

THE GREAT LEVITATION

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Inspired by true events

"He just stepped out of the window. Arms and legs flailing he was carried by the spirits of the dead into the moonless night."
- Mr. Dalton

"Stepping out of the window he graciously levitated towards the moon, until we could see him no more." - Mr. Connery

"He leapt into the night, by the time I reached the window he had already vanished from sight." -Mr. Moore

Hot on the heels of notorious medium E. Hume you arrive in his quarters only to find out that he has purportedly levitated out of the window, leaving behind three eyewitnesses and an apartment full of riddles.

ISLINGTON ROAD 12 Apartment No 9

Hume's apartment is on the third floor of the building, a fall from this height is likely fatal. Only the attic is above, the lower apartment is occupied by widowed Mrs. Potter, who slept through the whole affair. A few nights ago she was woken from her sleep by the sound of her window breaking but by the time she got her dressing gown on she saw no one on Branbury street.

Foyer - An extra pair of oversized shoes (easy to slip in and out of).

Parlor - A large and round table is the middle of the room, a large dark table cloth covers occult engravings on the table's surface. There is a small ledge outside the window. A man could possibly stand on it, can't know for sure without trying. Leaping to the ledge of the neighboring window would be a death defying feat of acrobatics. A Chinese puzzle box sits on a shelf, a complicated mechanism hides a large amount of bank notes inside, some of them US dollars.

Library - various books on esoterica, mysticism, the orient, magic tricks and a single travel guide detailing New England.



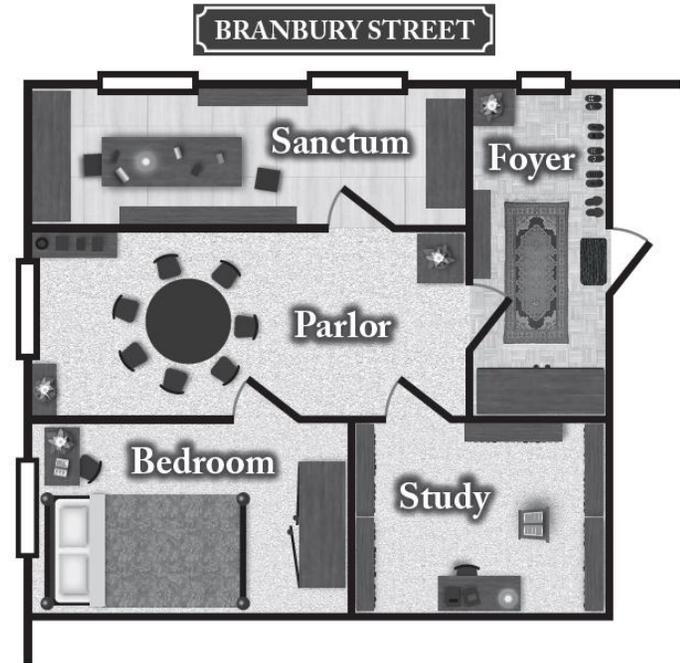
A random book has a single one-way ticket for a steamer headed towards America hidden between its pages. A medieval looking manuscript is opened on a reading stand. The text is written in some strange code using some alternate alphabet. The pictures depict spirits of the dead, the moon, levitation etc. Masterful code breaking reveals the text to be gibberish, careful study of the art or materials reveals them to be recent.

Bedroom - A small suitcase packed for light travel is hidden under the bed. The window is bolted shut from the inside. A book about mountain climbing lies on the bedside, open at a chapter regarding the use of ropes.

Sanctum - Locked door. Workshop with various tools and materials for the construction of special devices. Finished works are found in cabinets, among them: a convincing looking prosthetic hand, socks with toes cut out, plaster faces with fluorescent paint. When looking out of the window a dislodged roof tile can be seen below on Branbury street.

THE WITNESSES

Mr. Dalton - A wealthy patron and firm believer in the supernatural.
- Hume was able to contact spirits of the dead. One could hear their knocks on the séance table, feel them grabbing your trousers and sometimes even see their spectral faces.
- Hume was given an ancient manuscript by dead spirits, it simply materialized during a séance. His occult knowledge allowed him to read it.
- Hume learned new secrets about strange realms behind the moon, he is there now.
- Hume should be declared dead, his possessions should be left undisturbed.



Mr. Connery - Hume's deceitful apprentice, about to learn the "real" secrets of the dead (and be seriously disappointed).
- Does not like investigators, tries to give them the slip at first chance.
- A levitation like that has never been done. No mystic has claimed such powers.
- Of course Hume used illusions, no true medium should waste their talent when asked to perform parlor tricks.
- Nobody is allowed to enter Hume's sanctum.
- Secretly envious of Hume's powers and fame. Disappointed that he left.

Mr. Moore - A former magician who likes practical jokes.
- Hume hinted that he was going away for a long time.
- Knows the levitation must have been an illusion, is curious to find out how Hume did it.
- In on Hume's fraudulent plots, keeps quiet in exchange for Hume's humble estate (given to him in Hume's will).

THE SECRET

Hume stepped on to the window ledge and grabbed a rope hanging from the chimney. He swung on the rope to the Branbury street side of the building and climbed up to the attic window (he broke Mrs Potters window practising the maneuver). He is still in the attic waiting for things downstairs to calm down, so he could get his belongings and make his escape.