

GHOSTS

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Ghost

They say the house is haunted since we've been away,
and I can see the signs too, like traces of another life
that rubs itself across our paths, and breaks the midday haze.
A whisper unexpectedly announces through the too-bright-
for-background voice of the BBC presenter: "I'm off to bed",
and then silence for some longer. We share scared glances,
pretend it didn't happen and switch to Channel 4 instead.
Mugs of tea, too-milky and tepid, appear by chance,
with chewed on toast I swear I chucked that morning.
Some cigs still burn, breath on windows and when I turn,
I'm caught between his yawning from the room behind,
the open bottle of whiskey, and his pillbox on the side. One
day I'll catch the old man off-guard, pull him out of his trials
and sit him down with a pint, tell him it's been a while.