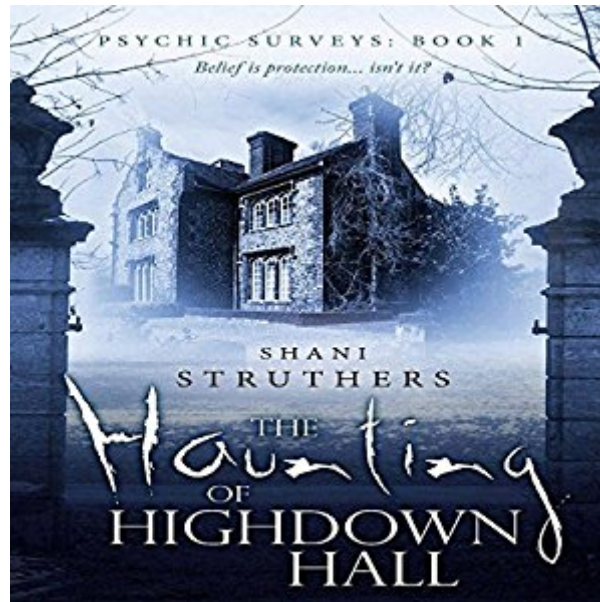


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The Haunting Of Highdown Hall



Synopsis

Psychic Surveys: Book 1: The Haunting of Highdown Hall "Good morning, Psychic Surveys. How can I help?" The latest in a long line of psychically-gifted females, Ruby Davis can see through the veil that separates this world and the next, helping grounded souls to move towards the light - or 'home', as Ruby calls it. Not just a job for Ruby, it's a crusade and one she wants to bring to the High Street. Psychic Surveys is born. Based in Lewes, East Sussex, Ruby and her team of freelance psychics have been kept busy. Specializing in domestic cases, their solid reputation is spreading - it's not just the dead that can rest in peace but the living too. All is threatened when Ruby receives a call from the irate new owner of Highdown Hall. Film star Cynthia Hart is still in residence, despite having died in 1958. Winter deepens and so does the mystery surrounding Cynthia. She insists the devil is blocking her path to the light long after Psychic Surveys have 'disproved' it. Investigating her apparently unblemished background, Ruby is pulled further and further into Cynthia's world and the darkness that now inhabits it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It was nice with sweet romance and the major spirit was someone you could sympathize with, actually all of the spirits had redeeming qualities. I would have liked to have more of a scare. I recommend it for folks who like light hauntings with a romance thrown in. If you want seriously scary books on ghosts this is not the one.

Thirty-one year old, successful actress, Cynthia Hart, died of a heart attack during a dazzling birthday party at her residence, Highdown Hall, on Christmas Eve, 1958. Fifty-six years later, the present resident, Mr. Kierney, will discover her spirit hasn't left and is causing havoc in the first floor bedrooms. He calls in the Psychic Surveys team, who will have to investigate the events leading up to her death in order to discover what's keeping her in the land of the living. Highdown Hall is not the only case they work on, however. They also visit a notorious mental asylum and various houses in the area, in search of lost spirits who need help moving on to the other side. The four members of the team have varying degrees of psychic abilities. Ruby inherited the gift from her mother and her grandmother. Theo, who is retired, specialises in long distance healing. Quiet Ness, in her fifties sometimes worked with the Sussex police, and Corinna, a 21 year old who dresses in gothic attire and also works at a pub. Ruby, the heart and soul of Psychic Surveys, who is trying to set up a webpage for their flourishing business, meets Cash Wilkins, a website designer, and just the man she needs. Ruby thought he wouldn't be interested in pursuing any kind of friendship with her, once she told him she was a psychic surveyor, but on the contrary, he was fascinated, genuinely interested, and perhaps a little psychic himself. The highlight for me was when the spirit of a dead Labrador, Jed, became attached to Ruby after visiting a couple who complained of dog barking at night. By the end of the novel, Cynthia's case is finally solved, as a result of Ruby and Cash's thorough investigations, and the four ghost hunters have become six. It was easy to be carried away by the interesting and varied stories of unhappy and tormented spirits being helped on their journeys towards the light and peace, at last. It's an enjoyable novel for readers who have at least an open mind to the possibility of paranormal happenings. Highdown Hall is well written, well plotted, and has engaging characters, so I'm looking forward to more of the Psychic Surveys' extraordinary investigations.

I have tried twice to read this book but I just cannot get into it. As another reviewer said, it's probably a great read if you are 15. I am not much interested in romance novels, and this is more romance than any other genre. I struggle feeling anything like empathy for a 24-year-old protagonist who applies mascara to "already long enough lashes" and touches her mouth with "plum lipstick the actual shade of her lips." Now and then I'd love to read about a main character who is ordinary looking and happy despite her mediocrity.

I fell in love with this book a little more with each page. Ruby is touchingly human, yet finds within

herself a hidden strength to face perhaps our greatest fear. The author's vision of what lies beyond is memorably poignant in its simplicity and clarity, but still manages to bring fascinating controversy to our traditional definitions of good and evil. The reader is left with a wistful hope of final reconciliation and serenity for even the most tattered of souls. I was first drawn to this novel because I love stories about haunted houses. Struthers provides a deeply intriguing, scary plot that satisfies, yet delivers an easiness and classiness in her prose that elevates her novel to a ghost story that should stand the test of time. Weaving in edifying depictions of psychic abilities and methods, *The Haunting of Highdown Hall* is as entertaining as it is enlightening. Frankly, I just don't see how those interested in stories and insights into the paranormal could be disappointed with this book. Yours in literature, J.G.C.

The book wasn't bad. Just not great. I would have given it a 2 1/2 star rating if there were 1/2's. I read at night to go to sleep and this is a good book to go to sleep by. Not badly written just a little boring. It had me interested enough to finish it, but it took me a lot longer to finish than most books (although it isn't that long) as it wasn't exciting enough to keep me awake. Every single case in this book was the same. Super simple, you show up, explain to the ghost they're dead and offer love and light and POOF problem solved. I really do not understand the glowing reviews. Not a bad book, but certainly not worthy of a 4 or 5 star review. I really do not trust the review system any more. I really wish people would just be real. There are vast differences in preferences to be sure, but this book could not possibly rate a 5 in anyone's honest opinion. And that is my honest opinion.

I heard of this book while the Struthers family came to the hotel I worked at in Tennessee. Mrs. Struthers name sounded so familiar to me, I just had to ask and it turned out she was an author! I soon purchased the ebook after she told me about her book and started reading it. Unfortunately I haven't been able to finish it yet (I really was eager to write a review) because I started back to college. I really like this book (in my top 5 favorites). I like the style of writing, very unique and different from other books I've read in awhile. The only thing is that I wish I could've gotten an autograph! :) overall, it's an excellent book, and can't wait to read more books from her. Very nice book and very nice family. :) UPDATE: Finally finished the book about a week ago. It was great! To me, it was one of those books that you just can't put down. I can't wait for the next book. Shani is a great writer, she knows how to grab your attention. I love books where you stay up just awhile longer to see what happens. Loved all the characters in the book, especially Ruby! Definitely worth the read. :)

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