



Haunted

Tamara Thorne

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Its violent, sordid past is what draws bestselling author David Masters to the infamous Victorian mansion called Baudey House. Its shrouded history of madness and murder is just the inspiration he needs to write his ultimate masterpiece of horror. But what waits for David and his sixteen-year-old daughter, Amber, at Baudey House, is more terrifying than any legend...

First comes the sultry hint of jasmine. . . followed by the foul stench of decay. It is the dead, seducing the living, in an age-old ritual of perverted desire and unholy blood lust. For David and Amber, an unspeakable possession has begun. . .

Haunted Details

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Author : Tamara Thorne

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From Reader Review Haunted for online ebook

Beth says

Wish this came in ebook format. I've long since lost my copy. But it was a fun ghost story read. I really liked it. In fact, I really liked most of Tamara's books. None of which I own (lost lots of books in a move) and aren't in ebook form. Bummer.

Sarah Mac says

Overall, very good. It does tend to wander at times (if I was an editor, I'd strongly suggest trimming 50-75 pages), but perhaps that's my personal preference getting in the way. In my mind, shorter & tighter makes for the best bloodspray.

Anyway. Thorne's style is clean, concise, & evocative, with sprinkles of dark humor thrown in -- very much to my taste -- & this book is definitely a throwback to 70s classics as opposed to modern (i.e., post-1990) splatterpunk Saw-type stuff. *thumbs up* While there are brief bits of gore (the mass-murder description is pretty gross), it's mostly retrospective -- crime scenes, letters, etc. The bulk of the book is a psycho-sexual haunting that relies on atmosphere & terror, particularly the fear of warped desires. Our hero David & his daughter Amber move into Baudey House for research purposes (David is a successful horror author), but get more than they bargained for with a ghostly mother-daughter feud still going strong after 75 years. There are missing bodies, voodoo, blood-filled dolls, nosy townsfolk, possessions, succubus sex, undead murderers, phallic doorknobs, & lewd stained glass, all of which culminate in a costume ball, a seance, & a torture chamber filled with decayed skeletons.

In short: lots of elements I like in gothic horror. ;)

Strong 4 stars, worth a read if you like Old Skool style. There's a noticeable sense of *The Shining*, *Hell House*, *13 Ghosts*, & *Sweetheart Sweetheart*; there's also a good bit of *American Horror Story*'s 'murder house,' but this was pub'd like 15 years before that show began, so I suppose it's the other way around...eh, whatever. I'm surprised this never became a film, but it's probably for the best. Hollywood rarely treats quiet horror with respect. ?

Randy Wiggins says

This is by far one of the BEST haunted house novels ever written. The book reminds me of the great haunted house books of years past, then goes one better. The characterization is top notch., the frights are shocking and in all the right places. This is a highly enjoyable book and deserves far more attention than it was given on it's first release. I hear it is soon to be re-issued. If you haven't read it yet, do so, you won't regret it.

Sheila says

Probably 2.5 stars. I was disappointed in this book; it's been on my radar for years as a good haunted-house novel. The plot was okay, though nothing new (but I don't read ghost stories for originality; I love the tropes of the genre). The writing was pretty bad (lots of unnecessary side plots that went nowhere, horrible dialogue (especially the teenage daughter), and characters acting irrationally or going back on actions/beliefs/words of previous chapters. I'm not sure the plot really made sense. The prevalent sexism was annoying too, and overall the book felt dated. Still, I liked the house itself and the dolls were interesting.

Finally, this e-version is an unedited port, and the common conversion errors (missing punctuation, etc.) were widespread.

Robert Beveridge says

Tamara Thorne, *Haunted* (Pinnacle, 1995)

I'm crazy about Tamara Thorne. It's refreshing (to say the least) to find a writer of good old-fashioned haunted house novels these days; this is probably the first (aside from Thorne's own *Bad Things*) I've come across, chronologically, since Paula Trachtman published *Disturb Not the Dream* some twenty years ago, that doesn't have some sort of post-atomic ecological message to shove in my face or some sort of hardboiled-mystery natural explanation. (We'll conveniently overlook Barbara Michaels. After all, she writes romances, delicious as they are, not horror novels.) And that, alone, is enough reason for me to automatically slap above-average status on Miz Thorne's every word.

The only problem, really, and I will be the first to say this may be my fault for reading two of Thorne's novels so close together, is that the words seem remarkably similar between *Haunted* and *Bad Things*. We have a single (male) parent moving to California with child(ren) who are sure (we know, as the author winks at us) to be placed in the path of great danger, though the parent doesn't know this. There's a friend at home who, at a moment of crisis, must come out to assist with everything, and the child(ren) has/ve an obsession with taking the car and the Visa card into town (because, of course, we're out in the middle of nowhere). The ghosties, ghoulies, and long-leggetie beasties can't be seen by the rest of us most of the time, but they materialize in order to convince the townsfolk they do exist, thanks to some mechanism that forces them farther into our reality. Etc.

Formula? Absolutely. It's switch-the-characters as much as Barbara Cartland. But Thorne is a far finer writer than Cartland (or Danielle Steel and Nora Roberts, Cartland's living heirs of the multibillion dollar romance market), and at least the characters being switched out are not carbon copies of one another, despite their similar situations. The differences in character from book to book are enough to keep the reader going, which is necessary through some of the book's slower points. (The protagonist here is a writer, and Thorne tells us he's always somewhat nervous through the first half of his books, then towards the end starts writing obsessively, often finishing them in a few weeks. *Haunted*, it should surprise no one, is paced exactly this way.)

Thorne does *Bad Things* one better here, with the inclusion of a nasty erotic side to this particular ghost that one couldn't introduce to the Green Man in *Bad Things* (at least, not without ludicrous chuckles from the audience). This is balanced out by the somewhat slower plot development in the first half of the novel, but once it takes off, it most certainly takes off. The book becomes more compelling as each page turns, until the last hundred pages, which demand to be devoured in one gulp.

Haunted and Bad Things are pretty equal in quality, and Haunted only gets half a star less because I read it second. If you like one, you'll probably like the other. Just don't read them back to back, or the similarities will throw you off. *** 1/2

Amy says

I was unfamiliar with the works of Tamara Thorne until I picked this up at a drug store just before a long flight. As it turned out, I couldn't put it down while on vacation! This was a fantastic ghost story and perfect for this time of year! The detail that this author goes into describing the setting and characters was remarkable! This book took numerous turns which to me, were quite unexpected and I love that in a book. The majority of the characters were relateable and likeable. I would definately recommend this if you enjoy being good and scared in the middle of the night.

Kelly Truelove says

This is one of the best haunted house stories I've read in a a while. I killed this off in two sittings just before bed and had a blast with it. I was engaged and sucked into the story, turning the pages as quickly as I could and loving every minute of it. It's not full of gore and junk that abounds in so much of recent horror. Sometimes the best books are those you might have overlooked, and this, for me, was one of them. Very highly recommended!

Jennifer says

Probably my favorite book in this genre.

Jonathan says

“Haunted” by Tamara Thorne is, as one might guess, a story about a haunted house. I finished it today and I can easily say that this is one of all-time favorite books, and certainly the best haunted house story I have ever read. It’s about a horror writer who purposely buys a storied haunted house, and moves in. A typical set up, but of course most haunted house stories require such a set up to work. It is set in a small town and most of the residents know the history of Lizzie and her evil daughter Christabel who lived there many years ago through tragedy and malevolence and supposedly do the haunting. The novel interjects a good bit of bawdy humor (pun intended) and had me chuckling in some scenes, tense in others, and without a doubt turning page after page (or I should say, clicking the “next page” button on my kindle). The characters were well developed and entertaining, and I could envision them interacting easily. Sometimes it takes me a while to warm up to characters, or to dislike the bad ones, but that didn’t happen here. I fell in with them right away. It’s hard for me to find novels like this, and at some point I was even feeling nostalgic for horror of the past, like the old black and white movies. It had that feel at several points, with the big house and the hidden dungeon and panels. It really has a bit of everything. It’s at once scary, funny, sarcastic, delightfully uncouth, fun, creepy, and even sweet in a few scenes. I can’t recommend this one highly enough! Superb!

Ms. Nikki says

David Master is an author who loves the paranormal and sets out to discredit and disabuse people of the notion of real ghosts. Baudey House is renowned for its deadly history and it attracts David and his daughter, Amber.

The story starts off at a steady pace as we learn about the town, the people, and the history behind Baudey House and the people who died there.

Once, there was a woman who ran the house as a brothel and helped women who had no place to go or who needed money to care for themselves. She soon had a daughter and as she began to grow, the woman noticed how she watched the men and the lascivious looks she tossed their way. Her daughter was not right. Voodoo is at the core of this story as it plays a hand in how the ghosts are able to stay around.

I don't want to give too much of the story away, but I will say that the pacing was off at times during the beginning of the book. We got a huge dose of interesting information and then we were left alone to explore the goings-on in the town and then the pacing would pick back up.

I really liked this ghostly tale and will look for more of Thorne's reads.

Jack +Books & Bourbon+ says

Well, they sure don't write them like this anymore. Or very rarely anyways. Written in the mid 90's, it feels older than that, modems and in-house fax machines aside. Graphic, mildly explicit, and altogether engrossing, this is horror done right. I wasn't a big fan of the ending or the final showdown with the big bad, and some of the dialogue was too cutesy and cheesy, but those quibbles were more than offset by the atmosphere, killings, and general naughtiness.

Reminds me of the heyday of horror movies (late 70's through late 90's), when some people were evil just because they wanted to be, victims were killed in increasingly inventive ways, and people had sex because, well, why not? This book is those movies written down. Don't get me wrong, I love cerebral works and I love the backstories to some of our greatest villains. I do love me some heady, thought provoking material. But...sometimes you just gotta go old-school simple. And "Haunted" fits the bill perfectly. It is an enjoyable retro romp that offers both steams and screams, and was just what the doctor ordered.

Martin says

Fun and engaging. Full review here: <http://thescarefactor.blogspot.ca/201...>

Tracey Weatherley says

Loved it!!

Alistair Cross says

After reading several of Tamara Thorne's other novels, I suggested that Haunted be the book-of-the-month for my book club. After reading it, we all decided to incorporate Tamara Thorne's novels regularly into our picks. Haunted is both eerie and enchanting, equally whimsical and contemplative, and proportionately bold and mysterious. With Haunted, Thorne dances the razor's edge of literary and commercial fiction with the expert dexterity of a master storyteller. I recommend this book to anyone who isn't afraid to come face to face with what lies waiting in the dark corners of their own imaginations. Five stars...but only because five is the limit!

Gen says

This book was very well done!! When I seen on the cover page that Nancy Holder, bestselling author, compared it to "Ghost Story" I must say I was skeptical. "Ghost Story" by Peter Straub, was to me one of the best ghost storie's I had ever read! But, after reading this exceptional work by Tmara Thorne, I must agree with Miss Holder.

This book kept me going night after night with it's creepy occurences happening so often I could barley go out after dark. NO Spoilers.. This book is defintely worth your time to read. You will be on a rollercoaster ride to the very end. But trust me the end of the book will leaving you wanting for nothing more than to read another book by Miss Thorne!
