Name .....

Reading

Faking it

I first became interested in fake photography when I was a boy. My grandmother had an old black and white photo on her wall. It was a girl in a white dress sitting on the grass in some woods – nothing amazing about that. But on the floor beside her was a fairy. The fairy was slightly out of focus, but it looked very real. My grandmother insisted it was a real fairy but as I grew older, I knew that the photo couldn't be real. The photo, taken by two girls in the early part of the 19th century, became very famous. It wasn't until 1988 that one of the girls, now an old lady, admitted that they had faked the photo. My grandmother had already passed away by then, so she never knew the truth.

My interest, however, had already begun. I began with an old second-hand camera that my uncle gave me. I created ghosts and monsters, and took all kinds of strange and impossible shots. One of my favourites from that time was a photo where it looked like I was standing on the ceiling. I did it with mirrors and it was really quite convincing. My family and friends were very impressed and I remember thinking at the time that I wanted to do this as a job.

And that's what I did. I took some photography courses after I finished school and became a wedding photographer. That's how I made money. But in my spare time, I was creating art. My photos were beautiful fakes. There were pictures of aliens, men running away from tigers, impossible storm clouds and much, much more. In time, I began to make money from these photos as works of art. But then along came digital cameras and the internet. Suddenly, everyone could make fake photos. And they did. With social media, it became normal to see fake photos everywhere. They became so good that they could fool anyone and everyone. But not me.

My job now is to help people find out if photos are fake. The police come to me for my advice. Newspapers, TV news and sometimes even governments ask me to check whether photos are real or not. The people who fake photos these days are really good and my job is becoming more difficult. But, it pays the bills and I still make my own art in the evenings.

Read the text. What does the writer do now?

_____

Read the text again. Then complete the sentences.

1 The writer became _____ fake photography because of a _____ on his grandmother's wall.

2 He started taking photos with a _____ camera that his _____ gave him.

3 _____ and the _____ meant that it was easier for people to fake photos and share them.

4 The police, newspapers and government departments need _____ about whether photos are _____ or not.

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G Listening

Listen to Matt talking about his hobby. Complete the sentences.

1 Matt _____ and _____ old photographs.
2 Sarah thinks that the photos look like they were taken _____ and that the people look like _____ .
3 It takes Matt between _____ and fifteen _____ to enhance one photo.
4 Matt _____ black and white photos that have _____ added to them.

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