



Image from: [http://www.watertower-music.com/releases\\_spotlight.php?search=WTM39466\\_Conjuring](http://www.watertower-music.com/releases_spotlight.php?search=WTM39466_Conjuring)

- **Have you seen the film?**
- **Was it scary/do you think it looks scary?**
- **Do you like horror films?**
- **What's the scariest film you've ever seen?**
- **Have you seen the prequel to 'The Conjuring'?**



## Halloween: The story of Annabelle the doll.

Donna got Annabelle from her mother in 1970; her mother bought the used doll at a charity shop. Donna was a college student at the time, and living with a roommate named Angie, and at first neither thought the doll was anything special. But over time they noticed Annabelle seemed to move on her own; at first it was really subtle, just changes in position, the kinds of things that could be **written off** as the doll being accidentally hit. But the movement increased, and within a few weeks it seemed to become fully mobile. The girls would leave the apartment with Annabelle on Donna's bed and return home to find it on the couch.

Their friend Lou hated the doll. He thought there was something deeply wrong with it, something evil, but the girls were modern women and didn't believe in that sort of thing. There must be an explanation, they reasoned. But soon Annabelle's actions got even weirder - Donna began to find pieces of **parchment paper** in the house with messages written on it. "Help us," they would say, or "Help Lou." Just to make the whole thing that much creepier nobody in the house had parchment paper. Where the hell was it coming from?

The **escalation** continued. One night Donna returned home to find Annabelle in her bed, with blood on her hands. The blood - or some sort of red liquid - seemed to be coming from the doll itself. That was enough; Donna finally agreed to bring in **a medium**. The medium sat with the doll and told the girls that long before their apartment complex had been built there had been a field on that property. A seven year old girl named Annabelle Higgins had been found dead in that field. Her spirit remained, and when the doll came into the house the girl **latched on to** it. She found Donna and Angie to be trustworthy. She just wanted to stay with them. She wanted to be safe with them.

Being sweet, nurturing types - they were both nursing students - Donna and Angie agreed to let Annabelle stay with them. And that's when **all hell broke loose**.

Lou started having bad dreams, dreams where Annabelle was in his bed, climbing up his leg as he lay frozen, sliding up his chest to his neck and closing her hands around his throat, choking him. He would wake up terrified. He was worried about the girls.

A few days later he and Angie were **hanging out**, when they heard someone moving around in Donna's room. They froze - was it a break in? Was there an intruder in the apartment? Lou **crept** over to the door, listening. He threw open the door and everything was as it should be - except Annabelle was off the bed and sitting in a corner. As he approached the doll Lou was consumed with that feeling, a burning on the back of the neck that indicates someone was staring at you and he spun around. Nobody was there. The room was empty. And then he felt a sudden pain on his chest. He looked in his shirt and saw claw marks. He knew Annabelle had done it.



The weird claw marks began healing almost immediately. They were totally gone in two days. They were like no wounds any of them had ever seen before. They knew they needed more help, and they turned to a priest, who in turn called in Ed and Lorraine Warren.

It didn't take the Warrens long to come to their conclusion: there was no ghost in this case. There was an inhuman spirit - a demon - attached to the doll. But they warned that the doll wasn't possessed; demons don't possess things, only people. It was clinging to the doll, manipulating it, in order to give the impression of a haunting. The target was really Donna's soul.

A priest performed an exorcism on the apartment and the Warrens took possession of the doll. They put it in a bag and began the long drive home; Ed agreed to stay off the highways because there was a concern that the demon might mess with the car. Sure enough, as they drove on the back roads, the engine kept **cutting out**, the power steering kept failing and even the brakes gave them trouble. Ed opened the bag, sprinkled the doll with holy water and the disturbances stopped... for the moment.

Ed left the doll next to his desk; it began **levitating**. That happened a couple of times and then it seemed to quit, finally laying quiet. But in a couple of weeks Annabelle was back to her old tricks; she started appearing in different rooms in the Warren home. Sensing that things were getting worse, the Warrens called in a Catholic priest to exorcise Annabelle. The priest didn't take it seriously, telling Annabelle "You're just a doll. You can't hurt anyone!" Big mistake: on his way home the priest's brakes failed, and his car was in a horrible accident. He survived.

Eventually the Warrens built a locked case for Annabelle, and she **resides** there to this day. The locked case seems to have kept the doll from moving around, but it seems like that whatever terrible thing is attached to it is still there, waiting. Ready for the day when it can again be free.

**Key:**

**To write off:** To drop from consideration

**Parchment paper:** old style paper made from sheep's skin

**To creep:** to walk slowly and carefully

**To latch on to:** to become closely connected

**All hell breaks loose:** a situation suddenly becomes noisy and violent

**A medium:** Communicates with spirits

**Hang out:** meet with friends

**Escalation:** to intensify

**To cut out:** to stop

**To levitate:** to float

**To reside:** to live