



Haunted

James Herbert

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Haunted

James Herbert

Haunted James Herbert

Three nights of terror in a house called Edbrook. Three nights in which David Ash, there to investigate a haunting, will be the victim of horrifying and maleficent games. Three nights in which he will face the enigma of his own past. Three nights before Edbrook's dreadful secret will be revealed - and the true nightmare will begin.

Haunted Details

Date : Published 1989 by Pan Books (UK) (first published 1988)

ISBN : 9780330451574

Author : James Herbert

Format : Paperback 228 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Paranormal, Ghosts

 [Download Haunted ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Haunted ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Haunted James Herbert

From Reader Review Haunted for online ebook

Werner says

"Our complacency is shaken; we thought the universe was a tidy, locked room, but there seems to be a scratching outside the door. For a moment, we pretend to know everything and pridefully assert, 'There is no such thing!' Something out there seems to respond, 'Oh, *really?*'" --Lint Hatcher, "The Truth That Is Out There," *Rutherford*, 1995.

The above quote could well serve as an epigraph for this novel; for the author has very clearly set up a conflict here between two opposite views of the world. Hard-drinking, emotionally distant paranormal investigator David Ash is, above all else, an apostle of a hyper-rational, purely materialistic view of reality; natural causes, he believes, must explain all of the phenomena he investigates, and he's built a very successful career on debunking the supernatural. Now, however, when he's been summoned by the eccentric Mariell family to their isolated 16th-century country seat Edbrook to investigate a purported haunting, my shelving this book as supernatural fiction should be a dead giveaway that his worldview is going to undergo some revision. (And it won't be a particularly easy or comfortable experience.) Herbert's message here, IMO, isn't necessarily to be taken as a literal assertion that ghosts actually exist; but as supernatural elements in fiction often do, the haunting here serves as a metaphor for aspects of reality that aren't reducible to the neat, the mathematical, the rational, and the naturally explainable.

During his lifetime, James Herbert was the best-selling fiction author in the U.K. Often, best-seller status only testifies to the power of advertising and the ability of bookstore chains to manipulate the lists. But after reading this page-turner, I'd surmise that Herbert earned his status a different way: by providing serious readers with well-crafted, good-quality, extremely effective fiction, which is exactly what this is. His characterizations are round and life-like, and his prose style suited perfectly to his intention. The pacing is flawless, and the evocation of an increasingly scary atmosphere nicely done. Transitions from David to his Psychical Research Institute colleagues are ably positioned to build suspense; the prologue, set in David's childhood, and the flashbacks aren't just filler, but serve a very real purpose in the crafting of the whole edifice that is the novel. David's inner psychological baggage is as important here as the external goings-on at Edbrook; and as noted above, there is some real philosophical depth here, not just scares for scares sake.

This is definitely a dark novel, at many levels. Although there's no explicit sex, it has a franker treatment of sexuality than the classic ghost story tradition characteristically did; and while there's no obscenity, there's a certain amount of religious profanity that I found gratuitous (though, to be sure, some people do talk that way). But there's no splatter-punk; the horror here is mainly psychological (though that can be potentially lethal). One reviewer characterized the plot as "predictable." Personally, I beg to differ; I found it to be anything but, and in fact to involve more than one jaw-dropping surprise. But Herbert is a consummate master of literary surprises --he knows they have to grow organically from the story itself, not be dragged in from left field against logic, and he adeptly hides his clues in plain sight.

Much later, the author wrote two more novels with David as the central character, so that they form a trilogy. But this one stands on its own perfectly well, with no cliff-hangers and a basic resolution.

Kevin Lucia says

I've already read Ghosts of Sleath - the sequel to this, didn't know it existed - and The Shrine, and it's very clear I need to read more of James Herbert's work.

Cheryl says

Interesting haunted house tale. First in a series starring paranormal investigator David Ash. The plot had some genuine chills and unexpected turns. Spooky fun!

Miloš says

Uhh... Chill peace of work.

For a moment, I had felt my heart bounced like a hammer from the stonewall.

I do not know why I have waited so long to finish this book, but, life has a strange ways...

I gave it only four stars (only) because the first part of the book was a little slow and did make me unexpectedly dull. But, as the story goes on it become better and better, until the end. It was very, very good. :-)

At last, I would recommended it to anyone who do not have a weak heart and do like a horror stories.

By by...

F.R. says

David Ash, a cynical and jaded investigator of the paranormal (or 'irregular-normal') heads out to a country house to investigate – and disprove – a tale of a haunting. It's a nice set up, as in this disbelieving ghost hunter figure, there's both a great knowledge of the supernatural *and* an immense scepticism. As such he can spout of all the ghostly rules that a book like this needs, while at the same time being totally shocked when things start to get out of hand. Indeed the world weary man with a scarred past is a type which normally features in crime novels (the opening on the train actually reminded me of Michael Caine at the beginning of 'Get Carter', except he was going North while Ash is heading West), but it works so well in a ghost story setting too.

The ridiculously generic title tells you the type of tale this is going to be, and on that score it never disappoints. There are things going bump in the night, situations which aren't what they first appear and a big, terrifying conclusion. To be fair I guessed what the twist would be about halfway through, but it didn't really harm my enjoyment – in fact, getting to watch all the pieces slip into place, may have made it even more fun. This is a short, sharp and scary story (albeit, with a little bit of padding), which I would definitely recommend if you have a couple of hours spare and feel like some chills.

Dark-Draco says

I've read this book more than once and still enjoy it. David Ash is a paranormal investigator, but with a cynical outlook that has him continually unmasking fakes, frauds and con-artists. The Merriel haunting should be just another case, but the three siblings and their old Aunt seem to be delighted to tease him and play games ... even put his life in danger. But it is the links to his own past that cause the biggest scares.

I think I like this because there is no nonsense - it gets right on with the story, setting the scene quickly and playing out the action over three nights. There is no drawn out, overdone prose trying to get you frightened, it just does it by describing what Ash is going through. To be honest, the 'twist' in the tale isn't that hard to spot, but I think that makes a good horror story - if the reader is one step of the protagonist and can see what is going to happen, our fear and emotions are heightened.

Great read - onto the next in the trilogy.

Adam Light says

David Ash is sent to a remote village to investigate a haunting at the Edbrook house. Ash is renowned for debunking supernatural phenomenon, and he dives into this assignment ready to do just that.

Too bad the place is really haunted.

Well executed, but fairly predictable ghost story with some genuinely hair raising scenes.

I will certainly read the rest of the series.

Nancy Oakes says

can't think of a star rating I'm happy with right off the top of my head right now.

Back when I initially read *Haunted* (which was probably in the 90s), for some reason I thought it was one of the best haunted house stories I'd ever read; now rereading it, I think that it had its moments, it was fun, but in the end, it's really only the ending that saved this story from being just another ho-hum haunted house story. Before anyone who is a huge James Herbert fan starts mentally pelting me with rotten tomatoes, consider the fact that eons and a growing taste for more sophisticated haunted house stories now stand between this reading and my first time with it. What I did notice most prominently about it this time around, and what I really enjoy about it in the long run is that it's really quite twisted in a hugely-ironic way, and what the author's done here turns his story into something wholly unexpected.

plot (if you want it) without spoilers can be found [here](#); if not, just keep reading.

The sad thing is that up to the last few pages, and I'm really sorry major Herbert fans, what happens along the way may have been earth shattering in the 80s but well, kind of old hat by now. That's not saying I didn't like it, but it really is a book that depends on its final few pages for the major shock value.

On the flip side, it was fun revisiting this novel even if I no longer think it's the greatest haunted house story ever told.

Chaitra says

I give it a 3.4 rather BCOZ u can can make out how the ending is when you are half way into the book.! I still dont understand if he (the Protagonist) was facing reality or the illusion sorted out for him. On the whole if ur new to the horror genre. This book is a def recommended!

TK421 says

Stephen King gushes over James Herbert; I don't see why. Herbert is a decent writer and storyteller, to be sure; but, I found nothing fascinating about HAUNTED. For a haunted-house story, it was pretty clear from the beginning that Herbert never intended to do anything different from the already established sub-genre of horror fiction (how can a writer expect to top THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE?). With that said, it does have an interesting protagonist, an anti-hero named David who is battling his own personal demons while trying to debase the supernatural. But the supporting cast in this novel is laughable. (view spoiler) Overall, this is a fast read that suits the Halloween atmosphere. Perhaps because it was written in the early 80s some of the pizzazz has been lost. Perhaps. You could do worse for a "fright" read. That being said, I am still going to read some of Herbert's other titles, they just won't be moving to the top of the TBR pile any time soon.

RECOMMENDED (with reservations)

Becky says

This was another of the BOGO Audible selections I picked up last month, and to be honest, I wasn't sure what to expect. I listened to the sample probably 4 times before taking the plunge and going for it anyway, because the reader didn't really do much for me, but it was one of those scenarios where I wasn't completely in "NOPE." mode either. I was just undecided which way it would go - whether I'd end up enjoying the reader or whether I'd regret it. I'm rather picky about audiobook readers, and generally I can tell after just a few seconds of sample time whether I'll want to listen to a reader for an entire book or not. (There was one sample I listened to where the first words were "ABEL, HELP!!!" and that's all I heard before I stopped it. Literally one two-word sentence was enough for me to know that the reader would have ruined the book for me.)

Anyway, this was one that, thankfully, ended up being enjoyable. There was a section of the book where many, many voices were being channeled in extremely rapid and random succession, and that section was extremely well-read. Well, either well-read or well-edited. Could go either way there. The rest of it was enjoyable too, but that scene stands out in my mind for being the best read of the book. I liked how the reader gave each character his or her own personality and voice, but it didn't feel cartoonish or caricaturish - just natural. Which is pretty important to me. I cannot stand when the reader gets in the way of the characters.

So, in all actuality, though I was undecided on the reader at first, the reading itself ended up being the high-point of this one. I enjoyed the story, but it wasn't all that unique or ground-breaking, and there were times

when I was either confused or frustrated by the way that the story was told, and by some of the characters.

For instance, we get a mostly 3rd person limited perspective throughout the story, seeing things as David does, but not being inside his head. But then there are times when the story shifts perspective randomly to other characters, and then other times when the story shifts to flashbacks, and then times when it shifts to other characters' flashbacks. It wasn't necessarily hard to keep up, but it was kind of confusing when all of a sudden we're at a seance instead of in the car, with no explanation of how we got there except for a minor reference to the flashback that's to come. But I don't always expect a reference to a character's past to result in a full replay of the scene, and there were times when I didn't see it as necessary at all. It was more like it was just padding to fill out examples of fraud vs real paranormal events.

And then we have inexplicable actions or just blatant ignorance from some of the characters, and I found myself annoyed. For example, when a medium who works with David and his on-again/off-again girlfriend mentions to the semi-girlfriend that she's concerned that David is in trouble, she's blown off SEVERAL TIMES. And considering past situations where the semi-girlfriend is concerned about David in a very girlfriend-y "I want the best for you, so take care of yourself, please!" way, it just seemed out of character for her to so roundly ignore their mutual friend who would have the means to know his situation.

The ending was a bit of a disappointment as well. I saw the "twist" coming from a mile away, and then I was really disappointed that there was no closure to the story, and I really felt that there should have been.

But, as I said, it was enjoyable, but do I wish that it was a little better fleshed out and... finished.

Siobhan says

Deciding to jump headfirst into the world of David Ash is one of the best choices that a person can make. David Ash is one of the best characters I have found in a very long time, being easy to understand as well as being much fun to read – developing so much across the three books.

In this first instalment of the parapsychologist we're thrown into a classic ghost story. It's a relatively short story compared to the other books in the series but it works to set the scene for the following books, giving you the understanding of David Ash that you need. It is possible to read the three books in any order but it is much better for the reader if they are read in order. The biggest downfall, for me, was the predictability of some aspects of the book: some aspects are really easy to work out – not just for myself but other people who I have given the book to borrow. Regardless, it is very much worth a read.

Maciek says

Gripping novel with a finale that shocked me !

Daria says

Naszym g?ówny bohaterem jest Dawid Ash, który pracuje w specjalnym Instytucie, zajmuj?cym si? wszelkimi nietypowymi zjawiskami, uznanymi cz?sto przez zwyk?ych ludzi za nadprzyrodzone. Sam Dawid

uchodzi za mistrza udowadniania, że to jedynie wymysł. Poznajemy go, gdy wyrusza na kolejne zlecenie do pani Webb do Edbrook.

W kwestiach technicznych – prawdę mówi, księżka nie stoi językowo na zbyt wysokim poziomie. Dalej jest już znacznie lepiej, ale na początku powtórzenia mogą razić. Ciężko powiedzieć czy zawini trochę tłumacz (szczególnie, że mój egzemplarz jest pierwszym wydaniem), czy faktycznie szau nie ma też w oryginale, ale całościowo książkę czyta się dozwolnie. Jednak są kolejne rzeczy, za które lecą minusy. Już w pierwszym rozdziale usłyszymy nie raz, że Dawid nie pamięta szczegółów swojego koszmaru (jakby raz nie wystarczy). Również Dawid, który stron wcześniej twierdzi, że nawet lepiej, że nie może w pogoni napić się czegoś mocniejszego, bo nie wypada, żeby klient na dzień dobry poczuł alkohol, to gdy już dociera na miejsce nagle o tym zapomina i pierwsze co zamówi w pubie to wódka (czyli stron później). Ach, jaki ty konsekwentny.

Już nie wspominając jak grupie jest proponowanie swojemu kierowcy wypicie drinka. Serio?

Mój uwagę zwróci też dialog między współpracownikami Dawida – Kate i Edith. Przypomina mi to dziwny prób przedstawienia czytelnikowi jak wygląda praca w Instytucie i co się będzie działo. Pozwól sobie na cytowanie (nie ma tu niczego istotnego dla fabuły, więc bez obaw):

„[Edith] – Właśnie się nad tym zastanawiam. W Instytucie jest zawsze pełno roboty, a właśnie zbliża się termin otwarcia Konferencji Parapsychologicznej...

- To fakt. Sam udział w dorocznej konferencji wiążę się zawsze z dużym wysiłkiem, a tym razem należymy do organizatorów.

- No właśnie. Poza tym jeszcze prowadzicie obecnie wiele badań.

- Tak się składa. Na szczęście, w większości przypadków nie potrzeba wiele czasu, aby badane zjawiska zakwalifikować do zupełnie naturalnych, pomimo iż pewne okoliczności mogłyby wskazywać, że jest inaczej.

- Masz rację, ale są też takie przypadki, które zabierają nam tygodnie, a czasami nawet miesiące wyjątkowej pracy.

- Prawda. Ale właśnie te przypadki cenimy sobie najbardziej – powiedziała Kate krojąc jajko.”

Dlaczego mówi sobie rzeczy oczywiste, o których obie doskonale wiedzą? Wygląda to dziwnie.

Szczególnie, że w dalszej części dialogu temat tej konferencji już nie występuje.

Jeśli chodzi o bohaterów, to o ile ciotkę Webb nawet polubiłam, to jednak pozostali domownicy na pewno nie grzeszyli odpowiedzialnością. Chyba obca jest im zasada ograniczonego zaufania do swojego psa, gdy są goście na jego terenie (szczególnie, jak się ma akurat takiego psa). Ich niedojrzałość też denerwuje – dorośli ludzie wiadomi dziwnej i trudnej sytuacji, w której się znaleźli, chwilami mentalnie cofali się do poziomu mieszkańców. A mi żal było pani Webb. Zachowanie bohaterów wydawało mi się chwilami całkiem bezsensowne. Chociaż wszystko można wybaczyć, gdy pozna się już zakończenie.

Główny bohater, chociaż mało konsekwentny w swoich postanowieniach alkoholowych, jednak nie był denerwujący. Całkiem przyjemny facet i chwilami trudno się dziwić, że jest sfrustrowany i po prostu wkurzony. Byłabym w stanie przeczytać kolejne książki z jego udziałem.

Co do fabuły: było ok. Na pierwszy rzut oka główny problem mógł wydawać się dozwolny, ale z czasem zaczyna się bardzo interesujący obrót sprawy, który niekoniecznie jest dobry dla bohaterów i warto przebrnąć przez początek dla ostatnich rozdziałów. Chociaż chwilami czuję jakby ta „intryga” była cięgnięta na siłę. Nie chciałam za wszelką cenę poznać prawdy – bardziej denerwująca była ta zmowa milczenia. Chociaż im dalej, tym książka lepiej się rozkręca. Rozdziały są krótkie, zachowana jest równowaga między opisami a akcją. Nie ma czegoś za dużo czy za mało. Sceny poboczne były naprawdę w

porz?dku.

Ksi??ka, która w moim wydaniu jest króciutka (191 stron) i któr? mog?abym przeczyta? w jeden dzie?, czyta?am jednak kilka dni. Nie wiem czy to dlatego, ?e nie robi?am sobie przerwy po poprzedniej ksi??ce (któr? do?? mocno prze?y?am), czy dlatego, ?e nie mog?am kompletnie wczu? si? w histori? i jako? niezbyt interesowa?o mnie, co b?dzie dalej. Ale nie zra?a?abym si? mo? ocen?. Je?li kto? chce poczyta? jaki? krótki, ca?kiem przyjemny horror, to ?mia?o.

Rozwa?a?am nawet podci?gni?cie na 3 gwiazdki, ale popatrzy?am te? na to pod k?tem innych ksi??ek, które oceni?am na 3, wi?c uzna?am jednak 2 za najlepsz? opcj?.

Dreadlocksmile says

First published back in 1988, 'Haunted' was Herbert's fourteenth full length novel to be published.

'Haunted' was the first novel to introduce the anti-hero character of David Ash, who later returned in Herbert's 1994 novel 'The Ghosts Of Sleath', which takes on the role of a loose sequel to 'Haunted'.

From the very beginning the reader soon becomes accustomed to Ash's bad habits, cynical view on life and overall downbeat traits, of which followers of Herbert's work will recognise as a somewhat recurring theme within his novels. Ash is certainly not a polished, goodie-two-shoes type of character, and this in itself gives the novel a harder and more true to life feel to it.

The book follows the classic structure of a 'haunted house' novel, laying down the premise of a possible supernatural presence from the offset. Herbert carefully builds the underlying tension of the storyline, interweaving the sub-plots of the developing character relationships, whilst still subtly hinting to the reader an uneasy atmosphere to the whole scenario.

With suggestive bursts of ghostly appearances that become more and more frequent as the tale progresses, the old cliché of "am I going insane" is thrown into the equation, until finally the horrifying truth is revealed in an almost explosive manner.

For sheer nail biting tension this novel delivers the goods from the very first page until the dramatic final conclusion. Well written, Herbert weaves a tale that beckons the reader into the storyline, with heart-stopping suspense that you can cut with a knife.

At only 224 pages in length, you will find yourself wondering how you managed to get so absorbed in the novel in such a short span of pages.

The film director Lewis Gilbert (him of James Bond fame no less) later went on to make the film adaptation of 'Haunted' in 1995 of the same name. The film did not stick particularly firmly to the course of Herbert's original tale, but is nevertheless a reasonably enjoyable film.
