



El factor sobrenatural

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Noviembre 1995. Dos meses después de que el último Wells saltara de la ventana del tercer piso (sin abrirla antes, por cierto), dos misteriosos europeos llegan a Point Bless, Virginia, para tomar posesión de Axton House. A. es el misterioso heredero inesperado; Niamh es la adolescente muda de peinado inconstante que él llama su socia o su guardaespaldas. A través de diarios, cartas y la más avanzada tecnología de los noventa, El factor sobrenatural relata su investigación del turbio suicidio de Wells, la sociedad que fundó y un «pasatiempo burgués» de proporciones globales. Todo ello mientras sufren terribles pesadillas, conviven con el fantasma local y, en general, disfrutan de su propia casa encantada.

El factor sobrenatural Details

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From Reader Review El factor sobrenatural for online ebook

Morgannah Mayfair says

Just finished reading this gothic work of art for the third time! I hope to write a worthy review when I have more time.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Wow, taking supernatural to a new level!

The Supernatural Enhancements has a fantastic writing style and sucked me in right away! It has twists, turns, surprises right up to the last page! Love the unique characters too, not accustomed to see in a mute character as one of the main players! Nice change and have a different feel to many scenes. Excellent read!

Linda (Miss Greedybooks) says

I was awarded this book by NetGalley - and I am so thankful!!! I really liked it!

First, I was drawn in by the cover & title, hmmm. I quickly was so immersed in the story, I completely forgot that I like to try to figure out a mystery!

The first page being missing, I felt as if I was not being told something on purpose, something that I should know, but I forgot all about it after a chapter...

I was reading and enjoying all the suspense, the characters were so well developed.

Nearing the end I was thinking that possibly it was a 4 star book for me - then WHAM the epilog slapped me into seeing stars - all 5 of them!

I can't even tell you about it - just get it & read it for yourself.

Thank me later.

since reading this, I have had one really cool, and supernatural dreams. coincidence?

TL says

4.5 Stars *minor editing sorry*

What I expected and at the same time not.

Blurbs describing this book:

Edgar Cantero has written a dazzling and original supernatural adventure featuring classic horror elements with a Neil Gaiman-ish twist

Told vividly and mysteriously through a series of journal entries, scrawled notes, recovered security footage, letters to a mysterious "Aunt Liza," audio recordings, complicated ciphers, and even advertisements, Edgar Cantero has written a dazzling and original supernatural adventure with glimmers of Carlos Ruiz Zafón's Shadow of the Wind.

Now with blurbs like that, I was excited to read this and put it on my paperbackswap wishlist (I haven't read Neil Gaiman yet *ducks* but I heard alot about him, and well Carlo Ruiz Zafon = <3). As soon as I got it in the mail, I dove into it... hoping for a good tale.

This does have hints of the gothic/supernatural in it but the mystery part is more present with the supernatural stuff a sort of footnote in the background. The mystery was well done, unveiled somewhat slowly but it kept my attention.

Clues are gathered and revealed via letters, diary entries, articles, and so on. A couple times the 'excerpts/articles' got on my nerves but other than that I enjoyed the way everything unfolded.

Niamh and A. I enjoyed getting to know, watching them grow closer and unraveling the secrets and mysteries of Ambrose and the house.

The history of the house was interesting and I wish we had gone deeper into it, it would have added more darkness to the story but it might not have fit with the pacing as well perhaps (I would welcome an ebook please ;-) *hint hint*).

As for the horror elements, there are some but (and maybe this is just me) it didn't 'scare' me too much. It was chilling certainly in spots but there was 'something' missing, that extra kick... if you want to call it that.

The story takes its time to set up but keeps a good pace, I was never bored or tempted to DNF at all. After about a little over the halfway point , it became very hard for me to put down (if I had been home, I would have finished it in one day... damn work lol).

What it all ended up being about and what 'the meetings' at the house was both fascinating and creepy. Even after Caleb explained things I still thought these guys were off their rockers.

The ending before the ending (that make sense haha) was shocking and I couldn't read the pages fast enough. One part had me mentally cheering when the ghost did something to help. I was anxious for one other person but also relieved at the end.

The style did remind me of Mister Zafon in the way he set up the story and the atmospheric quality of everything. He's got a good talent here and I can't wait to see what he does next as he continues to grow as a writer.

The ending had a couple surprises in it and had me laughing a bit. Those clever people :).

The book did have those couple minor issues for me but overall I really enjoyed it, I would recommend it:)

Happy reading!

Kat Heckenbach says

You shouldn't judge a book by its cover. But oh, this cover....I HAD to get the book just for that. Of course, I looked at the description--a mysterious suicide and a haunted house? I'm in.

It started off okay. At first I wasn't sure I was going to be able to deal with the way the story is told. The journal entries didn't bother me--they read basically like first person prose. The notes back and forth between A. and Niamh were effective and really brought Niamh to life for me (I completely adored her). But the surveillance video descriptions bugged me in the beginning.

Then, something happened. I realized: This is NOT a ghost story. It's a mystery. And the author was doing things that soon had me completely entangled--he was creating characters I really, really liked, dropping clues at the perfect pace, and playing on my total geek side with investigations into encrypted codes and..... Before long, the video and audio transcription parts were suddenly more captivating than regular prose would have been.

A quick aside: The style of the book was not the only oddity. The voice was very different, too. It takes place in the 1990's but it felt like a much earlier time period. Had you taken out the pop culture references, it would have easily fit in as taking place in the 1920's. I think it totally worked for me, though.

What I'm not entirely sure about is the ending. I can't quite place my finger on what exactly bothers me about it. A little too fast compared to the pacing of the rest of the novel? The twist a little too far out? I'm not entirely sure, but I closed the book a bit disappointed in the ending. However--I am tempted to read it again simply because of the ending, in search of hints that might make it more meaningful to me.

That last said, I definitely recommend the book. It's unique style, the literary bent, the mystery, and the characters all sucked me in despite the fact that I had totally expected something else.

My Website

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My YA fantasy series:

book 1

book 2

Rachel Pollock says

So, let me clarify what my rating is actually about here. If i could, i'd give the first 300+ pages of this book five stars, because i loved it from the absolute get-go. I loved everything about it--the concept, the structure, the characters, the narrative choices, the use of language, everything. I read the damn thing at a racing clip, nonstop.

But, the last 30 or so pages, it all fell in on itself like a house of cards with a pile of shit in the middle. I categorically began to hate it, and i can't really explain why without copious spoilers, but let's just say that in the theatre, we'd say that it challenged the suspension of disbelief. Stuff just got too absurd, too fast, with too little justification for such extreme ridicule. I suppose it could be chalked up to an attempt at a turbo-gotcha of a plot twist, but if that was the goal, it failed.

Still, i had such a great time reading the whole first 300+ pages that i can't pan the book, or give it a single star or anything, because i completely loved it, up until it disappointed me so deeply that if it were my boyfriend, i'd break up with it. But you know, exes can still be worthwhile people, so i'm giving it three stars.

Yodamom says

2.3

Not the book for me. I struggled to get through this, I wanted to love it. I couldn't like it no matter how hard I tried. It wasn't the story it was the format. The story is told through diary entries, notes, letters, video feeds, codes, histories and others. I just couldn't stay interested, it jumped around to much for this reader. I expected paranormal fantasy, what I got was more of a mystery, deciphering codes, pages on this subject bored me to sleep several nights while trying to slip through it. I stayed with it, I wanted to find the love, I did not. Not my taste in reading.

SoWrongItsRANDI {Bell, Book & Candle} says

I received this ARC from Net Galley and Doubleday Publishing in exchange for an honest review

Bell, Book and Candle Blog Review

This book was absolutely brilliant. The story was fast paced and instantly ensnared me. Every time something creepy happened, I was like...

The build-up was amazing, and I found myself wanting to jump inside the book and interact with the characters when it came to clues. Speaking of which, I have heard of encrypting letters during wars, but I never knew the types and how to do it. It was quite fascinating to learn a little history about it and know how to encrypt and decrypt letters for future reference (you never know). Trying to figure out the clues made me feel like Nancy Drew or one of the Hardy boys. Or think of Blue's Clues lol

I could barely figure out what clue led to what. Usually I am very good at solving riddles or figuring out the clues before the characters do, but this book left me stumped. I enjoyed the brain challenge. The dialogue was pretty interesting between Niamh and A. I have never met a mute person, so it was interesting reading the communication between Niamh and other characters.

The red herring and twist at the end definitely got me; I really didn't see it coming, which is surprising to me. The mystery element was the finest I have ever read. The saying that hindsight is always 20/20 is quite true in regards to this book, because looking back I can now piece together the clues to see how it all fit together; perhaps the characters can too.

Leanne says

I think it's pretty clear at this point that I'm a total sucker for gimmicks. Give me transcripts, articles, excerpts from (real or fake) reference books, and it's more than likely that I'll love it (some recent examples being *The Three or Night Film*). This one in particular is stuffed to the brim with all of the above, and more. There are even numerous clues and puzzles presented, none of which I actually had the brainpower to solve, but they make such a fun little treasure hunt whether they're crack-able or not.

The Supernatural Enhancements starts off a little strange - the beginning is a bit confusing and formal, and I had to re-read the first page a few times before I totally understood what was going on. But it's only uphill from there - soon I was totally engrossed in the mysterious and at times creepy world of Axton House. A - whose full name is never disclosed - inherits a magnificent and macabre estate from long-lost relative Ambrose Wells, whom he didn't even know existed, and decides to immediately move in with his companion, lovably spunky teenager Niamh. The events of the novel are primarily told through A's diary, video and audio transcripts from the equipment A and his sidekick, Niamh, use to bug and monitor the house, notes passed between A and Niamh (she's mute), and letters to Aunt Liza. Axton House is, of course, haunted, but that's not even the main plot - that honour belongs to the group of men Ambrose was associated with before his death and their unusual activities.

I often find that these types of books have unbelievably intriguing premises and then aren't able to follow through with them, but that is simply not the case here. There are several huge plot twists and unexpected reveals that actually make sense in the context of the novel and make you go "whaaa?!" without the often inevitable "but wait..."

The one thing I wasn't hugely fond of were the dreams. Dream sequences in books (or hearing about people's dreams in real life) have just never interested me, and although they did have some plot significance here, I couldn't help but skim through.

The Supernatural Enhancements is almost like a children's novel for adults - so much fun, so quirkily gothic, so satisfying. There's just enough gimmick to make it something a little bit different, but not enough to mask a weak plot or undeveloped characters (you'll find neither of those here!) Recommended if you like a good ghost, haunted house, or treasure hunt story (especially one that keeps you guessing!)

karen says

this book is so fun. so, so fun.

laid out in bullet points, this book contains many elements that are potential annoyance-triggers for me, but it somehow managed to execute a neat little sidestep-sashay, and turned what could have been an eyeroll from me into a delighted swoon.

pretend these are bullet points, and not dashes.

- gimmicky layout. the story is told through diary entries, letters, video footage, dream journals, excerpts from academic journals, and other bits of ephemera, and starts with this declaration:

The following collection of documents details the events that occurred at Axon House, 1 Axton Road, Point Bless, Virginia, during the months of November and December 1995.

The footnotes are the editor's only contribution. The first page is missing.

- the female protagonist is a mute, irish, punk rock teenager who leaves out the verb "to be" in her (written) conversation.

- there is a dog. named "help."

- there is a ghost

this is just begging me to call "quirky manic pixie dream girl po-mo wannabe hipster kitchen sink bullshit!" on its ass, but i can't. because i was utterly charmed. this isn't some lisbeth salander alienating fantasy girl character; niamh is a spunky little thing, yes, but she's also incredibly endearing, and a real, developed character instead of just a collage of unusual attributes for the male protag to bounce off of. and help's name is fitting within the context of the story.

as for the layout, it felt entirely appropriate to me, and the bits and pieces contributed to the narrative in a wholly appropriately-structured way, in a similar fashion to Night Film.

it's still a tough sell, because at the end of the day it is basically a haunted house story. a gimmicky haunted house story full of cryptography, puzzles, and wordplay, which would call to mind House of Leaves, but unlike House of Leaves, it doesn't use its gimmicks as a crutch, and they aren't "hey, you will need a mirror to read this chapter!" or "time to rotate the book! isn't this a fun and unusual thing i am making you do to make sure you remember that you are an active participant in this game we call reading?? whe!"

it is, instead, a very *charming* gimmicky haunted house story, and the gimmicks are fun and playful and not bleak and distancing like House of Leaves. it's an engaging adventure book which could be friends with Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore or The Shadow of the Wind, one that scoops you up, promises you a fun time, and actually delivers on its promise. it's a little bit gothic novel, a little bit treasure hunt adventure, a little bit dreamscape fantasy, with shades of the traditional victorian orphan-narrative, and a little secret society codex drama. and that ghost.

and the secret magic of books

...I've noticed all manuscripts are bad; any book randomly opened in a friend's house is good; the same book in a bookstore is bad. When this story is completed, that beginning will turn better.

fun fun fun. great cover, great book - i am a million percent in love.

come to my blog!

Tally says

Delightfully quirky. This story was totally my style.

It gave me that giddy feeling that you get when you first start a book and you realize you're going to love it.

An odd yet lovable twenty-something European kid inherits a fortune from a distant American relative, along with an old mansion steeped in mystery and haunted by a dark past. He is joined by an equally eccentric companion, a bright young woman who is mute (due to unknown childhood emotional trauma) and communicates solely through writing and gestures. They explore the mansion, determined to uncover the

secrets of its former owners, and stumble upon something quite unusual.

The story is composed of mostly excerpts from letters, dream journals, and sound/video recordings. There are puzzles and codes galore, making this such a fun read.

It's a bit reminiscent of *The Shining* and *House of Leaves*, but not quite as terrifying and not quite so dark. It goes off in its own direction, and has a great sense of humor.

Side note: That library in Axton House sounds awesome. Where can I get myself one of those??

Uniquely funny, creepy, sweet and haunting all at once. Highly recommended!

Bonnie says

'...all those pathetic lonely people fooling one another into their clumsy games of afterlife and cosmic relevance just to avoid noticing the nauseating sadness of their real lives. How could it sink that low? That's how I used to feel, bound by reason to boredom. And then along came Axton House.'

The main character, known only as "A." inherits Axton House, a mansion in American, after a second-cousin twice removed by the name of Ambrose Wells commits suicide by throwing himself from his bedroom window. Strangely enough, Ambrose's father died the same way. At the same age. A. travels to America to get his affairs in order and with him comes Niamh, a mute teenager who communicates throughout the novel via notepad. The two soon immerse themselves in the mystery of the house which they find involves a secret society and many mysterious coded messages.

The *Supernatural Enhancements* is a Gothic mystery with a sole ghost and a strange sense of eclecticism. Unfortunately, it ranks right up there for me with *The Quick* in terms of absolute pointlessness. The story is told through various means including audio and video recordings, A's day to day diary and a most disturbing dream journal, letters to an 'Aunt Liza', as well as various excerpts from books that they use in their research. It definitely had a *Night Film* feel regarding the unique way of telling the story but the story itself bounced around far too much and left far too much confusion in its wake. The strange codes that the two must unravel in order to progress further in solving the mystery should have been fun but instead I found them to be a tedious addition since us as readers had little to no chance of solving them ourselves so the pages and pages of detail regarding how they solved it only resulted in causing me a headache of epic proportions.

The characters themselves were mysterious and quirky but not in the most appealing way. We're given very little detail on the two (other than the fact that they're X-File fans which should have caused me to like them on that principle alone, but no) or anything about A. (or why he's only referred to as A. because that's just weird) or Niamh and their strange relationship; only that Niamh likes A. but she's underage so it's pointless. Or so we're led to believe. The two sleep in a bed described as "big enough for each of us to throw an orgy without her guests disturbing mine". And she apparently sleeps there because she's there to protect him, which makes total sense.

Actually, it never ends up making sense. None of it does. The characters don't make sense nor their purpose, the bad guys, or this secret society. The mysteries are seemingly explained but in a quick and careless way that is meant to be quirky and interesting but left much to be desired. The *Supernatural Enhancements* had a

promising initial feel that, as Rory put, felt like “*a lighthearted, simpler cousin*” to *The House of Leaves* — just minus the use of mirrors. It regrettably fell flat for me.

I received this book free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.
