



Encyclopedia Horrifica: Terrifying Truth About Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters, and More

Joshua Gee

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Bursting with eerie photos and Special Investigations, a nonfiction compendium of all things ghoulish and ghastly--from Aliens to Zombies!

Vampires, ghosts, monsters, and more--ENCYCLOPEDIA HORRIFICA invites you to join our quest for the terrifying truth about all things ghoulish and ghastly. But beware! Surprises lurk at the turn of every page. . .

Discover a time line of ALIEN LIFE on earth--beginning 4 billion years ago! Meet a man recruited by the U.S. government to become a PSYCHIC SUPERSPY. Spend a dark and stormy night with professional GHOSTBUSTERS. Visit a mysterious library in search of DRACULA's shocking origins. Witness new photos of the actual sea monster that inspired the mythical KRAKEN. And much more!

Encyclopedia Horrifica: Terrifying Truth About Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters, and More Details

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Author : Joshua Gee

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From Reader Review Encyclopedia Horrifica: Terrifying Truth About Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters, and More for online ebook

Awake at Midnight says

Reviewed for: Awake at Midnight

A unique look at a myriad creeping nightmares, this Encyclopedia of Horror approaches its subject like a DK Eyewitness Book, in small sections with lots of pictures designed for a generation with attention deficit, but it manages to maintain a level of interest that is normally lost on this type of book. The lack of originality in its "overview of scary things" angle is overcome by the focus on imagination-grabbing topics like a Special Investigation of the ruins of a cursed colonial settlement, an inset balloon with the lyrics from the Ramones' Pet Sematary, and a segment on the phantom black dogs like the Black Shuck that abound in UK myth.

Examples of this book's index entries include:

Zombie Schoolgirls

Cthulhu Monster

Feejee Mermaid

Ghost Photo

Subjects range from a page on The Bell Witch to one on giant squids, a comparison between the werewolves of Hollywood and those of historic mythology, and a tour of stunning curiosity shops.

Some of the images are truly disturbing, like a two-headed baby skeleton, but this book is suitable for younger readers who have an interest in the supernatural from those who want a thought provoking introduction to ghost hunting to experienced fear fans looking for a shiver. In fact, writers of strange tales would easily be inspired to visions of things that slither and -schlupp!- in the night by perusing these pages.

An entire section on ghost hunting tells how you might make your own ghostly orb photographs, and a chapter on Zombies discusses Wade Davis' ethnographic work that discovered the drugs that can make a man into a true zombie. The compendium examines the ESP studies undertaken by major world governments and explores hoaxes, from P.T. Barnum to the War of the Worlds radio broadcast.

This is a fun book, filled with facts and pictures that stand up to re-reading numerous times. The Terrifying Truth About Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters, and More also contains something that has always held the interest of horror enthusiasts, the study of fear itself: a list of phobias and their nomenclature. It can also laugh at itself.

Dove_and_Grenade says

Great book, but mildly creepy.

This book teaches you the basics of pretty much every topic that is being debated on whether it's fictional or real, such as vampire killing, ghost hunting, turning yourself into a werewolf, and so on.

Part I: Real Nightmares!

-Dracula Lives! summarizes the differences between history's Dracula and Hollywood's Dracula, as well as

how to find and kill a vampire. It also summarizes the horror of Dracula's tomb; when archaeologists went to dig up the prince's body, they found nothing. When they dug up some of his jewels, those vanished as well. -It Came From The Sea! gives readers details on likely hoaxes of sea creature, and some information on the giant squid, which is often mistaken for the Kraken.

-Alien Invasion! offers information about many alien sightings and encounters, as well as many theories about alien life.

-Howling at the Moon describes the terrorist of France from a few centuries ago: the Beast, a wolf that enjoyed feasting on human flesh. It also describes the differences between history's werewolf and Hollywood's werewolf, as well as providing information on turning yourself into a werewolf and werewolves in general.

Part II: That's The Spirit!

-Beware of Ghosts! tells many common ghost stories, such as the story of the Bell Witch or Bloody Mary, and how to summon them, and things like that.

-To Catch a Ghost is a short story on how the author went ghost hunting with two ghost hunters, and it offers tips on ghost-catching.

-Phantoms on Film provides many photos of ghosts(or hoaxes), as well as information on how to tell if there's actually a ghost in the picture or not.

Carmen says

I'm torn on how to rate this book.

On one hand, it's awesome. A holographic skull is on the cover, and when you move the book away from you it opens it's mouth and a spider crawls out of it's eye. It's filled with amazing photographs of ghosts, fairies, werewolves, vampires, aliens, etc. It's smart and doesn't talk down to kids.

On the other hand, it is just giving you the barest taste of what's going on. It brings up these fascinating facts and concepts. You eagerly anticipate more information...and it's moved on to the next topic. I found this frustrating. I understand it's an "encyclopedia" but I wanted more in-depth explorations of the topics. I learned a little bit when I wanted to learn A LOT.

Gee is obviously a clever and funny guy. His inside cover and back cover are plastered with notebook pages from his investigations. Being the person I am, I dug out a magnifying glass and examined each one. There are very amusing and exciting. Later, when I reached the end of the book, I learned that what I had done was unnecessary - Gee has all the notebook pages blown up in a slideshow available on his website. While you view them, Nine Inch Nails plays in the background. They even solve a "mystery" presented to the reader at the end of the book.

I would say ages 10-12. But that's just my guess. Each kid is unique.

P.S. Much like "found footage" horror movies are super-popular right now, so are "found evidence" books aimed at kids regarding supernatural stuff. Most of the one's I've seen are about fairies, but I've also read ones by "dragon experts," and "monster experts." This is the first one I've read by a "horror expert."

Amanda says

This book is very interesting. I really like it, and it is funny what hoaxes some people fall for.

This book tells you about Vampires, phobias, ghosts, monsters, and More. Some of the phobias are really funny. I thought some of the ghost stories were interesting, and others were funny. I liked learning about Dracula.

Lamprini says

entertaining, filled with pictures, colours and many subjects about supernatural beings. great book.

The Reading Countess says

One of my students checked this one out at the school library. It was marked with a small sticker that read: "3-5 grade check-out only" on it. He felt like he was carrying contraband as we left the library. I expressed interest in it, and rather than sending it back on library day, he checked it out to me and asked me to read it. Full of interesting ghostly (and ghastly) tidbits that just might keep the average middle grade reader awake at night, my personal favorite was the section on pages 63-65. These pages contained photos and the readers had to decide if the photos were real or staged. Surprisingly, I didn't peek until the very end of the book. It nearly killed me, but I contained myself. Find out if the dead relative of a man really is sitting in the backseat of his car, or if the girl at the window of a burning house truly is an apparition! This is a book I plan to book talk next week-just in time for Halloween!

Ashley Johnson says

I could not get through this book. It's not that I wasn't interested in the subjects at hand, I am. It's just that this was clearly written for older elementary/early middle school. The way the book was edited visually is very appealing. The content, however, was what got me it didn't go in-depth as much as I would have liked. Had I been younger I think I would have liked this book a lot more.

Patrice Sartor says

GENRE: Non-fiction, horror, history, informational entertainment.

SUMMARY: Joshua Gee has collected a wealth of true information about untrue entities: Vampires, werewolves, merpeople, ghosts and much more. Although the subject matter revolves around what is largely deemed to be fictional, Gee presents the history behind each phenomenon, so that the reader understands why some believe in these creatures. The book has color pictures on every page, and the text is separated into an easy-to-read layout. Also included are interactive sections, such as letting the reader decide which set of facts is a hoax and which is real.

EVALUATION: I enjoyed this book, and I am certainly not in the target audience. I had fun reading it with my boys, and see the strange pictures and reading the 'eyewitness' accounts. Very well done!

WHY I WOULD INCLUDE IT: This subject matter is very appealing to tweens, and combined with this style of book formatting it makes a perfect marriage. It is quite popular, and tweens will have fun while they are learning some history.

READER'S ANNOTATION: If you've ever wondered what is true and what is a hoax regarding the world of vampires and other monsters, this is the book for you.

ITEMS WITH SIMILAR APPEAL:

- Monsterology: The Complete Book of Monstrous Beasts by Ernest Dr Drake, Dugald A. Steer, and various.
- Fear This Book: Your Guide to Fright, Horror, and Things That Go Bump in the Night by Jeff Szpirglas and Ramon Perez.
- Mythology (Ologies) by Lady Hestia Evans.
- Vampyre: The Terrifying Lost Journal of Dr. Cornelius Van Helsing by Dr. Cornelius Van Helsing.

Haram Bae says

This book was OK..... The beginning was good but then it just out of hand with all these monsters so I'm recommending the only reason to read this is if you're really bored and this is the only book left at home.

Claudia Loureiro says

Interesting.

Dorsi says

Very cool coffee table book.

Sarah Evans says

While by no means encyclopedic, this is a breezy introduction to both the unexplained and the ideas that scare us. A wide range is covered including the standard legendary monsters plus ghosts, extra-sensory powers, zombies, pixies, bad luck and phobias. The big draw here is the full-color layout of the book with plenty of eye-candy and entertainment value. Timelines and histories are given for many subjects but the sly, wise-cracking tone could confuse uninitiated readers on what's fact and what's fiction. That being said, this writing style makes for witty reading, particularly as the author interviews experts and historians of various phenomena and describes visits to eerie places and museums. Even readers who consider themselves well-versed in this area may find a new fact or two, but may also be disappointed in the fairly brief coverage given to each topic. Fortunately, there's bibliography on each included in the back with a more complete

reference list available online. To entice the reader even more, there are quizzes throughout as well as a report on the mysterious disappearance of the author, which you can supposedly solve with clues in the book and online.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Me for TeensReadToo.com

ENCYCLOPEDIA HORRIFICA is the perfect book for anyone who loves the spooky, the eerie, and the downright weird. Want to know about ghosts, vampires, ESP, werewolves, or anything else even partially paranormal? Then this is definitely the book for you!

The book is broken down into four main parts: Real Nightmares, "That's the Spirit!", Every Day is Halloween, and Fearsome Fates.

In part one, you can read about vampires, sea creatures, aliens, and werewolves. Part two covers ghosts: where to find them, how to catch them, when they've been caught on film, and animals who could have been extras on the movie Pet Sematary. Part three includes weird shops (where you can even buy a three-pound jar of dead flies), ESP and other psychic abilities, phobias and superstitions, and the most horrific books you could ever find on a bookshelf. Part four covers zombies, pixies and faeries, mummies, and everything death related.

This book is hilariously horrifying. Although that may sound like an oxymoron, author Joshua Gee has made sure to make the facts he covers interesting, funny, and entertaining. Besides being a reference book, this is one tome that you'll find yourself reading over and over again for its pure entertainment value.

Michael Morris says

I found this book on Amazon.com and i decided it was a good price for the book. Encyclopedia Horrifica is about the supernatural like ghosts, UFOs, mermaids and other things like that. They have their own explanation of what it could have been like the UFOs were just weather balloons and the do tests. One of the people who wored there had to do everything for bad luck to see if it was true, walk past a black cat, break a mirror, walk under a ladder, etc. my favorite quote was when they were doing the bad luck testing. "A hideously sunny day outside. Want to determine the safest place to position the mirror. Suddenly...CRAAASH! it slips from my fingers!" is my favorite quote because we are not sure if it was bad luck or not. This book has an interesting format as if it is a journal entry. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about the Supernatural.

Monster says

Encyclopedia Horrifica is a collection of articles on all things paranormal, from aliens to vampires to psychic powers. The end result is an unusual reference book, complete with index and selected bibliography that kids will dig into and enjoy reading. Encyclopedia Horrifica also has some educational components. For instance, it compares vampires and werewolves in the movies to their closest real world counterparts. There is an

interview with a psychic spy, an excerpt from the journal of paranormal investigators staying overnight in a haunted house, and a discussion of real life zombies. The book is also interactive, with a chatty narrator and several quizzes and activities. The book's design and visual appeal create a nice fusion of text with photographs, drawings, and a variety of other images, that will engage the reader's imagination, making this a great way to reach reluctant readers. Parents and librarians may want to keep in mind that a book like Encyclopedia Horrifica can be a "jumping off" point for interested and engaged readers, which could lead to further exploration of some surprising and possibly disturbing topics. Highly recommended for school media centers and public libraries.
