

The ghost of an abandoned refugee center

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The dramatic experience after the end of the war in Bosnia has somehow escaped my writing so far. The depiction of the event is also subjective due to the time lag of my story. It all took place in and around the former refugee center located on the coastal road near Fiesa. I was returning in my Renault 6 from a full day of preparing the catamaran for the season in JK Pirat. Due to fatigue, I planned to sleep in the car in a parking lot along the road. Above Bernadin, I was driven away and continued along the local road towards Izola. I turn into an empty parking lot at the former refugee center, which seemed to be empty and without lights. This is where the main part of the story begins.

I wanted to make sure no one would chase me out of the parking lot and tried to see if the front door was locked. But the door opened and instead of just walking out, something made me enter an unlit room with a bar and a jukebox. As I walked through the room, the jukebox suddenly started playing a very slow funeral march, with no one in sight to turn it on. The source of the sound in the jukebox was just my assumption at the time, as was my rationalization that someone was watching me and messing with me. I didn't really see or hear anyone in the room. Anyway, it was a bit too much for me, so I ran out and hurried to the car.

But that 'something' followed me outside the building. That 'march of the dead' sound followed me out into the open and then I perceived it as coming from the slope with the houses above the road. The phenomenon resembles the activation of a subconscious memory from some other story. I got into the car and 'escaped' from the scene. My neighbor in the tower block told me a similar story about that house, which happened to her in the company of a friend. I don't remember the details. Supposedly, a murder took place in that accommodation center. I should mention another 'famous' house in the middle of the snake ridges outside Postojna. It was abandoned, but it gave no appearance of decay.

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