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I Am Haunted: Living Life Through The Dead



Synopsis

Paranormal investigator Zak Bagans has traveled all over the world, seeking answers to life's deepest and most terrifying mysteries. What happens when we die? Why do some spirits move on while others remain stuck in some sort of in-between place? What do the spirits really want from us? Zak has dedicated his life to finding out the truth. He has bought a demon house in Indiana that has been described as a "portal to hell," summoned the devil at the Hellfire Club in Ireland, and been attacked by a possessed doll in Mexico. But sometimes it's his interactions with the living that rattle him the most, from innocent people harboring evil spirits to crazed fans to the victims of violent spirit attacks. Through his investigations of the world's most haunted places, Zak has learned far more about the living and the dead than anyone should. He's been to the edge of death and back and come away with a spiritual key that unlocks doors to another world that few have ever seen. Come along for the ride.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a frequent purchaser of e-books in this category, I've learned to alter my expectations based on price. Authors who price their books at \$1.99 (or even \$.99) often have an excellent story to tell, but seldom have the assistance of a traditional publisher or professional editor. I've learned to cut these authors some slack since they are riding the publishing trapeze without a net of underlying services (and am often pleasantly surprised with the level of quality they're able to put

out). When I pay much more than that, however, as I did with this book, my expectations go up accordingly. Because Zak utilized both a publisher (who also produced a hardcover version of the book) and an experienced co-author, I bought with confidence that this book would be professionally done. Unfortunately, what I've found is a hot mess of poor editorial choices and a near complete lack of organization. Chapter one, for example, reads like the sort of off-the-cuff soliloquy spoken into a tape recorder while driving in city traffic "and maybe it was. It moves randomly from veiled criticisms of competing shows to complaints about the shallowness of celebrity culture to spiritualist philosophy and back again. If co-author Crigger was doing anything more than transcribing, it isn't reflected in the resulting chapter. Someone needed to parse this raw material into a framework that provides some flow and transition. A co-author's job should have been to suggest something like: Part I: Common investigative methods, their flaws & pitfalls. Part II: What we do differently, how we do it better and have improved over time; Part III: The deep spiritual impact this work has brought to my life; Part IV?: Celebrity culture?

As a fan of Ghost Adventures I have to say that I did enjoy this book, perhaps more so than his first one and think most GA fans would agree. He has a very conversational way of writing and it's a fast read, filled with humor, creepy stories and philosophical views about spirituality, the meaning of life and the mystery of death. Zak is extremely passionate about his work and even if you are a non-believer (though you probably wouldn't be reading this in the first place) you can't help but be intrigued and drawn into his stories because of this enthusiasm. As a believer in the paranormal, I still found some of the experiences hard to believe on the one hand (because I haven't had anything similar happen to me) but Zak comes across as so authentic and honest that even the more incredible and wild stories about possessions and demons that first had me thinking, yeah, right, left me a bit uneasy and later thinking, hmmm, maybe I'm wrong. No matter where you stand on the paranormal and its authenticity, you have to agree that the guy is all heart and likely possesses some kind of gift that most of us either don't have, don't want or haven't tapped into yet. A lot of his accounts of strange coincidences and bizarre happenings left me uneasy and questioning my own spirituality and belief in the afterlife. Though of course the questions can't be answered by Zak or anyone else, it still felt good to be pondering them. My only complaint of the book is that oftentimes it seems to be geared towards very young audiences. Maybe most GA fans are of the teenage persuasion or younger but I highly doubt that the show and their findings are exclusively interesting to kids.

Before I get too critical here, just let me say that in spite of his sometimes corny "cool dude" image, I do believe that Zak Bagans truly is an intellectual at heart and his passion for the paranormal is to be taken seriously. As a researcher, author, and clairvoyant myself I applaud him for bringing such topics to light and injecting them into an accessible mainstream dialogue. I enjoyed his first book, the thoughtfully written "Dark World," but wouldn't be entirely honest if I said I liked this one nearly as much. For starters, the writing style just feels off in a way I can't quite put my finger on. He's a smart guy, as evidenced by some of his prior work, but the writing here is so simplistic in nature it's as if he were making a point to pander to those with a 3rd grade intellect. "I went upstairs. There were shadows. It was scary." I don't want to sound condescending by putting it that way, but the entire book is presented in such a fashion and it's frustrating to watch people dumb themselves down when you know they're capable of so much more. (In fact, because of that, I'm tempted to question how much of this book Bagans himself actually had a hand in.) He also takes every opportunity he can to pat himself on the back by reminding us how creative he is and how much more experience he has under his belt compared to most other paranormal investigators. Practically every other paragraph begins with "As an empath" and that gets tiresome real quick, especially since he never fully explores exactly what that means for him. I don't fault him for coming off as a tad douchey, mind you, because he HAS accomplished a lot and lord knows I can toot my own horn when I want to as well. But again, it only serves to further highlight just how poor and repetitive the actual writing is.

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