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House of Darkness



House of Light

The True Story

Volume One

Andrea Perron



Synopsis

Roger and Carolyn Perron purchased the home of their dreams and eventual nightmares in December of 1970. The Arnold Estate, located just beyond the village of Harrisville, Rhode Island seemed the idyllic setting in which to raise a family. The couple unwittingly moved their five young daughters into the ancient and mysterious farmhouse. Secrets were kept and then revealed within a space shared by mortal and immortal alike. Time suddenly became irrelevant; fractured by spirits making their presence known then dispersing into the ether. The house is a portal to the past and a passage to the future. This is a sacred story of spiritual enlightenment, told some thirty years hence. The family is now somewhat less reticent to divulge a closely-guarded experience. Their odyssey is chronicled by the eldest sibling and is an unabridged account of a supernatural excursion. Ed and Lorraine Warren investigated this haunting in a futile attempt to intervene on their behalf. They consider the Perron family saga to be one of the most compelling and significant of a famously ghost-storied career as paranormal researchers. During a séance gone horribly wrong, they unleashed an unholy hostess; the spirit called Bathsheba – a God-forsaken soul. Perceiving herself to be mistress of the house, she did not appreciate the competition. Carolyn had long been under siege; overt threats issued in the form of fire – a mother's greatest fear. It transformed the woman in unimaginable ways. After nearly a decade the family left a once beloved home behind though it will never leave them, as each remains haunted by a memory. This tale is an inspiring testament to the resilience of the human spirit on a pathway of discovery: an eternal journey for the living and the dead.

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Customer Reviews

This is not your average horror or ghost haunting story It's about the spiritual journey of one family that had no background or belief in ghosts or hauntings and yet were able to arrive in a place where they found the ability from within to go through all of the many experiences they encountered and that shaped their lives during those 10 years and come out stronger at the end. Fascinating, interesting uplifting and a good read.

After seeing the movie, The Conjuring, I really wanted to read the book. I really enjoyed how the author kept my interest throughout the whole book. It was very hard to stop reading & I did lose much sleep because of that, lol. I would definitely recommend this book to anybody who has seen the movie or anyone who is into True ghost stories. I can't wait to start volume two :)

I'm an absolute skeptic, but am always looking for well-written and entertaining ghost stories. I bought this book after hearing the author on a ghost story podcast. Andrea was very personable during the interview and I was intrigued to hear (or read) more about the story behind the movie, "The Conjuring." Today was my second attempt at reading it. I'm afraid I didn't get very far and have given up entirely. Sadly, the strange placement of commas and quote marks and confusing bold/italicized words (e.g. "snow day" in chapter one) were far too distracting and I couldn't get past the first chapter. I didn't even get to any part related to the happenings in the house. I'm sure there's an interesting story in there, but some serious editing (and possibly a paring-down of the content) is needed. The language was also very flowery and I'm sure this contributed - unnecessarily - to the length.

I really liked both of the books and can't wait for Volume 3 to come out. There was a few places that

were drawn out and a lot of things that she wrote about that didn't necessarily have to do with the haunting perhaps but more about the way she and her family felt during all this time and her looking back at it now. People have criticized her writing and grammar but is that what is important in a book? I don't think so. I think being able to communicate to a stranger how her family felt when they were going through something so spiritual is what is important. She made me love the farm as much as her family did. There were times that I cried for Carolyn for what she was going through, especially with her husband. I feel a connection with the farm and the Perron family and I don't even know them. I did watch *The Conjuring* after reading the books and to me the movie wasn't scary and I wish they could have shown more of the beauty of the farm, but being a Horror movie of course they couldn't do that. I do wish the family would have explored the other cellar that was on the property more...

I bought the book not understanding it was written in story form in third person. I have to say I did enjoy that aspect of it. I like the spiritual side given from someone who has lived through this. The only complaint is I do wish the story had played out in chronological order, as I became confused as to time and circumstance many times. Downloading book 2 now!

I saw the film *The Conjuring* and I wanted to know more about the case and the Warrens.

I've read two of the Warren's books and I came back to this case because they haven't written one about it and they hadn't made any significant mentions of the case that I could easily find elsewhere, so I decided to read

Andrea's first two books. I got what I wanted and more, so I rated it five stars. I got the impression from reading the reviews that even though the rating system is pretty simple: hated it/loved it, it turned into more of a writing style rating system for some reviewers. What I liked the most about book 1: This is a rare experience. New England has lots of old houses, some are haunted with spirits, and this book is a privileged peek into what living in a haunted house with an evil spirit was like and how the family of seven were affected by their decade at the farm. Despite all the chaos the spirits created in the Perron's home, Andrea did a good job of depicting how their life in the countryside was pretty ideal and peaceful. There's always a sense of balance in the book: for example, the evil Bathsheba, trapping a child in a trunk in contrast with the benevolent spirits at Fran's house helping to turn the sheet music when Andrea plays the piano. Even Andrea's passages of deep analysis is balanced with fun throughout the book. I also liked the occasional

philosophical analysis and the Socratic style of questioning which allows the reader to examine his or her preconceived ideas about spirits and the paranormal, and not just vicariously experience these events through the family members. I don't think some of the other reviewers have considered the benefits of this approach and can consequently fail to get a deeper awareness of what this family's journey was like. I agree that the enlightenment is in the question, not the answer. It makes perfect sense that unwillingly sharing a house haunted with so many spirits and an evil one like Bathsheba would create more questions than answers. Before reading this book, I listened to *American Sniper* by Chris Kyle. He could see a target through his rifle's scope better than he could see himself because his book was fairly lacking in insight. I don't think that he really reflected on his experiences to understand the world more deeply. This was the next book I choose to read and I appreciate the academic and philosophical approach she took to make sense of a deceptively idyllic environment that in some ways seems very similar to Fallujah. (By the way, this book was scarier than reading about the Iraq war.) What I disliked about it: I did not like how the book affected me. I had been reading it through the night and was on the page about how Bathsheba would stop clocks in the house at 5:15am and just after I read that I looked at the time and it was exactly 5:15am. Very, very creepy. I had to put the book away for a little while. For me, the story affected me the way some people are affected by studying the grisly details of the Holocaust, slavery, or the Apartheid -- you get too close to it and it seems to get too close to you and you need to take a break and be away from it for awhile. I also didn't feel comfortable with Andrea's depiction of Bathsheba Sherman in the book, which I will explain below. What I still don't understand after seeing the film and reading the first book: Is Bathsheba a ghost or is she a demon? In the film, Bathsheba possesses Carolyn very rapidly and it takes an exorcism to force her to leave; she is also capable of leaving the area she haunts; she leaves the Perron house in order to attack the Warren's daughter, so it fits to call her a demon; in contrast, in the first book, Bathsheba seems less systematic, intelligent, and less powerful than a demon. I don't recall coming across stories of the children having a dramatic encounter with Bathsheba outside of the house or after moving away for college other than a few times when she followed people in a car who were driving away from the farm. Her ambitions are fairly human: to be the respected mistress of the house; above all, to have its dwellers follow her, not Satan; yet her presence is accompanied by a rapid plunge in temperature (psychic cold) and a foul stench. I thought the spirit of a person who was once alive cannot become a demon, as a demon is a fallen angel who was never alive on Earth to begin with. They're different types of

entities even if they are playing for the same team. I read the book hoping that there would be a clear distinction, but I realize that in real life such distinctions might be blurred or unknowable. What should have been clearer in the first book: After reading 500 pages, I felt that there was some important information that was omitted, or somehow not emphasized as much as it needed to be. It could be that the writing style did lead to things getting overshadowed by the philosophical musings, descriptive sentences and the lengthy passages about all the feelings involved, and so forth, but in any case I felt that these things should have been clearer:

1. If Bathsheba were a living person, then by the end of the first book she would be serving hard time in prison for multiple attempts at murder. She could also be charged with assault with a deadly weapon, arson, damage and theft of property, creating mental and emotional distress, being a creepy groper, and so on and so on and so on. Whatever she really is -- and even if she does have feelings of genuine ghostly love for Roger and some of his kids -- her behavior is very criminal compared to the other spirits, and she kept the family, Carolyn especially, living in real and present danger for nearly 10 years.
2. It isn't very clear what Bathsheba means to Andrea. Why doesn't Andrea pass harsher judgement on her after she beat and nearly murdered her mother? In the first part of the book, before even seeing the house, Andrea broke a neighborhood boy's nose after he murdered her dog. (Coincidentally, the dog was also named Bathsheba and as another reviewer mentioned this strange coincidence is not explained or explored.) By the end of the first book, I got the impression that Andrea is a little attached to Bathsheba, the witch. One of the spirits in the house, evidently a very creepy one, caught Andrea's boyfriend cheating on her with one of her sisters and scared him away from the farm and the family. The book says he eventually died young of a drug overdose. After the incident with Andrea's (ex)boyfriend, there is an account of the first time Bathsheba manifested in solid form in front of Roger. Andrea takes on a more critical tone towards Roger for being rude to her and speaking to her without the decorum and deference that Andrea seems to feel Bathsheba is entitled to in "her house". I don't know if these events happened in chronological order, or if they were just written in chronological order, but it seems the writer has misplaced sympathy for the devil. The real life Bathsheba Sherman was formally tried for murdering an infant and found guilty in the court of public opinion. She was accused of abusing her household staff. She was regarded as a witch in a time before Wicca and 'witchcraft-lite' occult practices. She may not even be resting under her headstone because the townspeople didn't want her buried in consecrated ground. She didn't make better choices after death.
3. To what extent did relationships between the spirits and the living inhabitants manifest? It's clear there was mutual

dislike between Carolyn and Bathsheba, but I've learned elsewhere online that there was a relationship between April and the spirit of the young boy she saw right after moving in, and that Bathsheba lusted after Roger. She broke items in the house knowing he would take them into the cellar to repair them, where he felt icy fingers on his back on more than one occasion. I'm looking forward to reading the second book and am hoping that some of these lingering questions will be answered. This is my first book review on . I didn't like all the negativity of the reviewers. It did impact how I read the book and it's a very rare type of book to read, so I felt the need to discuss and analyze more than average. I wish some people would remember that others are reading these reviews to get more information about the book & decide if they will buy it and read it, too. This is more of a memoir -- not a novel, told in vignettes. A novel is a work of fiction and it DOES NOT need to follow a strictly linear timeline, as 100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez shows. They lived in a house with timeless spirits who sometimes appear young or old, and I think the time jumping is kind of appropriate. It was almost like flipping through a family photo album. As for the academic writing style with no editor -- I think it adds to the authenticity and even a good editor could have done more harm than good with the story. Andrea's the eldest and this fits the birth order psychology theory that the eldest is the most academically driven and the most likely to become a professor. If a revised, abridged version is ever published, it might be helpful to separate the telling of the story from the deeper philosophical analysis; perhaps by concisely telling the facts and feelings of the story in the first part of the chapter, and then have the second part of the chapter be about analyzing what those events could mean. Separating the content gives the those readers who need the graded reader version a sense of control over how much enlightenment and academia they're exposed to while reading the story, so maybe, maybe, maybe they could come back to the more insightful parts at a later time, and it'd keep those readers who need to explore this topic more deeply happy as well.

I believe this is a pretty good book, very different than the movie about this family's experience in this house. While I agree with many of the other reviewers in their criticism of the writing, particularly in the fact that Ms. Parron is quite a bit more verbose than is necessary, but given that this appears to be her first book I think that it certainly achieves the task of relating a very interesting story. It is a valuable account of their experiences in some very unique circumstances and, for the most part, I enjoyed it very much and look forward to the second book.

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