



# Chicago Haunts: Ghostly Lore of the Windy City

*Ursula Bielski*

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## Chicago Haunts: Ghostly Lore of the Windy City Ursula Bielski

With the first edition of Chicago Haunts, author Ursula Bielski captured 160 years of Chicago's haunted history in the first volume ever devoted to this intriguing subject. Combining lively storytelling with in-depth historical research, exclusive interviews, and insights from parapsychology, Bielski penned a unique and fascinating exploration of the region's supernatural folklore.

## Chicago Haunts: Ghostly Lore of the Windy City Details

Date : Published 1998 by Lake Claremont Press (first published October 1997)

ISBN : 9780964242678

Author : Ursula Bielski

Format : Paperback 277 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Nonfiction, History, Ghosts, Horror, Ghost Stories

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## From Reader Review Chicago Haunts: Ghostly Lore of the Windy City for online ebook

### Phoebe says

This book took me a long time to read, but I liked it interesting. It was very factual. However, it was sometimes boring and tedious. It was very factual and historical. I enjoyed the ghost stories. I was surprised that I knew some of them. I expected it to be more fast pace and mysterious.

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### Patrick says

The end-all, be-all guide to haunted Chicago, and we have plenty of ghosts. Ursula, who hosts a haunted bus-ride throughout many of the locations explored in the book, covers such legends as Resurrection Mary ("vanishing hitchhiker), Bachelor's Grove Cemetery (floating orbs, ghost-house, horse and carriage, and another "white lady" called "the Madonna"), The Biograph Theater where famed bank-robber John Dillinger was gunned down, and the "Devil Baby" of the Jane Addams Hull House.

For further information, here is an article I wrote about some new ghosts in the area. Or check out this fascinating transcription of an expedition deep into the bowls of Bachelor's Grove braved by some friends and myself. Why not read this review of the supernatural bus tour too?

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### Katie Clark says

I was lucky enough to meet Ursula on one of her resurrection mary tours. She's a super cool lady, great historian, and an awesome story teller. I'm a sucker for ghost stories but I also appreciate this book for it's rich chicago history. She's the best resource out there for Chicago paranormal history.

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### Vannessa Anderson says

*All religions, including Christianity believe in some supernatural beings and experiences. Hence, beliefs in God, a Trinity, the lasting effects of Adam and Eve: damnation, redemption, and eternal life.*

*There is still another level of the supernatural when it comes into contact with our earthly lives—prophecies, visions being touched by an angel, miracles, healings. . Fr. Jerry Kroeger, O.P., Ph.D.*

Chicago Haunts Ghostlore of the Windy City was a fun read!

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### Taya Mackenzie says

It was a really good book. I like how it brought up the science behind paranormal activity and how certain

things can have an effect on spiritual energy. I also loved the histories behind many of the featured hauntings. Ursula Bielski is a terrific author and I will be sure to read more of her books.

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### **James Bowman says**

Well-researched, and a useful resource for ghost-related folklore connected to Chicago's history. Unfortunately, it's weighed more heavily towards "history" than "ghosts", so if you were hoping for more of the latter, you'll be disappointed. Still, there are a few particularly memorable ghostly accounts, and it's an interesting read overall. (B)

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### **Amy says**

Wow! Some really interesting stories here, and since a handful take place in my 'hood, it's that much more exciting. If you have any interest in the supernatural and live in city proper, I think you'd find something fascinating here.

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### **Sherrie Henry says**

Love, love, love books like this! Great reading to kick off the Halloween season!

Ms. Bielski has done her research and spins compelling tales about the ghosts of Chicago. I've taken her Haunted Chicago tours and this book just builds on that. (One of the reasons I got the book!)

If you like ghost stories, build the bonfire, pull up a lawnchair, and enjoy the stories that have just become spookier with each telling.

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### **David Schaafsma says**

Okay, this is not a well written non, and poorly edited and organized.. but someone told me it was a kind of authority on Chicago ghosts/hauntings, and then I find out Bielski runs a tour of haunted Chicago. The books is pretty boringly written, but it does name some of the legendary ghost stories in buildings and cemeteries in the Chicago area. I read it this year for my spring lit course on the literary and psych/psychological/spiritual/supernaturel phenomena (from Macbeth's 3 witches to Ocean at the End of the Lane's witches and such). I am having my students also read for today Corinne Mucha's fun graphic story, "Growing up Haunted," and having students write of ghosts in their own lives/neighborhood/family. Getting some fascinating stuff (they can make stories up, too...)

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### **Robert Kiehn says**

An excellent book by Ursula Bielski on the History and Haunts of many places and locations in Chicago

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and it's suburbs such as the haunting of Bachelor's Grove cemetery in Midlothian and many other places in many Chicagoland area's.

The book is well written and richly detailed and contains a lot of info on the History of The Windy City and it's surrounding suburbs.

I highly recommended it!

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### **Jim says**

Some interesting stuff in here, but it was amateurishly written and repetative. Ultimately, I became bored with it. The approach veers between ghost hunting and folklore. Either approach could be entertaining, but the author never bothers to develop either one. The ghost hunting approach is a lot like those crappy shows you see on cable, where the ghost hunters talk a lot and then get excited over a brief light in the room that could be a spirit or reflected headlights from a car out on the street. The folklore is just a little too much like a high school termpaper.

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### **April says**

Living in Chicago, you have to know what is haunted and what's not. What's great about reading this book and living in Chicago is that there is a Chicago Ghost tour that will take you to many places mentioned in the book. My favorite is the RoseHill Cemetary haunts because I used to live right by there. It is a very scary cemetary even when it's light out!

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### **Dwayne Wojtowicz says**

Ursula Bielski really knows her ghosts and haunts. In her revised edition of "Chicago Haunts, Ghost lore of the Windy City," her vast knowledge and research comes through with details about everything from mob hits to the Fort Dearborn Massacre and the ghostly remains of the passionate people and volatile events that makes up the history of Chicago. But it goes further than that. She delves into the suburbs as well, bringing the mysteries of the suburban communities surrounding Chicago to light.

Growing up watching "Creature Features" (I know, I'm showing my age), I have been a big fan of the horror, murder mystery genre. Believing in ghosts and spirits myself (especially the drinkable kind), I find Bielski's book fascinating. She gives a new meaning of "things that go bump in the night."

My favorite haunt is Resurrection Mary. I don't live far from Resurrection Cemetery and have passed there many of times. I'm still waiting for her to appear to me.

"Chicago Haunts" is a beautifully written book with a sense of macabre tied into it. Beilski, from reading her book, has me now actually going to a cemetery that I never knew existed.

If you get scared easily, then this book isn't for you. Highly recommended for those that like to be scared... if

you dare...

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### **Juan says**

Being from Chicago, this book seems like a must read to get to know some basics about our city's supernatural history. About the only bad thing about reading this book in 2017 is the fact that several locations no longer exist since this book was originally released during the 1990s. Its dated.

On a side note, I read part of this back around the time it came out but never finished since I would have a tendency of stopping whenever a familiar location of mine was mentioned in the book. I grew up on the South Side so I was most familiar with Archer Avenue, Resurrection Mary, Bachelors Grove, and some of the more remote locations. When I went to college I once again found myself in familiar territory as my school and neighbors of Benedictine University were also mentioned in the book. At least two more books were written in this series so I will have to get to those eventually. Needless to day, Chicago and the suburbs certainly have more than enough paranormal activity going on regardless in whatever part of the city you may live.

Another side note. I finally compelled to reread and finish this after having attended a paranormal panel at C2E2 with some former members of Ghost Hunters. They recommended reading Ursula Bielski's research from over the years. An interesting story they shared with us involved the Willowbrook Ballroom. So the nations convention on paranormal studies was held at the Willowbrook in 2016. Shortly there after, the Ballroom burned and was destroyed. Its possible to think it may have been related or not but it certainly adds an element to an already historical location. Plans are set to resurrect the Ballroom from the ashes as of Aug 2017.

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### **Jaime Contreras says**

My friend, Ursula is a talented ghostlorist. She can certainly spin a ghostly tale to the point that can go through a multi-sensory experience in the hearing or reading of these gathered tales. I have visited 95% of these sites and heard 90% of the tales gathered here. this is an excellent collection of tales of the beyond with a Chicagoland connection. Bravo!

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