound was coming from. Samantha hurried before the noise faded. She finally found the source of the sound. Standing at stage left, she was embodied by the spirit of an old actress. Claire Stanton, a famous actress that allegedly went missing after one of her best performances in the 1950's. In a flash back she witnessed Claire's murder.

Claire was in love with the stage director, they were infatuated with each other. It was said that the stage director's body was found under the stage in the theater but there was no explanation for it. Claire however, was married to an actor she worked with. It was a hopeless and miserable marriage for Claire but her husband refused to get a divorce. Samantha was taken back to the day Claire's husband found out about the affair the director and she were engaged in. She watched as the show played out and at the closing scene Claire was stabbed by her own husband. The audience believed that it was part of the show but in authenticity they witnessed the murder of Claire Stanton. Her husband removed her body from the Strand without making anyone aware of what happened. Samantha was in shock, she feared for her life as Claire stood on stage glaring at her. Samantha ran as fast as her legs would move, hoping to erase that moment from her memory forever.