



The Haunted: One Family's Nightmare

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Jack and Janet Smurl and their family have been victims of abuse - both mental and physical - by inhuman entities that threaten their sanity, and even their lives. Over several years, the Smurls together with numerous other people - neighbours, police, priests, researchers - have witnessed scores of supernatural events at the family house: the ripping out of ceiling fixtures, the levitation and beating of the family dog, Janet's strangling by unseen hands, the repeated appearance of a black hooded figure - and more. And they can't escape - the demon even follows them when they leave their house.

Ed and Lorraine Warren, world-famous psychic researchers whose more celebrated cases include the haunting at West Point and the events at a house on Long Island that became known as *The Amityville Horror*, have been involved with the Smurl case since early in 1986 and have, among many other things, arranged for the exorcisms that have been held at the home. The Warren's vast experience with the paranormal have helped the Smurl family deal with the nightmare that they are going through- and will help you see, and perhaps understand, the existence and possible terrors of *the other side*.

You will be shocked and disturbed by the story told here; it will remind you of tales you heard in the dark; of books and movies that have kept you awake nights; of nightmares of your own. But at the heart of this story is a *real* American family who have faced horrors that none of us should even have to imagine- but have survived thanks to their strong moral values, their unshaking religious faith, and their undying love for one another.

The Haunted: One Family's Nightmare Details

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From Reader Review *The Haunted: One Family's Nightmare* for online ebook

Sheri says

I was actually quite disappointed in this book. While the explanation of the encounters the Smurl family had to endure were frightening and in depth, the author's attempt to make this book read like fiction made it blasé to me. I did enjoy the excerpts from the Warrens (Ed & Lorraine) and the Q&A session with both Janet and Jack, the storytelling just didn't fit with the content of the book. I would have liked this to be more facts and less added detail that was probably assumed and dramatized for effect.

That being said, the situation that the Smurls were in sounds awful and terrible and I thoroughly feel bad for them. I would love to look into other tellings of this family's living nightmare as well as read other books about the Warrens.

Matt says

I'm fairly open minded when it comes to the supernatural. But I feel that in order to be a reliable believer you also need to be a well practised sceptic.

There is nothing more annoying than someone who believes everything (or someone who believes nothing), while barring evidence to the contrary. So it's always good to approach these things with an open mind. With that said, I wasn't about to take Bishop McKenna at his word when during the opening he claims "Those of us who do not believe in a higher power cannot read *The Haunting* with an open mind and come away still disbelieving."

I'm not going to pretend I know what happened to The Smurl's during the time they claim they were tormented by "demons." But I do know that there are a lot of real world explanations to certain phenomena that might be applied to this case. High electromagnetic fields, night terrors, and mass hysteria for a start.

Something else that is interesting to consider is that all over the world, for what is possibly thousands of years now (and completely unconnected), people have experienced what is now diagnosed as a kind of sleep-disturbance during a sort of paralysis where an old decrepit woman will torment them night after night. Sitting on their chests, attacking them. People even "wake up" or come back to their senses with bruises. It's interesting, because a lot of people have never heard of it when the attacks start. I'm not sure if there is a treatment or how well it works, a documentary I saw recently entitled *The Entity* seemed to be on the fence about it.

Anyway, a single person's reality is an extremely subjective thing and I am not going to prove or disprove the existence of the Smurl's ghosts and demons in a book review. However, my opinion on the book itself is less even-handed.

First, I have to get something off of my chest. I can't stand when writers open with long and boring histories of the town the story is set in. I will concede that *sometimes* it provides key information, but does it really ever need to be more than half a page? In this case, it was mind numbingly boring. If I didn't have an uncontrollable compulsion to keep reading regardless of how bad a book is, I would have given up on the

second page.

The second thing that bothered me was that while this was presented as a completely true story, there was an odd sub-story inserted into the book which if you didn't read the introduction you might confuse as fact. But it's not, as the author states "One character, David Wilson, is a composite of three people who have worked with Ed and Lorraine Warren." And so every few chapters or so you are presented with parts of the "David Wilson" story entitled *The Apprentice Demonologist*. The story essentially goes nowhere, and knowing that it is supposed to be a composite of three people just makes the personal aspects of the David Wilson character confusing. There is quite a bit of creative licence used in these sections and it is very off-putting. Not to mention pointless.

Essentially, Robert Curran is no Jay Anson.

Overall the book is presented in a matter of fact way, but what it actually sounds like is the round-table remembrance of a few people. However unlike Anson's *The Amityville Horror* there is enough story there to produce a really spooky 'account' without padding. so it's a shame that despite his artistic licence in *Amityville*, Jay Anson was long dead before *The Haunting* (aka *The Haunted*) was written.

Frankly, this book is awful (and unnecessarily preachy) but is readable due largely to short chapters (quick enough to read during commercial breaks) and the occasional creepy story.

Rachel Smith says

"jesus christ." this book has stayed with me for 12 years. probably the very book that shaped my obsessive fascination with living horror.

Summer says

I loved this book. It is a local story known all thru the surrounding towns where they lived. My husband grew up just a few doors away from them and he agrees something was definitely up with that house. I loved the show paranormal state so it was a nice surprise to see the Warrens worked on this case after knowing them from the show.

The book was a fast read with big type and kept my interest. I enjoyed looking at the pictures that were included as well. I was horrified at some of the events that were described in the book. Whether they actually happened or not is not for me to decide but it definitely makes for a good story.

This is the story of what they experienced. If ur already a skeptic why waste ur time reading the book bc ur gonna say its fake and didn't happen. What they experienced was real to them and they suffered a lot of public humiliation and chastising because of it. Lots of people claim to be haunted by ghosts and they all have different experiences. This is just one of many.

Rebecca McNutt says

This was a good paranormal book, but definitely not original - just another *Amityville Horror* or *The Conjuring*, easily predictable and following the same basic formula as most "true" paranormal case books do.

Jaime Contreras says

This is an excellent account of the Smurl family's battle against demonic infestation and oppression. Featured in the case is the famous husband-wife team of demonologists (Ed & Lorraine Warren) and a junior demonologist (David Wilson) who worked to free the family from a vicious demonic presence. This is an engrossing and sometimes emotionally harrowing ride. I recommend this book but caution folks because it is written in a frank and visceral manner. This is a solid accounting of a possession.

Darren L. says

I have no idea if the haunting (or possession) is real or not. I know that the writing is worse than most freshmen in college. "If only they had known what awaited them." I almost expect a sidebar that says, "bwaa haa haa haa" in a Darth Vader icon. It's that cheesy. Usually my reviews are more about characters, plots, etc. I tend not to criticize writing style, but this is Velveeta Grande. As for the rest, I'm openminded about ghosts, even demons. I don't know if they're real or not. I know I've seen a couple of bizarre things that were hard to explain. Other than that, who knows? Was this worth reading? Probably.

SouthWestZippy says

If this book does not make you stop and think about ghost nothing well. Well written for a easy read.

Tera Marie says

It has been about 17 years since I read this book, but it scared me so bad, I had to stop reading it for awhile. I couldn't even have it in sight. I'll be re-reading this one to see if I have the same reaction to it as I did when I was a teenager. There is no other story of a true haunting that I have read that made me feel that I was really in the thick of things as this one did.

Wendi says

This book actually scares the living daylights out of me. So much so that I have never actually finished it. I can only read it in bits and pieces because it just terrifies me so much.

The only time that the book makes me stop and consider its legitimacy is when Ed and Lorraine Warren

come into the picture. They seem to pop up whenever there is a high profile case that gets lots of attention.

theghostwriter says

ed & lorraine are demon busting again! ugh... so over it. this book has it all though, apparitions, ghost rape, exorcisms, the catholic church's refusal to help the smurls. super god-heavy... fyi.

Tara says

Despite its matter-of-fact (but still subjective) presentation, The Haunted did catch and keep my interest. I couldn't believe some of the incidents that were described. It was quite disturbing. I would recommend it for those who are not overly squeamish. It is scary and sad. That's all I can say without giving away too much. If you are interested in the paranormal, you will be fascinated by this book.

CiderandRedRot says

Ignoring the question of whether the Smurl case was 100% a hoax (although, since the Warrens were involved, I smell bullshit...), this book commits the cardinal sin of the true haunting sub-genre: it just isn't very scary. Despite a veritable laundry list of paranormal activity featured, the *terrible* writing and the author's complete lack of objectivity results in a damp squib more than a delicious frisson of fear.

However, there is *one* textual revelation; as is repeated ad nauseum throughout the book with the subtlety of a jackhammer to the face, the Smurls are GOOD CHRISTIAN PEOPLE who are targeted by the forces of darkness due to their strong Catholic faith. A quick glance at the photos in the book - easily the most intriguing aspect - reveals all...

The demons were summoned from the pit by awesomely bad 80s hair. Seriously though, give this book a pass and go rent the made-for-tv movie of the same name instead.

Karina Vargas says

***The Haunted* : ¡4 estrellas!**

Esta historia es un caso real. Creerlo o no, depende de cada uno. Yo sí creo.

A mediados de la década de 1970, como consecuencia de un tornado que destruyó su casa, la familia Smurl se mudó a un duplex ubicado en Pittston, Pennsylvania, Estados Unidos. Era el hogar que Janet y Jack siempre habían querido para sus pequeñas hijas Dawn y Heather, y también para las mellizas Carin y Shannon que llegarían luego. Los padres de Jack los ayudaron a juntar el dinero para cumplir ese sueño y se

mudaron con ellos en el lado contiguo. Todos eran muy felices al principio, pero eso cambiaría con el paso de los días, cuando descubrieron que había alguien más y que no los querían allí.

Ni bien se instalan en este nuevo hogar y comienzan a realizar las refacciones necesarias, suceden cosas inusuales, aunque de menor importancia, como manchas que vuelven a aparecer tras haber sido limpiadas en varias ocasiones, problemas eléctricos injustificados, reparaciones simples que llevan más tiempo que lo debido, olores fétidos, etc. Todos estaban al tanto de ello, pero no era una cuestión que les quitase el sueño (aún). La familia era muy religiosa, Jack trabajaba mucho y Janet realizaba obras de caridad en el pueblo; eran conocidos y queridos por sus vecinos, y no había motivos para que no sean felices.

No obstante, y más allá de sus creencias, llegó un momento en que ambos debieron admitir que algo pasaba en su nueva casa, que había algo más. Esto se hizo más evidente cuando Janet vio por primera vez aquella forma negra deslizándose por una habitación y después desvanecerse. Más aún se confirmó cuando la madre de Jack, desde la otra parte del dúplex afirmó haberlo visto también. Gradualmente, los sucesos extraños comenzaron a aumentar: sartenes que volaban, sillas que se movían solas, cajones que se abrían, el televisor emitía luces estando desconectado, susurros, voces imitadoras que los llamaban, los eternos golpes y graznidos en las paredes, gritos en el medio de la noche, habitaciones con temperaturas heladas en pleno verano, la sensación de una presencia invisible, de que no estaban solos. Asimismo, los eventos fueron de mayor gravedad cuando empezaron a sufrir ataques, golpes, accidentes que los dañaban y que podrían haber terminado en tragedia.

Frente a esto, y ante la negativa de la Iglesia a ayudarlos, desesperados, la familia contacta a Ed y Lorraine Warren, especialistas en lo paranormal. Con la asistencia de ellos y de su equipo, se confirma que la casa estaba “encantada”, por así decirlo; que no sólo había espíritus conviviendo allí, sino que también había un demonio y que quería hacerles daño.

A partir de entonces comienza la lucha de la familia por permanecer juntos, cuerdos, y sobrevivir. La única esperanza de los Smurl era su fe en Dios, pero a veces eso no parecía suficiente. Su oponente no iba a rendirse tan fácilmente. Las apariciones y los tormentos se incrementaron, y en más de una oportunidad intentó matar a algún integrante, incluso a su perro Simon, y abusó sexualmente de Jack. El demonio estaba convencido de su objetivo y no iba a parar hasta lograrlo.

(view spoiler)

No soy una persona miedosa en la ficción, me es difícil encontrar una película que me de miedo, y por eso le doy tanto mérito a esta historia. La conocí hace muchos años, cuando vi la película que se hizo en base a ella. Si bien no es una gran producción, es vieja, está hecha para la televisión, y los efectos son malísimos, me asustó un montón (y la miré de día, después de desayunar). Cuando supe que se trataba de un caso real, me dio más miedo. Y como casi todo viene de un libro (o termina en un libro, depende el caso), lo busqué y lo encontré. Eso sí, me costó bastante leerlo, porque lo hacía por la noche, con la luz del velador y me moría de miedo con varias escenas. Todavía me cuesta escribir la reseña, aunque ya no tanto.

Si a alguno de ustedes les suena el nombre de “los Warren” y todavía no saben de dónde, es de la película *El conjuro*. En mi opinión, es muy mala y nunca, nunca, me dio miedo, nada. Ahora, yo conocí a los Warren mucho antes con *The Haunted*, y creo que es otra cosa. Así que no basen sus ideas o saquen conclusiones apresuradas antes de conocer esta.

Claro que hay quienes cuestionan su credibilidad. He leído que algunos adjudicaban los raros eventos ocurridos en la casa con bromas por parte de las hijas (imposible), delirios de Jack por una cirugía que se había hecho (nadie menciona esto jamás) o simplemente rédito económico. Además cuando la Iglesia se dignó a mandar a alguien para comprobar los dichos, el demonio no apareció, y esto sí suele suceder. Por último, la mujer que vivió en la casa luego que los Smurl aseguró que nunca le pasó nada extraño.

En mi opinión, hay demasiados testigos sobre esto y todo suena muy factible en mis oídos. Como dije, yo les creo.

Sobre la forma en que está contada en el libro, Robert Curran mantiene una suerte de formato periodístico, separada en capítulos, y alternada con entrevistas a la familia, a Ed y Lorraine Warren, o la transcripción de grabaciones realizadas por ellos, a vecinos, etc. Hacia la mitad del tramo, se intercala la experiencia de un hombre que pretendió trabajar con los Warren, estudió con ellos y llegó a visitar a los Smurl. Esa parte me pareció irrelevante para el final que tuvo, medio relleno.

También me hubiese gustado que la escritura fuese más literaria y no tan informativa, pero se supone que es real y se entiende bien, así que me conformo. Explica bien las cuestiones técnicas para quienes no tenemos idea sobre el tema.

The Haunted es la historia real de una familia normal y religiosa, cuyas vidas cambian para siempre cuando se mudan a un dúplex y comienzan a ser atormentados por apariciones y espíritus. Sus creencias son puestas a prueba cada minuto y deben aprender a lidiar con fuerzas sobrenaturales malvadas, poniendo en riesgo su vida y la de todos sus conocidos.

Admito que esto da miedo. Pueden ver la película y/o pueden leer el libro; en cualquier caso, la imaginación vuela y eso es lo más terrorífico.

☆?♥☆ Unsolved Mystery ☆♥?☆ says

- My Description -

The story is based on the ghostly experiences of the Smurl Family. They move to a new house, a haunted house, & they soon become haunted themselves. They can't leave the house; go camping or visiting relatives without being followed by unseen forces. Truly frightening.

- My Review -

I read this book years ago.

I've followed this case since I first heard about it many years ago. I really liked the movie. It's frightening & not one to watch by yourself.

I thought the movie was better, but it's definitely worth the read. I suggest reading the book first, then watching the movie.

You'll sleep with the lights on. =)
