

19th January 1994

Plymouth

Dear Mr Wright,

I am writing to ask whether you have any vacancies available for Assistants at the Magnus Institute? I understand that this is a prestigious organisation with a very particular focus on, for want of a better word, "paranormal" phenomena, and I believe I could be a great asset to the Institute. Although I have only recently graduated from the University of Plymouth with a BA in Anthropology, I have ample skills in administration and research. During my degree, I worked as an assistant in the University Library, and gained valuable experience of working in an academic environment. I also was awarded a first for my dissertation, which examined the ethics and consequences of preserving human remains in heritage contexts. (You can find further details in my CV, enclosed.)

But more importantly, I have had direct experience of a "paranormal" phenomenon which has given me a unique insight into this area of study, and has given me a deep curiosity about the origins of such events. My great-grandmother, whom I had never met, passed away about three years ago, and left me a chest of drawers in her will. It was large, made of mahogany, and had spiralling patterns carved into it. As I had nowhere to put it, it stayed in my parents' attic until about a year ago, when I moved into a flat share.

In the first few weeks, the chest of drawers seemed perfectly ordinary, but after a while, objects that I put into the drawers would turn up in a totally different drawer, or just disappear altogether. I put it down to my own absent-mindedness at first, but soon I couldn't ignore it, because objects I had never seen before began appearing in the chest of drawers too. One time I found a snow globe with a clown's head inside, and when I shook it, the clown laughed, not out loud, but seemingly inside my head. I also found a book written in a strange code that, sometimes I felt I could almost understand. And, most disturbingly, I once found a severed hand with several rings on its fingers. By this time, I was terrified, and wanted to find a way to get rid of it that wouldn't endanger others. But one day, about three months ago, my prayers were answered. I answered a ring at the doorbell to find two tall, imposing men, who said they knew about my "furniture problem" and could get rid of it for me.

Just wanting the chest to be out of my sight, I let them take it.

Once the chest was gone, I felt emboldened to do some research into any possible cause for this incident. I scoured the University Library catalogues, and eventually found a collection of accounts which described people's experiences of strange artefacts, and one of the artefacts fit the description of my chest of drawers. The Magnus Institute was also mentioned in this book, so I decided to look into the Institute in more detail. I was intrigued by the Institute's work, and with my recent experience of these odd occurrences, I realised that this is what I want to dedicate my life to. I believe it is of vital importance to learn more about these phenomena and do all we can to protect others from them.

I realise that I am young, and perhaps don't have the same level of qualifications as your usual applicants, but I promise to make up for that in enthusiasm, dedication and a willingness to learn. Thank you for considering my application. Please let me know if you have any vacancies available, or if any of your staff would like to discuss my experiences further.

Yours truly,

Ranya Zaman

JM:

Admirable ambition. An oddly principled view of the world for such a young age. Reminds me of the old days. And Gertrude does seem to be going through assistants lately. Will revisit this once the Spider's agent has finished chewing through the rest of them, if Gertrude doesn't beat her to it.

(Perhaps it is time for a change of leadership. Get some of that old energy back. Need to consider candidates.....)