



Ghosts And Ruins

Ben Catmull

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Who doesn't love a good ghost story? This gorgeous, coffee-table art book is a compendium of old, forgotten haunted houses imagined by artist Ben Catmull, along with the stories and rumors of who haunts them, and why. Each spread features a different haunted house, lovingly and exquisitely rendered in scratchboard on masonite, with a short, nightmare-inducing description of each scene. In "Drowned Shelley," for example: A chorus of frogs surrounds the house where young Shelley was drowned headfirst in the bathtub by her drunken stepfather. Say her name 13 times while looking in the pond and she will drown you in your sleep. Say her name the wrong number of times while looking in the pond, and she will leave hair in your breakfast dishes. Say her name 13 times while not looking in the pond, and she will watch you when you clip your toenails. Mispronounce her name 13 times while looking anywhere near the pond, and she will kick you somewhere delicate at the stroke of midnight. Catmull's images are evocative, haunting masterpieces that never tread in graphic imagery, choosing instead to suggest horrors far more frightening than what they explicitly depict. With just the right touch of humor to balance the terror, *Ghosts and Ruins* is sure to attract fans of Edward Gorey or Tim Burton, and makes a perfect gift book for the ghost story fan in your house.

Ghosts And Ruins Details

Date : Published August 17th 2013 by Fantagraphics

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Author : Ben Catmull

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Genre : Horror, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fiction, Art, Fantasy, Ghost Stories, Poetry

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From Reader Review Ghosts And Ruins for online ebook

Irene Lazlo says

Me ha gustado mucho este librito, las ilustraciones son llamativas e inquietantes y las historias son muy cortas, algunas incluso solo una línea y están entre el humor y lo sobrecogedor. Creo que haría un buen regalo.

Sesana says

Saying this this book will appeal to fans of Gorey just might be the most true thing ever stated in advertising copy. It has the fairly simply and very eerie art, the short and appealing vague descriptions, and an indescribably haunting quality, much like Gorey's work. No, it isn't quite as good, but what is? Still, very, very worthwhile.

Amy says

Birthday present from Husband, which he read to me last night. The book is comprised of a series of mini-stories/vignettes, each one lasting 1-3 pages. The text is slight, but the illustrations are deliciously spooky and evocative. Some of the vignettes were on the silly side, but others were genuinely creepy (always my preference!). I thought any of the stories would make great writing prompts -- there's obviously a lot going on beyond the brief text and what we can see in the pictures. Definitely recommended for anyone who loves haunted houses and the macabre!

Munkybug says

Creepy and beautiful

Kathryn says

Funny and creepy. This kind of reminds me of Edward Gorey. My favourites are the opener, Drowned Shelley and the brief Hair and Earwigs. The Sculptor is also delightfully gruesome.

Harris says

A charmingly spooky art picture book for adults (though mostly appropriate for all ages) with wonderfully detailed, black and white illustrations of a variety of fantastical haunted locations and the ghosts that call them home, from the story of "Drowned Shelley" to the terrifying "Crawling House." Each of these mini-

stories can spawn a lot of imagination about their back-stories. While you can peruse the book in less than a half an hour, the amusing spookiness engendered through the elegant art work and the thought-provoking stories that accompany them can stay with the reader for a lot longer.

Leonard says

This is a strange and spooky book. The reader is instructed to "...read this book alone late at night in the dark far away from civilization, preferably during a power outage." Sometimes the least civilized part of our world is where the most people are found, so I didn't exactly follow the instructions. I think I picked it up at the library because of the "ghosts" and "ruins" words in the title, thinking of ghost towns, but this isn't about ghost towns. The drawings were nicely done but the text was weak and seemed to be too sparse and incomplete. Those of you who like this kind of material (and you know who you are), enjoy!

Patricia says

Historias muy cortitas con imágenes muy bien estructuradas, que te dan la impresión de estar viendo escenas sombrías y llenas de detalles.

Una lectura muy entretenida y que me ha gustado mucho, a pesar de leerse tan rápido.

Amanda says

The "stories" are cute-in a horror filled kind of way-though I hesitate to even call them stories as they are extremely brief. It's the artwork that is the real star here.

Shannon says

The drawings in this book are absolutely amazing!

Anne says

The book itself was allright, but kudos for amazing preword: "It is highly recommended that you read this book alone late at night in the dark far away from civilization, preferably during a power outage."

Sam Truman says

This was great. Entertaining, nostalgic, and looks cool on my coffee table. Totally worth the three extra blocks I walked to find a copy with an un-scratched cover. The illustrations feel like a combination of

Edward Gorey and my beloved "The Tell Tale Lilac Bush" (Ruth Ann Musick). The poems themselves are short, creepy, and funny. They made me wish I had a weird little kid hanging around to read to. Not my own, but maybe a niece or something...

Hair and Earwigs-
The basement of this house
Is filled with hair and earwigs.

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Castle Spooktacular says

what a gem! A random find on the graphic novel shelf. Unusually creepy and unsettling stories. Very short texts make it even weirder. GORGEOUS etched illustrations, and a refreshing read due to the sheer imagination and movie like concepts.

Levi says

A beautifully illustrated book. The pictures are all about houses or places abandoned by people and supposedly haunted.

The illustrations have stories/short blurbs to go with them, almost like notes someone would write about photographs they took of a place.

The stories don't really do a ton to help the photos, they range from interesting (the Disgusting Garden) to silly (Drowned Shelley).

The imagery is what really shines in the book. The illustrations are dark, creepy and beautiful. I'd have been completely content with the book if it contained nothing but the pictures and their story titles.

Sooraya Evans says

Not sure if this was meant to be a funny book.
The drawings were creepy enough.
But a house haunted by the spirit of a clumsy, slow moving goat?
You heard me right. A goat.
