

Annie Mason: The beach.



Annie Mason was walking along the beach and listening to the gentle waves. She would always get away from Bristol, Connecticut at this time of year. She loved her, bustling town, job as a teacher and friends. However, as soon as the leaves started changing color, the memories came back. Her thoughts, as always, were in the time, thirty years ago. It was Halloween, about six months into her move to Connecticut following her husband's passing. Her son was two years old, just able to say "mama," "yay," or "buh-bye." She had done everything possible at the time, but she still felt it had not been enough. Her life had fallen apart with no way to bring it back together. All she had now was a photo that she took with her everywhere. His sparkling blue eyes still made her smile. She was always trying to outrun the guilt, but she knew it was her who had not been cautious enough.



Jason: The Ocean Front.

RRRRRRRRRAAAAAAAWWWWWWWKKKKKK! John giggled madly. "More bread, daddy, more bread!" "OK, buddy OK." They were vacationing at an ocean front near a boating wharf; feeding the seagulls. John's blue eyes lit up. He had dropped his snack, and the seagulls were *loving* it. Can we go play tag now daddy? "Okay John..." Too late, John had already bolted off. "Hey! John!" He ran around the corner, looking for the toddler. "Catch me if you can, daddy!" He squealed. Jason saw John run into a nearby hotel lobby, and he followed him. John kept charging up the stairs with his dad right behind him.

THE FIRST MICHEL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH, NOW THE CHURCH OF ETERNAL LIGHT



The First Michel Spiritual Church, or The Church of Eternal Light was supposed to be a haunted church. It was a schoolhouse for five years, but then the school-master moved away and it served as a chapel for seventy more. It became a church in 1962, and was renamed The Church of Eternal Light in the 1980s. A new church bell was added in 2000.

There had been many ghost sightings and weird reflections over the years in this area. There was also a legend that someone struck by lightning haunted the church grounds. It was the most paranormally-active place in Connecticut, even at the time. This is why the Bristol Central High School thought it was the perfect place to have their annual Halloween Party. They had draped fake witches in plastic shawls, and a skeleton grove with "WOULDN'T

IT BE CHILLY WITH NO SKIN ON” playing on loudspeakers. High school students participated in a play starring the Funny Pumpkins, Scary Skeletons, and Terrifying Zombies. It was to be the ultimate Halloween Party in town!



HALLOWEEN 1962

It had been a very hurried day. First she overslept, then they forgot the crown of his little king costume at home, then she accidentally parked without paying the meter, and she got a ticket. Later when they went to the grocery store, the checkout line took forever, so they were late to the Halloween party. Since it was foggy that night, when she arrived, she didn't realize she was at the wrong place. When she did, they had to get to the right address quickly, but her little boy did not like the bumpy ride. When they finally arrived, the toddler was crying, so she had to cheer him up with chocolate. When at last they reached the section of the church grounds where the party was being held, they were already late for the play, so they quickly just sat down to watch. Festivities were in full swing, with laughter, costume contests, and pumpkin bowling. The Funny Pumpkin crew came out to perform. Her toddler burst into giggles. Then the Scary Skeleton crew came out, and her little king did not approve of them, so she took him to the play area. Annie was talking about the prodigious effort that had been put in the play, with another mother, when she realized that her little boy was a bit too quiet. She had been caught up in the moment for a second too long. Her son was gone!



THE OPEN DOOR: HILTON BEACH HOTEL.

John broke out of his dad's grasp and, giggling away, ran into an open door which led to someone else's room. Jason followed, mumbling an apology, to retrieve his little boy. As he entered he noticed that it was a tidy, small room with a little bed and a chest of drawers. His attention was immediately drawn to a picture of what looked like his toddler self with a lady, on the bedside table. He was still standing there, stunned, when Annie walked into her room. They locked eyes. She looked vaguely familiar. His blue eyes made her smile while his boy tugged impatiently at his shirt. Maybe, just maybe, this would be a Happy Halloween after all.