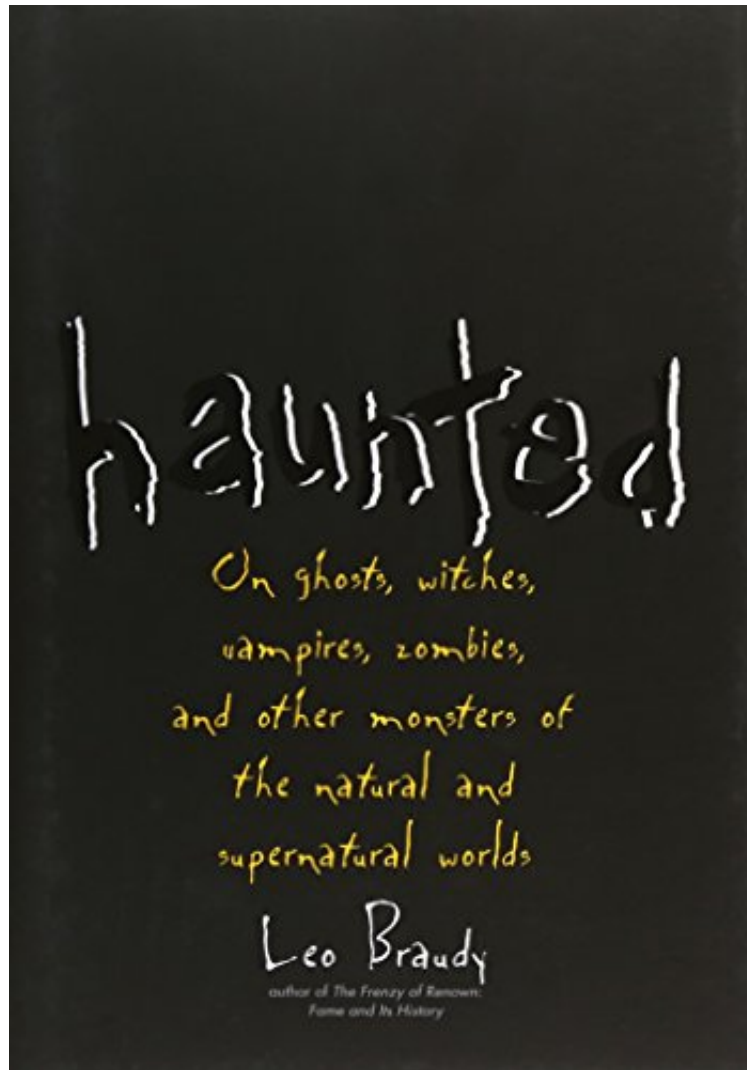


(Ebook pdf) Haunted: On Ghosts, Witches, Vampires, Zombies, and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds

Haunted: On Ghosts, Witches, Vampires, Zombies, and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds

Leo Brady

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#60077 in Books Brady Leo 2016-10-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.12 x 6.12l, .0 #File Name: 0300203802336 pagesHaunted On Ghosts Witches Vampires Zombies and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds | File size: 59.Mb

Leo Brady : Haunted: On Ghosts, Witches, Vampires, Zombies, and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Haunted: On Ghosts, Witches, Vampires, Zombies, and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy 80's nerdUneven critical volume. As other reviews

point out, there are odd little mistakes throughout, but still interesting. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Things that go bump! in the night

By Art Shapiro
Braudy is a well-respected culture critic and the author of several well-received books, including "The Frenzy of Renown" and "From Chivalry to Terrorism." The subtitle of "Haunted" defines the perceived mission of the book--an analytical taxonomy of horror as a theme in culture and in literature: "on ghosts, witches, vampires, zombies, and other monsters of the natural and supernatural worlds." One's initial impression is that Braudy has read everything (and seen every horror movie ever made), and the footnotes fill 11 pages in quite small type. In the usual manner of public intellectuals, he engages in a lot of "because I say so" judgments of the deeper meanings of this or that; for those with the patience to follow the trail of footnotes, his conclusions seem well-defended if not always convincing. Of course, no one knows or has read everything. There is an odd chapter on detectives in fiction that seems out of place insofar as detectives are not monsters (the squeamish might demur on Mike Hammer) and the genre does not normally partake of the occult or of any but moral monstrosity. Here I think Braudy missed a really important connection between the detective and supernatural-horror genres. Writing under the names "H. and E. Heron," a mother-son team, Hesketh Hesketh-Pritchard and Kate O'Brien (Ryall) Pritchard, in 1898-99 published a wonderful series of stories recounting the adventures of Flaxman Low, the psychic detective. Low somewhat resembles Sherlock Holmes in being a free-lancer utterly dedicated to ratiocination. He is called in to investigate cases of ghosts, hauntings, and other supernatural manifestations and approaches each case with a determination to discover the natural/material basis for the phenomena. Like Holmes, he often does this by direct personal intervention entailing substantial risk. He is not always successful; some cases absolutely defy rational explanation. Here is the perfect bridge between genres, but perhaps Braudy didn't know about it--pity. He also misses the "Ingoldsby Legends," a wonderful collection of mostly humorous tales of the supernatural (many in verse), published in "Bentley's Miscellany" in 1837 by Richard Harris Barham, under the pseudonym Thomas Ingoldsby and purporting to be local folklore of the author's neighborhood. (Braudy talks about the device of presenting supernatural tales as rediscovered old manuscripts, and the like.) A few items, such as "The Spectre of Tappington," "Jerry Jarvis' Wig," "The Jackdaw of Rheims," and "A Singular Passage in the Life of the Late Henry Harris, D.D." are still read today because they have been anthologized; few but Victorian literature specialists read the whole collection. But it is worth reading, and merits comment as not only a very early example of combining humor with horror, but perhaps the only such example until Oscar Wilde's delightful "the Canterville Ghost," several decades later.-- Anyway, even for readers steeped in such stuff, like yours truly, there are plenty of novel insights and points to ponder in Braudy's book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderfully Expansive Horror Review.

By Jim Vallandingham
This is a mesmerizing historical survey of the Horror Genre in literature, film, and other mediums. I loved the way the author weaves together hundreds of years of 'scary stories' providing an elegant orientation of inspection through the use of the four main monster types. While there are a few references to other cultures, the bulk of the content sticks squarely in Western stories, films, and thoughts. It would have been great to have a bit more of compare and contrast with the mythologies of other cultures - but perhaps that is left for another work!

An award-winning scholar and author charts four hundred years of monsters and how they reflect the culture that created them. Leo Braudy, a finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, has won accolades for revealing the complex and constantly shifting history behind seemingly unchanging ideas of fame, war, and masculinity. Continuing his interest in the history of emotion, this book explores how fear has been shaped into images of monsters and monstrosity. From the Protestant Reformation to contemporary horror films and fiction, he explores four major types: the monster from nature (King Kong), the created monster (Frankenstein), the monster from within (Mr. Hyde), and the monster from the past (Dracula). Drawing upon deep historical and literary research, Braudy discusses the lasting presence of fearful imaginings in an age of scientific progress, viewing the detective genre as a rational riposte to the irrational world of the monstrous. *Haunted* is a compelling and incisive work by a writer at the height of his powers.

"Braudy is deft and comprehensive, a veritable Linnaeus of the underworldly oversoul. . . . He also has a kangaroo capacity for crossing huge distances at a bound, moving with equal zest and confidence among biblical, classical, medieval, Enlightenment and Hollywood figures and conceits." Gregory Maguire, *New York Times Book*