

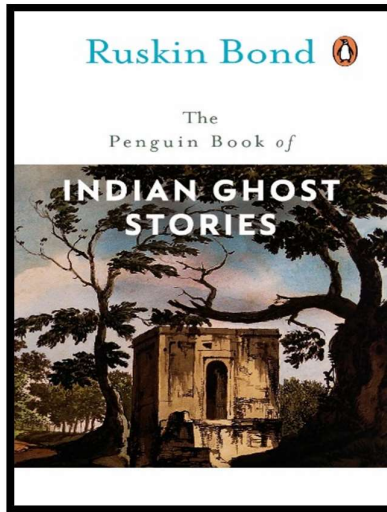
## BOOK REVIEW

**Name of the Story:** FRITZ

**Name of the Author:** Satyajit Ray

**Genre:** Horror

**Reviewed by:** Atmaj Panja, VIID (Session: 2024-25)



'Fritz', is the story written by Satyajit Ray, and edited by Ruskin Bond.

The penguin book of Indian Ghost Stories, an anthology of ghost stories is about a swiss doll named Fritz. It creates an eerie feeling when one reads it. This story 'Fritz' presents an intriguing read in the horror section.

The story involves two protagonists named Jayant who works in the editorial section of a newspaper and the narrator-Shankar who is a school teacher. After having managed some time from their respective works, they went for a trip to 'Bundi'-Rajasthan which is about 200 km from Jaipur. Co-incidentally Jayant had been there with his parents once, in his childhood, when he was at the age of 6 years. His father worked in the Archaeological Survey of India that gave him the opportunity to visit many historical places and Bundi was one of them. They planned to live in the circuit house where Jayant lived during his trip in childhood. After having their dinner they decided to have a nice walk in the compound of the circuit house where Jayant seemed to be not in his usual self. He was thinking about something. Suddenly he tried to recall his childhood memories in Bundi where he found a tall deodar tree under which he buried the 12 inches long swiss doll-Fritz that he had lost during his trip. The very same night Jayant was terrified with a nightmare about Fritz coming

back into life and haunting. As soon as he informed Shankar, he did not believe Jayant. So Jayant showed him little brown footprints on his pillow cover which gave the story an eerie and horror feeling. The next day, they decided to dig the ground under the deodar tree to check whether Fritz was there. After digging about 8 inches deep, they were both scared and shocked to see something which their eyes could not believe. The story ends with eerie thoughts and assumptions in their mind.

The story is built on short conversation between two protagonists whose characters are well portrayed where Jayant is projected as a serious person and emotional at the same time whereas Shankar is smart, rational man who believes only in what he sees. It is a must read for readers who want to explore the mysteries which lie behind in the story and it will keep one glued to the book till the end.