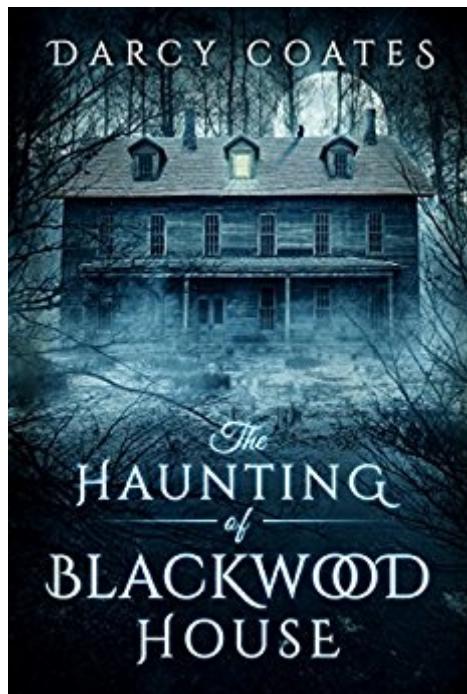


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The Haunting Of Blackwood House



Synopsis

Could you survive a week in a haunted house? Mara is the daughter of spiritualists. Her childhood was filled with séances, scam mediums and talk of ghostly presences. When Mara finally left her family's home, she vowed she would never allow superstition or false religion into her life again. Now she's ready to start over with her fiancé, Neil, in a world based on rationality and facts. But her past isn't ready to let her go just yet. Mara and Neil purchase Blackwood House, a derelict property outside of town. They're warned about strange occurrences in the crumbling building. Doors open by themselves, voices whisper in the night, bloody handprints appear on the walls, and cold spots linger in the basement, where the house's original owner was murdered. But Blackwood was dirt-cheap and came with a large plot of overgrown land. Mara loves her new home, and disregards the warnings. Because ghosts aren't real, are they?

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Customer Reviews

This book was one fantastic read. It reminded me of the horror books I read when I was young. Books like a Hill House. Mara and Neil buy this creepy old house and from the beginning the ghostly

antics mess with a disbelieving Mara. I loved this book and could not put it down. I had received this book as an ARC in exchange for an honest review and all I can really say is BUY IT, YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

After reading The Haunting of Ashburn House, which I found really creepy and engaging. I was looking forward to this one. Boy was I wrong. This book was so dumb. The characters were dull, shallow and totally predictable. So was the entire plot. Stereotypical haunted house. Ooh the rocking chair moves on it's own. BOO! Never saw that before in a haunted house. Nothing suspenseful or inventive at all about this story.

I am so surprised to see how many stars this book received. there was not one thing about it that I felt worthy of more than 2 stars! First of all the characters. I need to like my characters or at least have some empathy for them...Mara is completely unlikeable and stubborn to the point of being stupid. Her boyfriend, Neil, is so sugar sweet it is unbelievable-literally! he takes the abuse she deals out and sweetly smiles. Then the situation-Mara buys an old house in the present day--there is no electricity, no phone, etc. never once does she say, "hey, maybe I should get some electricity hooked up here so I can charge my cell phone, have lights, stove etc." No instead she ignores the lack of electricity-something that any normal person would have taken care of first and relies on Neil to provide camps stoves and a generator. And she loves this old house, with it's blood stains, eerie messages written in blood and strange noises. That makes sense! And coincidentally it was originally owned by her great great grandfather or just happened to be a spiritualist. Too much nonsense!

I purchased this book after reading "The Haunting of Gillespie" which was suspenseful and frightening. I love reading creepy, horror stories and don't scare easily, so that was a real delight. Based on that book I purchased this book, "The Haunting of Blackwood House". Unfortunately it did not measure up to my expectations. The main character is annoying as hell. After a while I actually looked forward to reading about her getting her butt kicked. It also had a romantic part to it that did not work for me. Overall the pace was a bit off, characters unsympathetic and annoying, and maybe because of these reasons it distracted me from the scary parts of the book. This is only the second book of the author that I've read so I can't quite recommend her as an author yet, but I definitely recommend her other book "The Haunting of Gillespie" and to skip this one.

I agree with some of the other reviewers that the main character, Mara, was somewhat unlikeable. She was often rude and condescending, and did not deserve her sweet boyfriend, however, she did always apologize for her ugly behavior. I think a character that is supposed to have her baggage would likely behave like she did. I was glad she did eventually accept the obvious, otherwise she would have been borderline stupid. The rest of the book was enjoyable. Not "can't put it down" material, but a good scary read. The twist was not a huge twist, but it was interesting. I enjoyed the description of the "cleansing," I could easily picture it in my head. Overall it was a good read and I will try to pick up some of the author's other books when I can.

The Haunting of Blackwood House by Darcy Coates is an excellent haunted house story. Great plot, characters and a good scare. Gal of the story grows up with nutty spiritualist family and finally gets to leave and for four years has lived on her own away from the scam artists. She gets a chance to buy a house no one once because it is "haunted" but she knows from her childhood that all of those hauntings are fake. She buys the house and things get strange. Hard to find a good haunted house story that has all of these things. This one was great. Touch of romance in there too for those that like that. Great book.

I listened to the audio version a few chapters in and though the book held my interest, the characters seemed off with the narrators voice. It wasn't anything nice. However, reading the book the characters seemed more alive. I rated this read 3 stars because Mara ruined the read for me. Her character was dysfunctional and rude. I did not like her at all. Neil was way too good for her. She was crazy in every single way.

As the daughter of spiritualists, Mara has spent the last four years distancing herself from her parents and firmly denying the existence of ghosts. But when she falls in love with and then purchases Blackwood House, will the purported haunted house make her change her mind. Creepy story with interesting characters. Mara is not a particularly likeable character, prickly and often insulting to her patient boyfriend, Neil, but her upbringing could account for some of it, as well as the atmosphere of the house. Enjoyable spooky story.

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