

## UNSOLVED MYSTERIES PODCAST | THE WINWARD FAMILY'S GHOST

### EP 48 Transcript

DYLAN WINWARD: I don't think that there was two ghosts there. I don't think there was two entities. I think it was one. I think it was a demon, possibly taking on the form of a girl.

NARRATION:

IT'S THE FALL OF 2008. FAYE WINWARD, A SINGLE MOM WITH FOUR TEENAGE KIDS, HAS DECIDED IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE. THE FAMILY IS MOVING FROM THEIR APARTMENT IN SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, TO A NEWER CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX IN THE SMALL TOWN OF UPLAND. WHEN SHE FIRST LAID EYES ON THE CONDO, FAYE FELL INSTANTLY IN LOVE WITH THE CONTEMPORARY WHITE STUCCO SPANISH STYLE BUILDING ON 9TH STREET. IT LOOKED LIKE A PLACE WHERE THE WINWARD FAMILY COULD FIND THE PEACE AND QUIET THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR... BUT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.

I'M STEVE FRENCH, AND THIS IS UNSOLVED MYSTERIES: "THE WINWARD FAMILY'S GHOST."

FAYE WINWARD IS 40 YEARS OLD IN 2008 AND WORKS PART-TIME AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT SO SHE CAN SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH HER CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE.

FAYE WINWARD: We were living in at an apartment complex that I wasn't too fond of. It was kind of rowdy and stuff, so I wanted to get the kids out of there, so we found the condo and it was a really nice area.

DYLAN WINWARD: It was a two-story condo. It was actually pretty nice. There was two bedrooms upstairs and a bathroom in the middle. Then there's one master bedroom downstairs.

NARRATION:

DYLAN WINWARD IS 13 WHEN THE FAMILY MOVES INTO THE CONDO. HE BUNKS IN WITH HIS OLDER BROTHERS, MATT, WHO'S 17, AND 19-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL. HIS SISTER SUMMER, WHO'S ELEVEN YEARS OLD, IS THE LUCKY ONE — SHE HAS THE OTHER UPSTAIRS BEDROOM ALL TO HERSELF.

SUMMER WINWARD: The first day we moved there, like 100%, I, like, got a creepy vibe. But, I just really felt the best way that I can explain it was like, I constantly kind of felt watched. It felt extremely uncomfortable.

DYLAN WINWARD: From the start, it was extremely weird, like nothing I've experienced before. It just constantly felt like someone was, you know, like, watching me. No matter where I went, especially if I was alone in a room, it just felt like there was someone standing behind you at all times.

NARRATION:

SUMMER AND DYLAN DON'T SHARE THEIR FEELINGS WITH EACH OTHER, OR ANYONE ELSE IN THE FAMILY. THEY FIGURE THEIR NEW HOME WILL JUST TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO. AFTER ALL, THEY'VE BARELY FINISHED UNPACKING. BUT THEN IN THE FIRST WEEK, WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT, DYLAN HAS A CHILLING ENCOUNTER WITH WHAT HE CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS AN EVIL ENTITY.

DYLAN WINWARD: I was taking a shower in the upstairs bathroom, first time ever being in that bathroom, and out of nowhere, I just hear a demon. Very dark, very deep, and it lasted about 15, 20 seconds. It was completely evil. It was disgusting, just like how you would imagine in the movies — extremely deep and, like, very low pitched. To be honest with you, it sounded like it was in my head, you know, like, cuz it blocked out all the sound around me. It was a long time. It just kept going and I just froze. I didn't even move. I didn't freak out. I was just shocked at what I just heard.

NARRATION:

DYLAN QUICKLY FINISHES HIS SHOWER AND TRIES DESPERATELY TO CONVINCING HIMSELF THAT THE VOICE WAS JUST HIS IMAGINATION. HE KNOWS IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA TO TELL ANYONE IN HIS FAMILY ABOUT WHAT HE HEARD — HIS OLDER BROTHERS WOULD NEVER LET HIM LIVE IT DOWN — SO HE KEEPS SILENT. THEN A FEW DAYS LATER, HIS SISTER SUMMER HAS A TERRIFYING ENCOUNTER OF HER OWN.

SUMMER WINWARD: I was by myself completely when I had this experience. It was probably, I would say, two in the afternoon, still early in the day and I was home alone and the electricity actually went out. And there was no sort of sounds going on, no refrigerator, you know, I could hear a pencil drop. And I heard from the top of the stairs, I could just tell it's from the top of the stairs, a little girl say my name. That's all she said, but clear as day and I, like, froze, because it was dead quiet in the house. There was no, any sounds going on or anything. And it was the scariest thing and then I just called my mom, like, just bawling my eyes out.

FAYE WINWARD: Summer called me just really, really scared, crying because she heard the little girl call her name. And so, she was really, really scared, and she said, "Don't ever leave me here again, alone mom."

NARRATION:

FAYE IS IN TOUGH SPOT. SHE WORKS STRICT HOURS AT HER DENTAL OFFICE, SO SUMMER SOMETIMES WILL HAVE TO STAY AT HOME BY HERSELF. FAYE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN TO HER DAUGHTER WHAT SHE MIGHT HAVE HEARD, BUT NOT EVEN FOR A SECOND DOES SHE THINK THEIR NEW HOME IS HAUNTED. SHE HAS NO IDEA THAT DYLAN HAS NOW STARTED SEEING THEIR GHOST.

DYLAN WINWARD: I was in the downstairs bathroom washing my hands. Before I left the bathroom, I just turned and looked at the bathtub and I can just see this little girl peeking her head, all I could see is from her nose up, just peeking her head over the bathtub. I don't know

where the rest of her body was because that's all you could see, was just her peeking. And she was just staring at me. I just ran out and I didn't tell anybody about it.

NARRATION:

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW, THE LITTLE GIRL APPEARS TO DYLAN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

DYLAN WINWARD: I was just sleeping in the upstairs bedroom. I was sleeping and I just woke up, and then there was just this figure of this little girl sitting right on the edge of the bed. She was probably, like, eight years old. Her skin was pale white. She had blue eyes, like a dark-blond color hair, and she wore this, like, white, old, like, night gown or something. And I couldn't see through her at all. She was completely solid. Every time that I'd seen her, it was like looking at a real person. The second time, when I'd seen the figure, when it was sitting on the edge of the bed, it was all black. It looked like a shadow, but you can, like, tell the body structure, like it was a child, but this time, it was all black. That's another thing that made me think it was like a, a demon or something, because it changed, like, appearances. It looked like, to me that she was facing looking out the door, because the bed was, like, right in front of the door, almost. It looked like she was looking out the door, into the other room. She didn't say anything. Only thing that happened was the head, like, tilted just slightly, as if it was, like, listening or, or acknowledged that I woke up. I just stared at her. I, probably stared at her for about 10 seconds, 10 to 15 seconds. She was just staring, you know, straight. She, she didn't move at all. The figure didn't move. She never disappeared. And I just went back to bed. I didn't even freak out or anything. I just went straight back to bed. To this day, I have no idea why I reacted that way, but I just did. I think I was probably just in shock from seeing it.

NARRATION:

SIX MONTHS AFTER MOVING INTO THEIR NEW HOME, ONLY DYLAN AND SUMMER HAVE HAD EXPERIENCES WITH THE SUPERNATURAL, AND BOTH HAVE KEPT THEIR ENCOUNTERS TO THEMSELVES. IT'S ONLY WHEN THEIR 17-YEAR-OLD BROTHER, MATT, HAS A MIDNIGHT VISIT FROM THE GHOST THAT THE ENTIRE FAMILY REALIZES THEY HAVE A PROBLEM.

SUMMER WINWARD: We were all, you know, sleeping and Matt was sleeping on the couch and we just heard him scream and it, like, scared us. So me and Dylan both, like, in sync, ran downstairs and I've never seen my older brother Matt cry before. And he was, like, shaking. And we're like, "What? Like, what's the problem?" Cause he wasn't speaking at first and after maybe five minutes or so, he eventually, you know, told us what happened. He's like, "At first I thought it was you, like in the corner of my eye, and then I looked and it was a little blonde girl, maybe seven years old." And he said that she was, like, kind of standing behind the couch. And she was staring at him and vice versa and then within a blink of an eye, he looked away and then looked back and she was gone.

DYLAN WINWARD: Matt completely freaked out. He was screaming, and so that's when we started to tell him like, "Hey, I've been seeing this ghost multiple times, too."

SUMMER WINWARD: One thing all of us experienced, all in sync at the same time, you know — me, Matt, Dylan, my mom — we would all be in bed late at night, and you know, it was upstairs, downstairs and we would hear just boom, boom, boom, boom. You know, as if someone, you know, was going up and down the stairs, and my mom would scream out to us, like, “You guys go to bed! It's, you know, 11 o'clock at night!” And we would all scream back to her like, “We're in bed!” And then maybe two minutes later, we would hear the boom, boom, boom, boom down again.

NARRATION:

FAYE LISTENS PATIENTLY TO HER CHILDREN WHEN THEY SAY THEY THINK THEIR HOME IS HAUNTED, BUT SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HER CHILDREN ARE HAVING THESE ENCOUNTERS AND SHE HASN'T SEEN OR HEARD ANYTHING.

FAYE WINWARD: I didn't really take it real serious. I thought they were either just imagining this, or trying to punk me as a mom, or something. So, I wasn't taking it too serious.

SUMMER WINWARD: I think my mom thought, you know, we're just all young kids, you know, just giving her hell, you know, pranking her. But I don't necessarily think I took offense to it. I kind of understood, you know. It literally sounds crazy.

NARRATION:

IT'S NOT THAT FAYE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE AFTERLIFE AND THE SUPERNATURAL. IN FACT, SHE HAD HER OWN GHOSTLY ENCOUNTER WITH HER MOTHER, ONE YEAR AFTER SHE PASSED AWAY.

FAYE WINWARD: My dad went on vacation one time and he asked me to go to his house to feed his cat. And the minute me and Summer walked in, I saw my mom. She was sitting in the chair and she just turned her head and leaned over and looked at me and she, you know, was already dead, but she looked very much alive. I've seen her, so I believe they're out there.

NARRATION:

IT'S NOT LONG AFTER FAYE HEARS THE KIDS' STORIES THAT SHE'S FINALLY INTRODUCED TO THE SPIRITS HERSELF. IT'S EARLY IN THE MORNING. THE KIDS ARE AT SCHOOL, AND SHE'S ALONE.

FAYE WINWARD: I dropped them off at school. I came back, and I would usually have a cup of coffee and watch the news after I dropped them off at school. And I was seeing, like, little lights rolling around in the air, and I thought it was maybe the sunlight coming through the curtains. So, I got up and I shut the curtains, but this beam of light would still be bouncing around. It wouldn't go away, and it was aimed more towards the staircase, just moving around. They were like a bright white color. And, um, they were about the size of your fist, a little bit bigger. They were moving kind of fast, and they were moving at the end of the staircase. They were just, like, hovering right there. So, it was really weird. It kind of gave me the, an eerie feeling. But then I just stopped thinking about it and, you know, it wasn't till the second experience that I started to start believing the kids more that something's going on, when the kitchen table

moved. It was, like, early evening, I would say. Probably maybe around four or five. I was in the kitchen by the sink, and I was calling for the boys.

DYLAN WINWARD: My mom was trying to move our kitchen table. She was trying to move it and she went to, pretty sure she went to call for one of us to come help her, and outta nowhere she, as she's turning back, the table's completely pushed over.

FAYE WINWARD: When I turned around and looked at the table, it was crooked. Like it had literally moved on its own, and it freaked me out, cuz it was straight. I had it straight in a different direction and, like, almost against the wall. And then when I turned around and looked at the table, it was, like, completely crooked. Like someone had literally moved the table.

DYLAN WINWARD: She couldn't believe what happened because it was a pretty big table. She couldn't believe that it moved on its own like that. So, I think that's when she started to take it more serious.

FAYE WINWARD: After what happened to me, I started to get, like, an eerie feeling in the condo, too. Like, just a weird feeling like someone was watching me.

DYLAN WINWARD: You would see the ghost, or you would hear someone running down the stairs. It was just really creepy. You couldn't relax. You couldn't watch TV without feeling like someone was watching you.

NARRATION:

AFTER ALMOST A YEAR OF THESE DISTURBINGLY DARK INCIDENTS, DYLAN, MATT AND SUMMER BEGIN TO OPEN UP TO THEIR FRIENDS ABOUT THEIR FAMILY'S GHOST AND THEY'RE SURPRISED BY THE REACTION. INSTEAD OF BEING AFRAID TO VISIT OR SLEEP AT THE HOUSE, THE FRIENDS ALL ACTUALLY HOPE THEY'LL HAVE AN ENCOUNTER OF THEIR OWN — AND THEY AREN'T DISAPPOINTED.

DYLAN WINWARD: Almost every time we brought someone over, someone was saying that they heard something or they'd seen something. It wasn't just us. It was basically every single friend that stepped in that house. My friend, Corey, we kind of had fun with it. Like he wanted to come over, but then when stuff would start to happen, he would want to go home. He would call his mom because it would, it would get crazy.

SUMMER WINWARD: At one point I told my friends, "Me and my brothers have all had kind of weird experiences and stuff like that." And we, and stuff, so we just thought it was funny and we were all, all of us were like, "Ghost, show yourself, like, if you're here," like, we were just being little kids and stuff. But then all we heard, like, the loudest running down the stairs I've ever heard in my entire life. It was like 10 people running down the stairs. All of us heard it and we all just froze and looked at each other.

DYLAN WINWARD: We had our friend Justin over and he went outside to go smoke on the patio and before he opened up the patio door, there was just a little girl, just standing there on the patio. And he says, "Hey, is, is this place haunted?" And we're like, "Why?" And he told us, you know, "I seen an actual girl on your patio."

SUMMER WINWARD: Once it started getting worse, it was primarily worse for Dylan and Matt. Them and their friends got the worst end of it. So, when they kept on coming to me, telling me their stories, I was really freaked out because they were saying it was a darker entity.

DYLAN WINWARD: My best friend Corey and my brother Matt were in a bedroom, the same one when I'd seen the little girl, and they both heard the laugh and my, my friend was completely freaked out. He was tripping out like, "What the hell was that?" So, they both heard it, and then I told them that the same thing happened to me. And the weird thing is, is that where they heard that laugh was right next to the shower.

NARRATION:

FAYE GROWS MORE AND MORE CONCERNED. SHE DOESN'T WANT HER CHILDREN AND THEIR FRIENDS LIVING IN FEAR IN THEIR OWN HOME. SHE NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT'S GOING ON.

DYLAN WINWARD: I think my mom just decided enough was enough because not only we, her children, had all these experiences, but every time we had a friend over. Like there's probably another six people out there that have seen this ghost who, every time we had a friend over, they would see something.

FAYE WINWARD: It just got too out of control, because all the stories that the kids were telling me about them seeing this little girl and then their friends seeing this little girl and, after my experiences, I decided to call the landlord.

DYLAN WINWARD: She brought it up to the landlord, asked him straight up. "Was there anyone ever complained about ghosts or anything in this, uh, condo before?" And he just denied it.

FAYE WINWARD: When I talked to the landlord, there was a whole different story. I got a eerie feeling from him. I asked him, "Has anybody died in the condo?" He just, like, was so calm and nonchalant about it. He's all, "No, what, what's going on?" I go, "Well, because the kids keep seeing visions of this little girl, like a ghost." And I told him what happened to me, my two experiences. And he's all, "Oh, well, if you want, I can come over and sage the condo for you." And I go and I decided to switch the kids' rooms. Summer had one bedroom and the boys had the other. I decided maybe if I switched their rooms, maybe it would stop or something. And he's all, "Oh, if you want, I can come over and paint the room for Summer." So, it made me feel like he knew something.

NARRATION:

ONE DAY, WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN, THE WINWARD KIDS DECIDE TO TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO CHALLENGE THE SPIRITS IN THE HOUSE, HOPING THEY MIGHT JUST GO AWAY.

DYLAN WINWARD: It was me, my sister, her friend, and my best friend, and we decided we wanted to antagonize the ghost and I personally didn't think anything was gonna happen. And we were just saying like, "If you can hear us, like, show yourself or move something," and outta nowhere, it went nuts. Almost like a poltergeist, not just a normal spirit. The doors actually started slamming. We just heard, in the two bedrooms, stuff falling over, and then it sound like someone ran down the stairs really quick and we just ran out of the condo and just refused to go back in. And hours later, when everyone else showed up, like when my mom finally came back home, we went upstairs and sure enough, there was clothes on the ground. There was a few things knocked off of our desk, 'cuz we had a desk and a computer, and there was just a bunch of stuff. It looked like someone was just throwing things around.

FAYE WINWARD: With all these experiences they were having, I decided to move. I don't know if I was worried about their safety as much as them just being scared because no one was hurting them. It's just that they were just freaked out. So, I just decided enough was enough.

DYLAN WINWARD: At that point, I definitely wanted to move out because I was not comfortable at all. Just always felt like someone was watching me at all times and it wouldn't go away either.

SUMMER WINWARD: When we finally did move, I was really excited, but I was still kind of anxious for the first couple months because I didn't know if the ghost was gonna follow us or what could happen. So, I was scared, but ever since that, I've never had any sort of paranormal experience.

DYLAN WINWARD: I never had this experience ever again. I never had that feeling of someone watching me, never heard anything, and I've never seen a ghost. And we moved probably a good four other times.

NARRATION:

IT'S BEEN 11 YEARS SINCE THE WINWARDS MOVED AWAY FROM THE CONDO. THEY'VE NEVER GONE BACK, AND THEY NEVER INVESTIGATED WHO THE LITTLE GIRL GHOST MIGHT HAVE BEEN. BUT THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT WHO, OR WHAT, WAS HAUNTING THEIR HOME.

SUMMER WINWARD: My personal theory on the whole thing is that the little girl must have died somehow in that, either, you know, like on the dirt of the property or in the actual condo itself cuz she was so young, you know, six, seven, something like that. I just don't think she knew she was dead.

DYLAN WINWARD: I think it was demonic. I mean if you want my honest opinion, I think it was a demon possibly taking on the form of a girl, maybe so it could relate to us more. I, I don't know, but I personally think it was a, a demon for sure. Especially after hearing that demon laugh in

your ear and I had no doubt in my mind, and having this stuff fly across the room, having the table move. I don't necessarily believe in ghosts and spirits like that. I can't imagine a spirit would be able to do that, but I never really dug into it too much. You know, me and my friend, Corey, still talk about it to this day. We go over all the experiences that we had and we still talk about it, but I don't really share too often with people. Some people don't even believe in ghosts. You know, some people will think, like, you're crazy or something. So, I, I didn't care, you know, I don't bring it up like a normal conversation, but if someone does bring up ghosts or something like that, then I'll tell them my experience, but I don't just bring it up with anybody. It was just more of something, like, that just happened to me and in my life and kind of just moved on from it.

NARRATION:

BUT MOVING ON HASN'T BEEN QUITE SO EASY FOR SUMMER.

SUMMER WINWARD: It took a toll on me for a long time. You know, I would have these reoccurring nightmares. It would probably happen once a month. I would have, from start to finish, the same exact dream of me going into the condo and some sort of spirit would try and possess me. And then I would wake up, like, not being able to move for a quick minute. I don't know if it's the actual term sleep paralysis, or whatever the actual term is. But I was eventually obviously able to move. From the time we moved out, which, I was about 12 years old 'til 19 years old, I just had these reoccurring nightmares. But thankfully, the last time I ever had it was 19 years old. So that was cool, cuz those nightmares sucked. I feel like, honestly, it changed my whole, like, outlook on life, you know, since 11 years old. I think it completely changed my outlook on everything, you know, religion, life and death, you know. It definitely changed my life. But at the end of the day, I think I'm glad it happened.

NARRATION:

IF YOU HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH GHOSTS OR THE PARANORMAL, SHARE YOUR STORY AT [UNSOLVED.COM](http://UNSOLVED.COM). NEXT, ON UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...

ANKUR SINGH: I remember my parents' bedroom door being, like, open a little bit and they had, like, a bunch of wooden panels, most of them missing, with one still in the door. And I think that told me that somebody had kicked the door down. My brother looked into the room and... devastated isn't even the word. The way he sounded, and the screeching in his voice was terrifying.

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Unsolved Mysteries is a production of Cosgrove Meurer Productions and Cadence 13, an Audacy Company.



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Thanks for listening to Episode 48 of Unsolved Mysteries.