



Night Stalks the Mansion: A True Story of One Family's Ghostly Adventure

Constance Westbie , Harold Cameron

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Night Stalks the Mansion: A True Story of One Family's Ghostly Adventure Details

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Author : Constance Westbie , Harold Cameron

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Adventure Constance Westbie , Harold Cameron**

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Eadie says

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Now in paperback, this true story recounts a Philadelphia family's encounter with a supernatural presence in their eighteenth-century mansion. After experiencing footsteps at night, opening doors, strange sounds and activity that centered around the library, they investigate, unearthing the mansion's tragic past and changing their beliefs about the supernatural world.

My Review

I found this true ghost story to be a quick page-turner and very engrossing. It's not a scary story but a little bit creepy. It seems believable as the narrator tells what happened in the house and he does not seem to be building up the story in order to make it scary. The family signed a lease for two years and couldn't get out of the lease unless they paid all the rent for two years so they stayed and tried to find out the cause behind the haunting. They came across someone who knew the whole story of the house and his explanation made sense. They decided to move out of the house a couple of months early and did find another house on the other side of Philadelphia in Valley Forge. A relative of the family is not trying to raise money for a movie production. I would definitely watch the movie and think the history would be very interesting to learn more about the house. I would recommend this book to those who love ghost stories but don't expect anything too scary.

Lillie says

This was supposed to be a true story about a normal family who lived in a haunted house. However, it seems the author's family was noted for supernatural experiences, so I have a healthy skepticism about the whole thing. I was interested enough to read to the end to see if they found out the history of the house and people who had lived there previously. The ending was not totally satisfactory to me, but if it's a true story the ending can't be manipulated to be more appealing.

The book was first published in 1978, and it almost looks like the original book was scanned for the ebook and left in the print font. It looks strange on the Kindle and cannot be changed. There were writing/editing issues as well, though not egregious.

Christina says

I wanted to read this because it is local to me. They changed some details, which seems odd since it is supposed to be a "true" story. It was on Rose Tree Road in Middletown. It is where the Heilbron community of homes is nowadays.

C. says

Night Stalks the Mansion by Harold Cameron and Constance Westbie is a very readable book about a period of time that Harold's family lives in a house that they believe is haunted. The family moves into the house in Philadelphia on an unbreakable two year lease and are stuck in the house with unexplainable footsteps inside and out, vases of flowers that appear in winter, and the mysterious library which they opt out of even going into because of a creepy feeling. Even visitors to the mansion and hired help wonder why the family members come into their rooms at night to watch them sleep. I admit the first half of the book was creepy to me and did make me hear little noises in my own house when I was alone reading. This story takes place at the end of World War Two but did not seem too dated.

The second half of the book delves more into the history of the old house. It has 17 rooms and was once used in the underground railroad. The house has stables, a summerhouse, a barn, and lots of other amenities on the grounds that were once part of the grand mansion, but horror happened there too and as a result the family believes the ghosts that walk the mansion and grounds are trapped because of the terrible violence that must have happened. Enoch, an old hired hand who lives in the barn worked at the house in his youth and unfolds the tales of woe that befell the mansion back in the slave days.

I enjoyed this book. I like spooky tales where not a lot of blood and gore is spilt to spook you and this one did a great job of portraying a house with a lot of explaining to do. The story unfolds in an interesting way. It brings back the past where slaves were a part of life and life in a big manor house was not always about silk gowns and balls. In this story, houses can harbor the past and all of its grisly details and the evil can come back to haunt even the most unsuspecting, innocent family.

Chris says

Pet Peeve - over and misuse of exclamation points.

Lena H. says

Interesting. One thing I thought off was that Harold Cameron made himself out to be an average Joe throughout the story but then suddenly in the epilogue and end notes he became this psychic medium who'd always had powers and had even more after this experience. I guess that's all sensationalized by the great-nephew who's trying to raise money to make a movie version (still, after 12 years?) But that was the only thing in the book that struck me as being disingenuous.

Holli Keel says

3.5 stars. I like reading or watching true ghost stories. This one was interesting and a fast read, but nothing too scary or creepy.

Kimberly Dawn says

I read this years ago and still haven't forgotten about it. A very interesting, well-written ??? haunted house story. And it's nonfiction to BOO-t!

Christina says

I finished this gripping tale from beginning to end in a single sitting. It is creepy and fun. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good ghost story!

Ainsley Thrasher says

I like a good ghost story & this one is okay. It's not very well written though and it didn't keep my attention well enough for me to finish reading it, even after 2 attempts at reading the book.

Sabrina Rutter says

I was hoping this would be scarier, but did enjoy the way it was written. It was like a mystery and all the way through you would get more clues about those haunting the mansion until finally it was revealed who the ghosts were.

Amy says

I love a good haunted house story, and this one was pretty decent. It had the semblance of a plot, which is often lacking in these kinds of books. What I liked most was that once the homeowner meets Enoch (a really old dude who had been the caretaker of the mansion for years), he learns how the mansion's past ties in with the current ghostly happenings. That's why I liked *A Haunted Love Story: The Ghosts of the Allen House* so much; you get to find out the history of the house, and I think that makes the story a lot more meaningful.

My favorite scene from the book was when the homeowner and his son explore an abandoned crypt on the property (!). I'm so fascinated by old places that have been abandoned and neglected (graveyards, hospitals, etc.), I was really jealous that they got to do this. Actually going into the crypt would have required pretty steely nerves, though; the coffins had disintegrated, so there were human remains and other funerary detritus scattered around the floor of the crypt. The stupid son actually took a handle from one of the coffins, and I was like: "Dude! That's, like, rule number one of any final resting place: you don't take stuff away!" When we went to Bachelor's Grove last summer, people had left actual money and other items of value on some of the graves, but there was no way I was going to take anything. Partly out of respect for the deceased, and partly because that just seems like bad karma. Anyway. The other scary thing about the crypt scene was that there was no oxygen in the underground space, which they almost found out too late. It's a good thing for me to remember if I ever get the guts to explore any abandoned locations.

Finally, I just wish there had been photos of the house, both interior and exterior. There are a few photos

online of the outside of the house, and the cover image shows the outside of the house. But there are no pictures of the inside, and the mansion burned down in the 80's, I think -- so there's no way to get a good visual picture of the place. At any rate, if I were to make a booklist of good true haunting books, this one would probably make it on there.

Tara Dowling says

Beautifully written tragic story line full of history. Transports you to a different time and place. In the Endnote it did mention a second book full of letters between the brothers documenting all of the experiences over time. Unfortunately I can't find it in print, it must of never came to fruition.

Linda says

Interesting and properly spooky. Nonfiction?

Paula says

A family moves into an old house in Pennsylvania after WWII. It seems too good to be true and that is it exactly. There are footsteps heard in the halls at night, and footsteps heard outside the front door but nothing is ever found. The family is tied to their lease for 2 years and learns to live with these manifestations.

Decent story but I was put off by them never doing research to learn the history of the house except through an old man who worked for them toward the end who knew more than he would tell.
