

House of Dead Trees

Joseph Duncan , Rod Redux (Writing As)

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When paranormal investigators Allen Mandel, Jane Rivers and Billy Kasch are invited to film the infamous Forester House for their popular cable television show Ghost Scouts, they think they've scored the coup of the season.

Forester House is reputed to be one of the most haunted houses in the country. For 130 years it has hosted tragedy, madness, perversion and murder, and now the Ghost Scouts team is spending the night.

The Ghost Scouts are no strangers to bizarre phenomena: glowing mists, mysterious voices and things that go bump in the night...

But Forester House is no ordinary haunting...

"House of Dead Trees is a dark and violent book... moves at a steady pace while never becoming predictable or directionless... original and truly terrifying."

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House of Dead Trees Details


Date :

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Author : Joseph Duncan , Rod Redux (Writing As)

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Genre : Horror, Paranormal, Ghosts, Fantasy, Supernatural, Thriller

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From Reader Review House of Dead Trees for online ebook

Cathy Gudger says

If you like a good ghost story, this is for you. But, it did leave me with some questions. I wish the story paid a little more attention to Allen and his wife. I wanted more of an explanation of what was going on. With that said, I still liked this novel.

Kelly says

I'm a sucker for a haunted house story, so this was a natural pick. The premise of an ancient evil encompassing a home is not a new one, but Redux is quite creative in building backstory for this house. That said, I would have enjoyed it more if as much creativity was used for his characters. They seem shallow and a bit underdeveloped - a couple are almost caricatures. That one character had suffered molestation as a child would have been more acceptable if that carried weight in the plot of the present day - but it didn't - so it seemed unnecessary. As I approached the climatic end of the book, I kept getting the feeling it was supposed to be longer; that the author was rushed to tie it all up. It's a quick read and has plenty of gruesome scares and will provide chills (even on a summer day) - so I did like it, but there was potential for more.

Terri Stalvey says

Scary

Omg, read in one sitting, scared me silly could not put it down. Advisory do not read late at night, lol but not.

Aniko Carmean says

A group of nearly-jaded ghost hunters travel to Forester House, a locale reputed to have a brutal past and plenty of supernatural activity. Forester House is built on the land previously occupied by the Onemara, or the "Dreaming People." The Onemara propitiated the dark elemental of their land, first with sky burials, and later with forcible human sacrifice. The two timelines are bound by the land in which they play out, and Duncan sets the scene for it to be believable when the two stories intersect. All of this is good, solid horror. Very good, in fact. The setting, language, and portrayal of evil are all well-executed, and a lot of fun for a dark fiction aficionado to read.

Unfortunately, there is more story in House of Dead Trees. As so often happens with horror, the "extras" weaken the story. In particular, the details about the personal lives of the ghost hunters are ultimately extraneous. We learn of a marriage on the rocks; about an abusive relationship; learn one woman relives the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. The back stories are lurid, disturbing, and compelling. I cared about how the issues would be resolved. When none of that mattered to the final outcome of any character, and when the novel ended with those scenarios largely unresolved, I was frustrated.

House of Dead Trees is an absorbing read, despite its shortcomings. The scenes of pure haunting in the Forester House and the Onemara story are excellent. The prose is full of unexpectedly beautiful turns of phrase, which is not a given in the horror genre. I would give House of Dead Trees a two and a half for those unresolved story lines, but I'm bumping it to a solid three for the quality of writing.

Angel says

This was a good book to read right around Halloween time. I think more people would read this book if it had a another title. If you like haunted house stories and strange family histories you will like this book. It kept me interested to the very end. And the end was not a disappointment. (This story made me really miss clove cigarettes! LOL)

Gloria Ann McGowan says

I really enjoyed this story very much! A real page turner. The best thing I have read by Duncan since The Vampire series. If you watch any Ghost Adventures on TV you will be sucked right in!

SUSAN REGAN says

If I like horror then this book is for u

Karen B. says

Another haunted house tale

House of Dead Trees is more than a haunted house story, in that the enemy is more than spirits of those who had passed but an entity in itself. The prologue, which begins the background of the entity was dull and I almost chose not to continue reading. What I liked about the book was the character's with each of their own life problems before the "Ghost Scouts" begin their investigation of what is reported to be one of the most haunted houses in the country. The house itself is not very different from the houses written about by Shirley Jackson and Richard Matheson, right down to the house having all kinds of angles in it. What I didn't care for was the crude "bathroom" humor between two of characters. One of the character's has celiac disease and this is a very serious disease; and the jokes about this character's problem are very inappropriate.

Yvonne Gulley says

Breath taking pros story like Steven king in the old days

You know what is going to happen but never see the steps to the plot in advance. Like all of his books it is well written. I loved this story and highly recommend to all who like to be scared waiting for the next

Claire says

Brilliant book!

Initially, I got this book because I has a very high recommendation from my mother. She's an avid horror reader and told me that book had managed to do what most others could not. This book had scared her. How could I turn down a thrill like that?

I bought the book and have had it sitting on my Kindle for a while, waiting until I had a couple of days spare so I could read it at my leisure. I needn't have bothered - I devoured it in one sitting!

It really is a fresh take on that old chestnut - the haunted house. I loved every second.

The characters have depth and personality, I was genuinely concerned for all of them. I loved the history of the house, and the detail that went into explaining everything. It was a truly entertaining read.

I suppose a lot of people would say that it was a slow starter - indeed, it did seem like it was the last third of the book where things really kicked off - but I enjoyed the build up. The back stories of our luckless heroes, and the back story of the house itself, all added an element of suspense and drama to it all.

Really edge of the seat stuff. I only wish it could have gone on longer.

My only real gripe is when one of the characters, Jane, is talking about Kobolds, and mentions them as being household demons like brownies or gremlins. I don't suppose a lot of people would be bothered by this, but I know my stuff in this area and a gremlin is not a household demon. It's actually a small sprite well known for playing around with mechanisms and technology, and is supposedly responsible for several plane crashes in the World Wars.

Like a said - it's a little thing, and I choose to believe this was Jane's mistake rather than the authors.

All in all, a fantastic read, and I highly recommend it to anyone that likes a scare!

Alicia Utter says

Rating: 7/10

Pages: 388

This book is good, but it seems to borrow a little, or a lot, from several other ghost stories. Reality show, complete with the sexy girl and aging host. Old-time porn photos, which unfortunately was featured in Hell House, which I read directly after this, house itself a part of hte story. However, there were some great characters in here, and a lot of the descriptions of creepy haunted moments are great.

Location: Kindle

Jessica George says

Inventive, creepy & descriptive haunted house/horror story!

This book was a quick read-only started it yesterday and just finished now, but it was great! More like a psychological thriller than a mystery, but with mysterious ghosts & suspenseful scenes filling nearly every page near the end! Some scenes were more descriptive (both horror and sex scenes included but all are pretty short & seem fairly necessary in order to get a better angle and understanding for all of the characters. The horror scenes and creep-tastic factor also set the tone for visit they make to the haunted house itself, and more importantly help the reader to quickly begin to understand the actual capabilities this manipulative, powerful, malicious entity actually has, and all parts come together to create a horrific nightmarish atmosphere, which is definitely necessary to allow the reader to imagine the Forrester mansion in all of its glory & madness. Recommend as a fun psychological thriller, and as scary as it could be, it did make me laugh out loud throughout the book, usually while the crew collaborated & when they came together to film the ghost hunter show. My recommendation excludes anyone easily offended by lewd humor of any kind...also likely won't be a favorite for those who don't like graphic or descriptive horror!

Donna Nova says

Scary and something new to haunted house stories.

I love a good ghost story, especially with a new twist. At first I thought there was too much sexual shenanigans taking away from the story. I was wrong. I'm not one to explain the plot, I'll just say kudos to excellent character building. For a story with so much going on and quite a few personalities, I was never lost. I felt attached to every one of them, or I'll say I understood them very well. Francis especially, bravo! Spoiler Alert:

My only 'Why do we need to know this?' was with the action under the dining room table. What was with the non-circumcised vs circumcised thing? Hmm.

I gave it five stars because I couldn't put it down and was invested in these ghost hunters.

David Briggs says

the book is based off the T.V. shows ghost adventures and ghost hunters. very good book with the exception of sexual abuse in the character development that I believe could have been left out. was a fun book to read late at night

Char says

I read this book with my Shelfari horror group.

First off-what I liked. the premise of this book was excellent. A house built on land previously inhabited by certain tribes that used a form of burial called sky burial. Basically, this means they hung their corpses in trees.

This story worked in a back and forth format, from a time long ago to the present time. A team of "Ghost Hunters" arrive at an old uninhabited home that has a reputation of being haunted, to perform an investigation with the new owner. When the characters get their first glimpse of the home, the descriptions were very reminiscent of Shirley Jackson's "The Haunting of Hill House". None of the angles of the house are perfect, all the doors are closed, etc. As a reader I have nothing but respect for Hill House. In my opinion it's the best "haunted house" book I've ever read. I enjoyed these references.

Now, for what I didn't like. There was a character that was abused as a child. There's a gay character too. I didn't mind the characters so much as I minded the sexual scenes, which seemed to me not to fit quite right. I saw no reason for including the child abuse portion, since it had no bearing on the story. I consider myself a seasoned horror reader and as such I have come to expect sex in my horror stories. But I do like the sex to have some kind of point to it. In this case, I didn't really see the point.

All and all I did enjoy the story. I thought the premise was excellent, but felt that the story just didn't live up to it. The character development was OK, but I thought it could have been a little better. I did enjoy the references to Hill and Hell House, but those references led me to believe that this story was akin to those, and it's not. It's not bad, but it's not them.

I will check out some other works by this author because I did like his style and I did like the premise of this book. It just failed to meet my expectations, which admittedly, were high.
