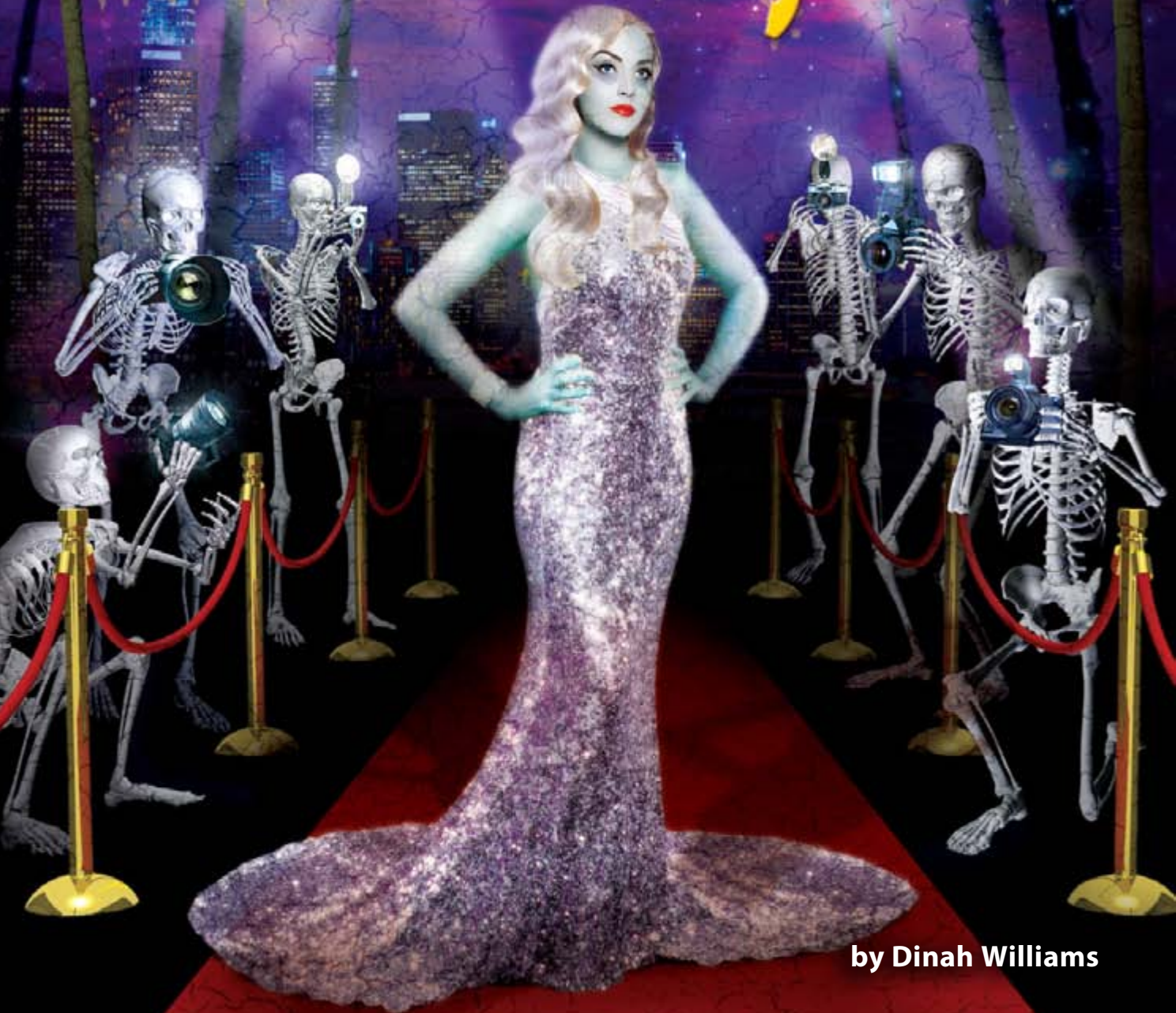




Haunted Hollywood



by Dinah Williams

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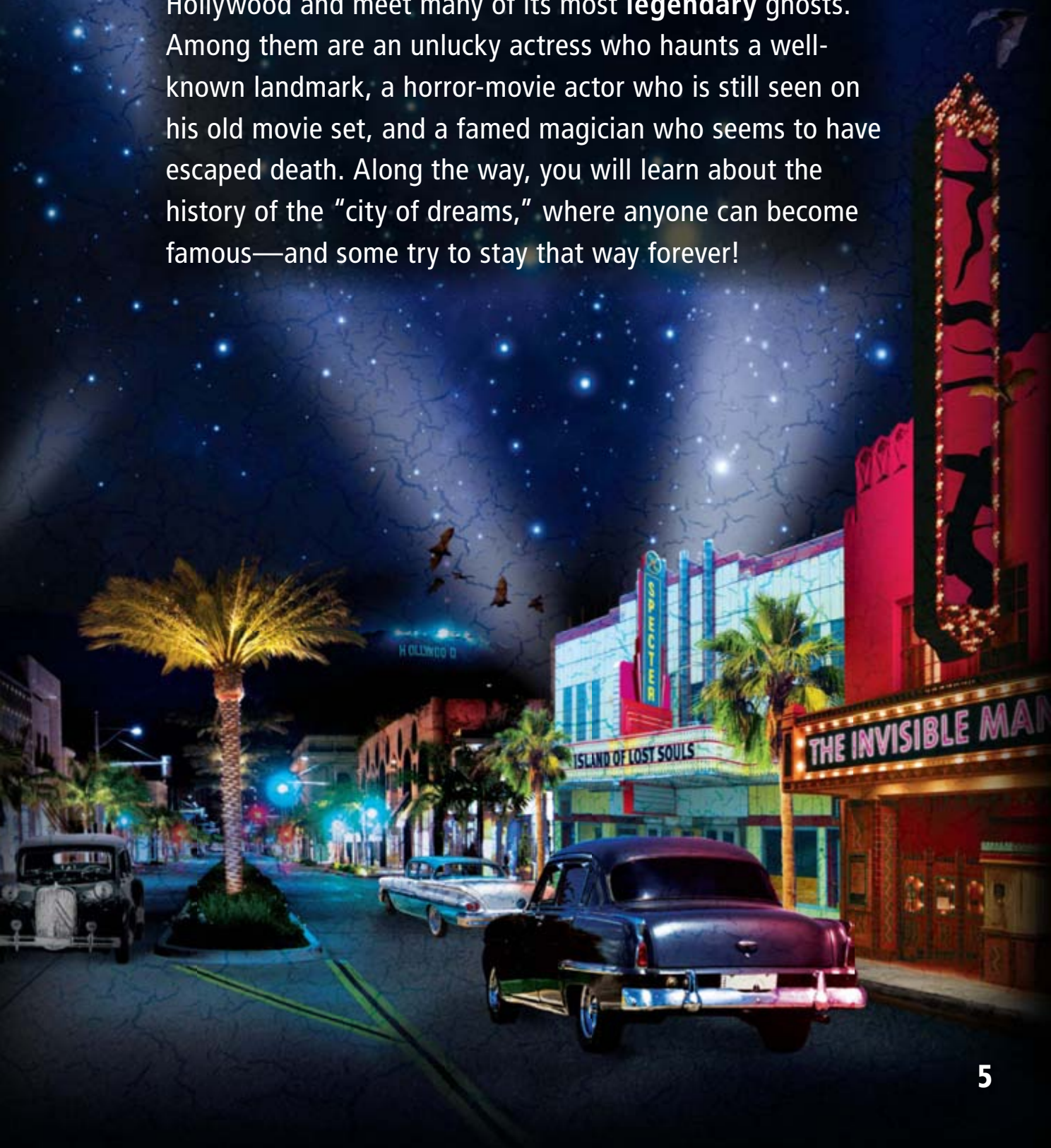
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Haunted Hollywood

As the filmmaking capital of the world, Hollywood has produced lots of scary movies. Ghosts, monsters, and mummies from its studios have made unforgettable on-screen appearances. Yet what if this world-famous spot in southern California is itself haunted by ghosts?



In this book you will visit 11 of the spookiest sights in Hollywood and meet many of its most **legendary** ghosts. Among them are an unlucky actress who haunts a well-known landmark, a horror-movie actor who is still seen on his old movie set, and a famed magician who seems to have escaped death. Along the way, you will learn about the history of the “city of dreams,” where anyone can become famous—and some try to stay that way forever!





Broken Dreams

The Hollywood Sign

The Hollywood sign is as famous as some of the town's **celebrities**. To many people, it marks a place where dreams come true. Yet for one struggling actress, it was the spot where the hopes of a lifetime ended.

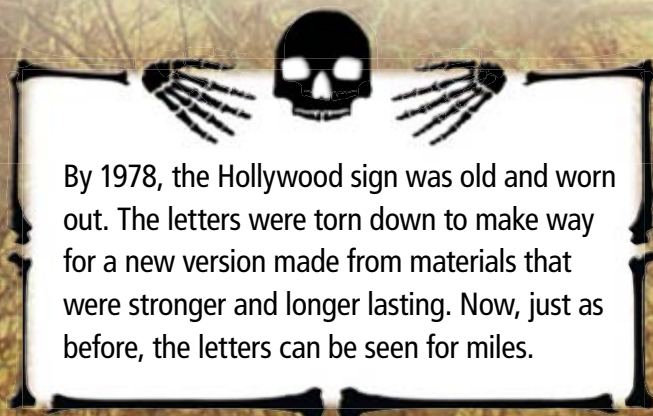
The Hollywood sign

HOLLYWOOD

Made up of 45-foot-tall (14 m) letters, the Hollywood sign sits high atop a hill. It was created in 1923 to advertise a community of homes for sale named Hollywoodland. Twenty-six years later, in 1949, city officials dropped the word “land.” Now spelling out “Hollywood,” the sign reminded all those who saw it of the glitter and promise of the movie industry.

Yet the sign has also been a place of sadness and death. In 1932, a young actress named Peg Entwistle was upset because she could not find work in the movies. On September 16, she left her uncle’s small Hollywood home and headed toward the sign. Once there, she climbed a construction ladder and jumped to her death from the top of the letter H.

Since that terrible day, Peg’s ghost has been seen haunting the hill, which is now a park. Park rangers and visitors have spotted her in the form of a pretty blond woman in 1930s clothing, most often when it is foggy. Some have also noticed the smell of **gardenias**—the scent found in Peg’s favorite perfume.



By 1978, the Hollywood sign was old and worn out. The letters were torn down to make way for a new version made from materials that were stronger and longer lasting. Now, just as before, the letters can be seen for miles.



Peg Entwistle



Refusing to Die

Falcon Lair

Maybe it is because Rudolph Valentino died suddenly at the height of his stardom. Or maybe it is because Valentino strongly believed people could communicate with **spirits**. Whatever the reason, this **silent film** star's ghost has been spotted in many places around Hollywood, including his beautiful Beverly Hills home.

Falcon Lair

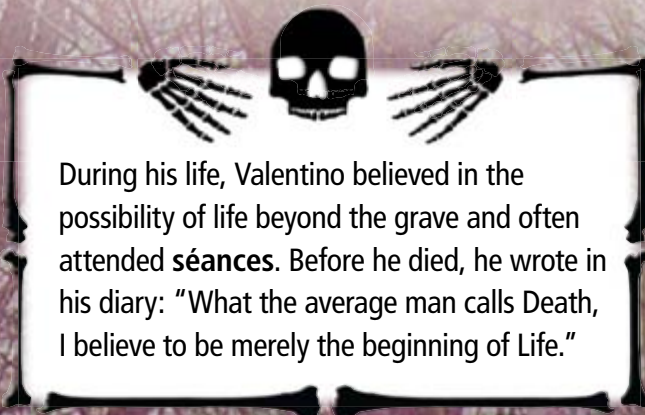
In 1925, Rudolph Valentino was an international superstar. To escape his crush of fans, he bought a huge **mansion** behind tall gates in Beverly Hills, an expensive neighborhood near Hollywood. Valentino named the house “Falcon Lair” and filled it with treasures from his many travels. He also had stables for his horses and acres of land for his dogs to run free.



Rudolph Valentino

One short year later, Valentino was dead. Medical problems after surgery for **appendicitis** had killed the 31-year-old actor within days. Thousands of grieving fans attended his funeral.

Not long afterward, Valentino’s spirit reportedly began visiting Falcon Lair. His shadowy figure was seen in the halls and staring out the windows. Doors seemed to open and close on their own. One stable worker quit his job after seeing Valentino’s spirit petting a horse. There were so many sightings of the movie star’s ghost that people who rented the house after his death quickly moved out, convinced it was haunted.



Inside
Falcon Lair

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