

Roald Dahl

The Landlady

by Diana and Niklas

Billy Weaver had travelled down from London on the slow train. He had never been to Bath before. He didn't know anyone who lived there.



Suddenly, Billy caught sight of a printed notice.



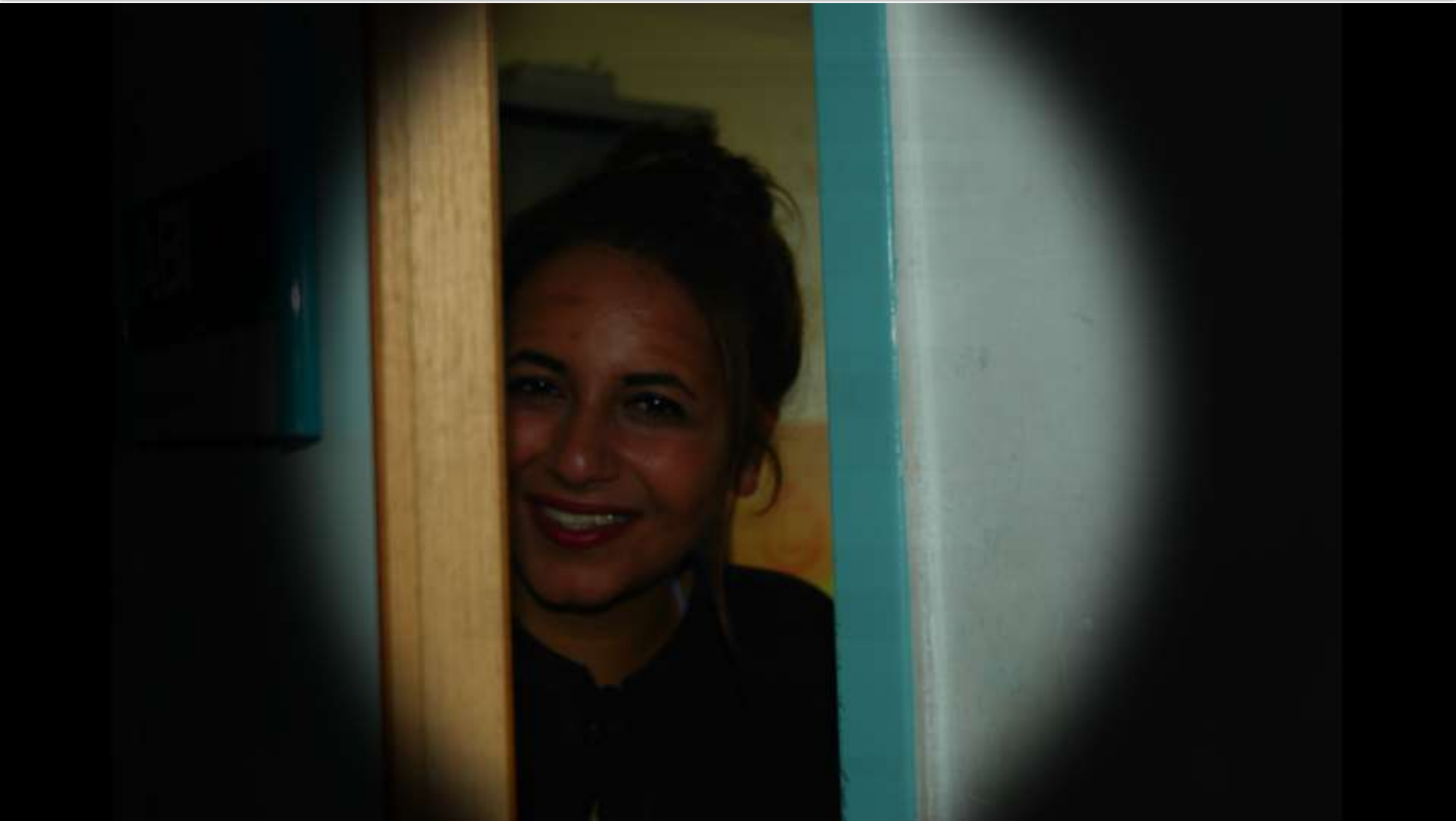
It said **BED AND BREACKFAST.**



Something was forcing him to stay where he was and not to walk away from the house.



The door swung open and a women was standing there.



„My dear boy“ she said, „why don't you come in out of the cold?“



She seemed terribly nice. Billy stepped over the threshold.



The house was full of antiques.





On a table a pretty little dog was curled up asleep.



„You see, it isn't very often I have the pleasure of taking a visitor into my little nest.“



The tea tasted faintly of bitter almonds, but he didn't much care for it.



They had talked for a while, before he walked into his room.



There he found the guest-book lying on a piano.

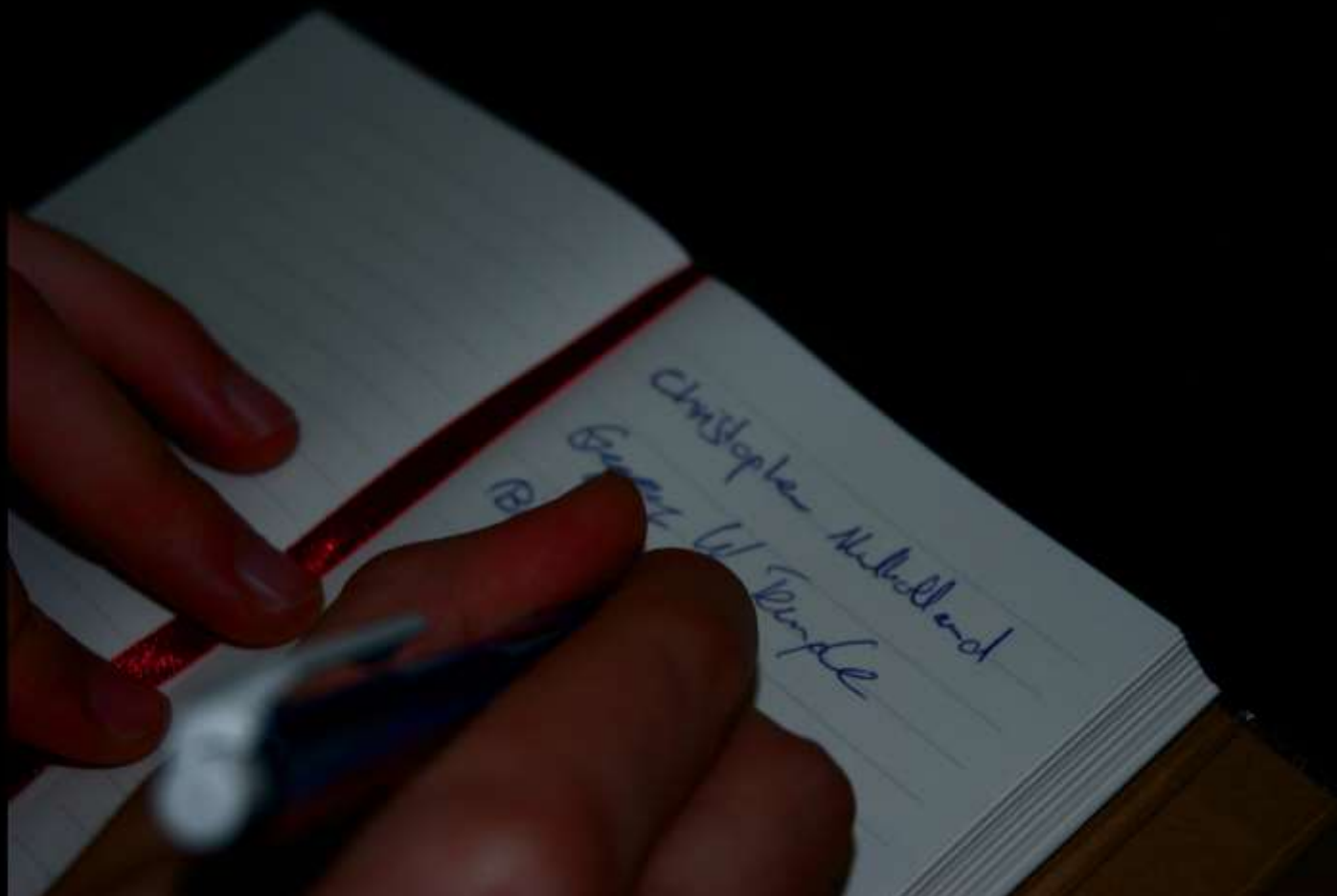




There were only two entries.



He also signed up.





„They sound familiar.“



„They were tall and young and handsome, my dear, just exactly like *you*.“



„I suppose they left fairly recently.“



„But my dear boy, they are still here on the third floor, both of them together.“



Suddenly, he realized that the animals had all the time been just as silent and motionless as the parrots.



„You did sign the book, didn't you?“



„Oh yes, I did...”



„That’s good! Because later on, if I happen to forget what you were called, then I can always come down here and look it up.“

