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# The Mystery of Allegra

PETER FOREMAN





## THE MYSTERY OF ALLEGRA

She is five years and three months old. She wears a long white nightdress and she has blond hair and big eyes, as blue as an Italian sky in summer. Her voice is soft and sweet, and she wants Adrian to take her to her Mamà, who is a long way away.

Adrian is on holiday, travelling in Italy with his parents. Late one evening they find the Villa Henderson and decide to take rooms there for the night. But Adrian wakes in the middle of the night to find Allegra in his room, with her big blue eyes and cold little hands. At first Adrian is very surprised, then he remembers that Chiara Henderson said she had a little daughter. But why does Allegra say that her mother is a long way away? And Adrian's bedroom door is locked, so how did Allegra get into his room?

Adrian does not understand. He decides to ask Allegra's mother in the morning. But in the morning he has a very big surprise . . .





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*Fantasy & Horror*

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PETER FOREMAN

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*Allegra One*

I met Allegra one night in April twelve years ago. I was sixteen years old and she was only five.

I remember that it rained a lot that night and we arrived late at the house. We were driving along a dark road when my mother saw a sign, which said in big letters: *Villa Henderson – Bed and Breakfast.*

‘It’s in English!’ my mother said. She was surprised because we were on holiday in Italy.

My father turned right and drove along an old road. When we arrived, we saw a big villa with tall black trees around it. There was a light in one of the windows, and on the wall above the door were the words *Villa Henderson.*

My father knocked at the door and a small woman opened it. She was about sixty and wore strange clothes.

‘Are you English?’ my father asked.

‘Yes, I am,’ she answered in a quiet voice.

‘We’re looking for rooms for the night. Can we stay here?’

‘Please come in.’

We went into a long, comfortable room. There was a bright fire in the old fire-place, which gave a beautiful, warm light.