

ETA SIGMA PHI 54th Annual Latin Prose Composition Contest (2020)

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of three hours. You may use a dictionary that does not contain paradigms (e.g., *Cassell's*). Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest papers should be your pen name.

Houseguests Eleanor and Theodora experience a supernatural occurrence on their first night staying in the spooky, infamous Hill House ...

“What *is* it?” Eleanor whispered

“Someone is knocking on the doors,” Theodora said in a tone of pure rationality.

“Bang,” Eleanor said. I am calm, she thought,¹ but so very cold; the noise is only a kind of banging on the doors, one after another; is this what I was so afraid about? “Bang” is the best word for it; it sounds like something children do; is this what they mean by cold chills going up and down your back? Because it’s not pleasant; it starts in your stomach and goes in waves around and up and down again like something alive. Like something alive. Yes. Like something alive.

“Theodora,” she said, and closed her eyes and tightened her teeth together and wrapped her arms around herself, “it’s getting closer.”

It pounded regularly for a minute, and then suddenly more softly, and then again in a quick flurry, seeming to go methodically from door to door. They heard the crash against the door across the hall. It was louder, it was deafening, it struck against the door next to them. Eleanor ran to hold her hands against the door.

“Go away,” she shouted wildly. “Go away, go away!”

There was complete silence, and Eleanor thought,² standing with her face against the door, Now I’ve done it; it was looking for the room with someone inside.

-Shirley Jackson
Excerpt from *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959)

¹ Tip: Remember that verbs of thinking take indirect statement (acc + inf). The rest of this paragraph is what Eleanor thought.

² Another thing Eleanor thought.