



In a Dark Place

Ed Warren , Lorraine Warren , Ray Garton , Carmen Reed , Al Snedeker

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The story of the most terrifying case of demonic possession in the United States. It became the basis for the hit film “The Haunting in Connecticut” starring Virginia Madsen.

Shortly after moving into their new home, the Snedeker family is assaulted by a sinister presence that preys one-by-one on their family. Exhausting all other resources, they call up the world-renowned demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren—who have never encountered a case as frightening as this...

No one had warned the Snedekers their new house used to be an old funeral home. Their battle with an inexplicable and savage phenomena had only just begun. What started as a simple “poltergeist” escalated into a full-scale war, an average American family battling the deepest, darkest forces of evil—a war this family could not afford to lose.

Books by Ed & Lorraine Warren also include Graveyard, Ghost Hunters, The Haunted, Werewolf, and Satan's Harvest.

In a Dark Place Details

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Download and Read Free Online In a Dark Place Ed Warren , Lorraine Warren , Ray Garton , Carmen Reed , Al Snedeker

From Reader Review In a Dark Place for online ebook

Michael says

I'm giving this book five stars because the author, Ray Garton, is a skillful horror writer, and he does a good job telling a very scary story. The book is atmospheric, to say the least: an innocent family moves into a new house that was once a funeral home. Predictably, things don't go well.

And that's my problem with stories like these, of which I've read hundreds: no one ever seems to suspect that something supernatural is occurring until far too late. Seriously: I'd hear a menacing, disembodied voice exactly one time before I'd think, "Hmmm...I live in a funeral home. There are cold spots. It feels clammy. It's always dim. Maybe, just maybe..." The other thing I found frustrating was the family's seeming inability to tell each other what was taking place. Again, if our bed was vibrating, and Julie (my wife) was hearing tinny music, laughing voices, and footsteps moving through our hallway, I suspect she might mention it to me. Like, at the top of her voice the instant it happened. And—this is just me; not to be judgmental or anything—were I sodomized by a demon, I wouldn't then worry about how expensive moving is. It would become a bit of a priority in my life to, you know, leave. Right. Then.

Not to get too metaphysical in a book review, but I don't doubt that the family in this house experienced...let's say, phenomena. Their teenage son sounded like a handful: he was sick with lymphoma, and developed what sounds to me like a mental illness of some sort, compounded by a severe case of teenager. Was he influenced by energies in that house? Quite possibly. Were dead people coming out of the walls to tell the family how much they enjoyed necrophilia? I find that unlikely. Stories like this take the subtlety of ghostly events and turn them into cartoons.

This book is the basis of *A Haunting in Connecticut* (the terrifying Discovery Channel episode) and *A Haunting in Connecticut* (the abysmal box office film). It features the work of Ed and Lorraine Warren, who will have a biopic done on them this summer in the form of *The Conjuring*, which looks quite scary. When I was a kid, I read their books to tatters. I originally went to college intending to study parapsychology (before I realized there really aren't any parapsychologists). That was a grim day.

It saddens me, sometimes, to see the guys on Ghost Hunters, or Paranormal State, or Haunted Pets, or Haunted Celebrities, or Haunted Collector, running around with infrared gear, night vision goggles, digital EVP rigs, and spray bottles full of holy water because...I could've been a contender, you know? I could've been somebody.

Who you gonna call? Not me. (Sniff...sniff...sniffle)

Ashley Muriello says

This was awesome and super creepy. I am obsessed with Ed and Lorraine Warren and all the supernatural cases they have been a part of. Ever since I saw the *Conjuring* and watched a few episodes of *Haunted Collector*, I have been on a mission to learn as much about the Warrens as possible. I cannot wait to read their other books :)

Sabrina Rutter says

I didn't give this a five star rating for the accuracy, but for the way it held my attention. This is the sort of ghost story that I love reading. There are not many ghost stories like this one!

The accuracy was off on a few things while other things I know about this story were simply missing. I do know that the people involved in this haunting were not at all happy about the way this book was written. They feel it sensationalized their story, and made them look like liars the way the author twisted the truth. Carmen said that she simply signed a paper, and that was the only thing she had to do with this book. The movie was ok, the showing of this story on A HAUNTING was great, and the book was pretty good. I would recommend not reading this if you scare easily, and you live alone.

Jennifer says

I am a HUGE fan of the SyFy show "The Haunted Collector", so I had to read this novel written by his aunt and uncle, about a true haunting in a Connecticut funeral parlor turned into a Colonial home. Creepy.... I cannot say that enough.... I could not stop reading this book which details the experiences of the Snedeker family, who moves into a downstairs apartment (and basement) of an old funeral home. Upon entering the house, teenage son Stephen says that the house is evil, but nobody listens to him. Over a period of time, everyone wishes they had listened to him from the beginning. A demonic entity lives in the home with the Snedekers-- they hear it whispering, can feel it touch them, and can see the objects it moves. If you love "Ghost Hunters" or "The Amityville Horror", you must read this book. Prepare to be disturbed. For fans of "The Haunted Collector", John Zaffis becomes a part of the story in the end of the book, during the investigation of the house. It was cool to read about John Zaffis' beginnings in the supernatural world.

Nancy says

I have read this book several years ago at the library. I liked it so much that I purchased it - that was when it was cheap. Then they featured it on the DSC & A&E channels. Amazon.com has the hardback starting at \$70 & paperback starting at \$83.83. It makes for good FICTIONAL reading. I recommended it to my friend & it didn't scare her at all. DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ!

Go to this link & read what the author, Ray Garton, has to say about the book he wrote:

<http://www.horrorbound.com/readarticl...>

He also doesn't have any good words for the Warrens. All of it was a hoax, just like the Amityville Horror. Also "google" or "bing" Ray Garton, or In a Dark Place &/or Ric Osuna

<http://www.horrorbound.com/readarticl...>

excerpt: Ah, the Warrens. Ed, of course, has gone to that great haunted house in the sky, but Lorraine is still around. Back in the early '90s, I was offered a chance to write a book for Ed and Lorraine. As a kid, I used to follow their ghost-hunting exploits in the National Enquirer. I thought it sounded like a fun job, so I took it. I went to Connecticut and spent time with the Snedeker family. They'd moved into a house with their sick son and learned the place used to be a funeral home. They claimed all kinds of spooky things had happened in the house. They'd called in Ed and Lorraine, and after investigating, the Warrens announced that the house was infested with demons. Some of these demons had anally raped members of the family.

A little aside here. Back when I was reading about the Warrens, they were ghost hunters. Every house they

investigated had at least one ghost, and there was always a spooky story behind it. But after *The Exorcist* was so wildly popular, first as a novel and then as a movie, Ed and Lorraine stopped encountering ghosts and began to uncover demon infestations. And it seems that wherever they went, people were being sexually molested by demons. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Carmen Snedeker was an unemployed wife and mother who was running an illegal interstate lottery business, about which she asked me numerous times to tell no one. I never met the son, who was said to be ill, although I was allowed to talk to him on the phone once, supervised by Carmen. When the boy began to talk about drugs and told me that he didn't hear and see strange things in the house once he began taking medication, Carmen ended the conversation. As I gathered all the necessary information for the book, I found that the accounts of the individual Snedekers didn't quite mesh. They just couldn't keep their stories straight. I went to Ed with this problem. "Oh, they're crazy," he said. "Everybody who comes to us is crazy. Otherwise why would they come to us? You've got some of the story – just use what works and make the rest up. And make it scary. You write scary books, right? That's why we hired you. So just make it up and make it scary." I didn't like that one bit. But by then, I'd signed the contract and there was no going back. I did as Ed instructed – I used what I could, made up the rest, and tried to make it as scary as I could. The book was called *In A Dark Place: The Story of a True Haunting*.

Lisa says

I won this book through Goodreads, and I'll admit that there were moments when I wished I hadn't! This story scared the everloving crap out of me. I had to steal the night light from the kitchen and put it in my bedroom. Ghosts don't scare me overly much, as I've lived in a few haunted houses. Demons? Yeah, those s.o.b.s. scare me senseless! I usually avoid books like that. Did I believe the happenings in this story? No, not much. Some? Sure. But, a lot of it was way too outlandish. Still, it managed to make me jump at every little noise! Yep, I'd recommend this book.

Irene says

Too graphic and scary for me and I really didn't like how it seems the evil can just run all over the righteous Word of the Lord and there was a particularly terrible scene where Jesus is shown to be grotesque and well... I don't even want to say the rest. I mean also a man gets anally raped by an unseen entity that turns out to look like some kind of reptilian in the end! What the?? If these people made this crap up, especially the parts about Jesus, I'm really very angry.

If not, then I am asking myself why the forces of good never or rarely seem to intercede on behalf of the children of God when they are being tortured so terribly, both believers and non-believers alike. It's sick and confusing. At first I said the book was okay because it did have some crazy unreal stuff in it that might open people's eyes to the way evil works but it definitely left an overall bad taste in my mouth. I would NEVER, EVER recommend it to anyone I know so I changed my rating from 1.5 stars to 1 which is "I didn't like it."

I can't even explain how these evil entities put grotesque images of Christ into people's minds. Why don't the righteous angelic forces ever come to assist? Oh...let me guess...they cannot interfere with free will. Hmm...well I'd say the evil forces are interfering quite a lot to the point of keeping persons prisoner, rape, torture, causing insanity, suicide, molestation from one child to another, murder in some cases and losing one's eternal soul. Yup umm I'd say that's interfering with our own free will alright! They lie and trick

people. Are they demons or ghosts or even E.T.'s from another dimension people may ask. I don't care where they come from if they are that evil they should have no place, no right to get the upper hand on the Children of God.

It seems it's only evil in this world 24/7 unless we are talking about the good in the hearts of ordinary people who love one another. We must never let the love go. Rarely do I hear of or read about an authentic supernatural savior because there are much more demonic forces out there hard at work it seems. I wish I had never read this book and I never want to see that grotesque image of the Prince of Peace in my mind's eye again. If anyone takes the time to read this review which I highly doubt but whatever if someone does...what is your opinion of Ed and Lorraine Warren? Has anyone ever met them or have any insights to share on this couple? I thought I liked them but now I'm not so sure.

I read Ralph Sarchie's (the ex law enforcement officer who also helped on exorcism cases and took "the work" very seriously as he is a devout soldier of God) book and I think he's the real deal, no liar. Straight up that one! I recall there was some in-fighting with his people who helped on exorcisms on whether or not they wanted the Warrens to come along. Do you think the Warrens are true Christians or do they have ulterior motives? I'm interested in what others have to say about this.

Jeff says

Okay, I'm not sure if I'm judging this book as a piece of fiction or nonfiction. If it's fiction, it gets a 3; if it's nonfiction, it gets a 4 star rating.

I'm going to keep this short, because I don't really feel like going into a lengthy review. I absolutely loved this in the way that I LOVE cheesy horror and regular horror movies. It scared the **** out of me! Since Ed and Lorraine Warren ARE real people and, from what I've read and seen, their stories are usually semi-factual, I'm going to go ahead and say this was "based on true events."--however, you want to interpret that. It was very freaky and I enjoyed it so much that I'll be reading another one of their books soon enough!

It's getting a B+ on my grading scale. Very good writing with enough terror to scare for days. The only fault I find is the ending and, as in real life, endings don't always make sense or even end. I think they could've left this book with a little more at the end.

Mellony says

I'm starting this book today. I know Ray and he told me that he was to make it as scary as possible. So yeah, it's not true but I heard it's really scary! I'll let you know how it turns out!

Glen Krisch says

Read through a fictional lens, I quite enjoyed Garton's style and world building.

Steve Wiggins says

In my current work on *Nightmares with the Bible*, forthcoming with Fortress Academic and Lexington presses, I've been trying to read all that I can on Ed and Lorraine Warren. This ghost-hunting pair is generally ignored in academia (as are ghosts in general), but there were about ten books written on or by them while Ed was still alive. Of all of them, this is the one I'd avoided because, as with *Carrie*, I saw the movie first.

Although I discussed this on my blog (Sects and Violence in the Ancient World) I need to reiterate that I watched a television movie of this story that put me off reading the book. Now, I'm not quite sure what to make of the Warrens. Reading their ghostwritten books they seem to be completely sincere. I don't think they were really trying to fool anyone. Still, they were making a living via lecture tours and books, and to do that you have to make sure the books move. The author of this particular title mentioned in an interview that Ed thought the Snedeker family was crazy and that he should embellish what didn't fit between their stories as long as it was scary. Of course that raises the question of whether Ray Garton, who is a horror writer, is fictionalizing this. We'll never know.

It seems that at a minimum, the Snedeker case, as was true of the Lutzes at Amityville, revolved around strange things happening in a house with a history. While the jury remains out on psychic phenomena, the heavy use of Lorraine's reconstruction of necrophilia in a funeral home being behind the haunting is somewhat strange. Making this even harder to read is the childhood cancer of the Snedeker's son that led them to move into the house in order to be nearer the hospital. This is drawn out in the book, making for difficult reading from the beginning. It also seems callous to embellish such a tragic account. All of this makes the book problematic on so many levels that it's not enjoyable to read as a scary story. That persistent question "could this have really happened?" will remain itching in that hard-to-reach space in your brain, if you're open to the possibilities. Still, it would be better to have had a non-sensationalized account to try to have sorted out fact from fiction.

Samantha says

I read this book TODAY. Picked it up to skim the first chapter, then found myself unable to put it down. My mom recommended this book to me and loaned me her first-edition copy, so I just want to say...thanks, Mom!

The Snedekers live in New York until their oldest son, Stephen, is diagnosed with lymphatic cancer. When the commute back and forth between NY and CT becomes too much and too costly, the family moves to Connecticut, closer to Stephen's doctors. That's when it begins.

It turns out, their new home is the downstairs apartment in an old Colonial house that used to be a funeral home. In the basement, the Snedekers discover all sorts of macabre tools and rooms. But having exhausted their resources, they decide to stay and not tell the kids. But...

The day they move in, Stephen tells his mom they need to leave the house because the house is evil. She, of course, doesn't believe him. Things progress. Stephen insists he hears a voice calling his name from the basement and sees things moving out of the corner of his eye. But still, no one believes him. When his younger siblings start seeing things too, their parents blame Stephen for scaring them and putting ideas in their head.

Ultimately, Stephen changes. He finally gives in to the demands of the voice and starts to do its bidding. He

listens to dark music and draws disturbing images on his sketchpad. He becomes surly and rude to his family and cold and distant. When he molests his cousins, that's the last straw. He is diagnosed as schizophrenic and admitted into a mental hospital. He warns his family that now that he's gone, whatever's in the house will start attacking them.

He's right.

Things start moving and disappearing. Everyone starts to hear voices. Empty light sockets glow with illumination. Swarms of flies infest the house, then vanish. Terrible smells of rotting meat waft through the house, then are gone. The two oldest females in the house are sexually assaulted and molested by invisible hands. There are cold spots.

Eventually, pushed past the limits of being able to explain it away, the Snedekers call on the Warrens, paranormal investigators of some reknown. They determine that the house is indeed possessed by a powerful demonic presence and appeal to the Catholic Church for permission to perform an exorcism.

Permission is eventually granted, but not before weeks of unspeakable torment is visited upon the Snedeker family.

In the end, the demonic presence is forced from the home, but nothing is ever the same.

Horror stories usually aren't my thing, but this one was fascinating. And creepy. And something I'm glad I read while the sun was still out.

There is some controversy as to whether or not this is actually based on a true story. Some say yes, others no (including, apparently, the author himself). But regardless of whether it's fact or fiction, it is a riveting book.

Danillo says

Interesting book with some intense parts. Tells the story of only one case and gives food for thought.

Megan says

Most of the book reads like an overdramatic horror story. I don't mean to disrespect the victims of this horrible story--if it is indeed true--I just wish the writing were more haunting. The ending is very abrupt, and they never followed up with poor Stephen. Did they just leave him in the institution?? It was like "OK exorcism done bye." just like this review.

Melissa Bond says

After it was revealed from the author that the story was false and the entire events documented a hoax, this novel ended up being a rare find for anyone interested in reading it. I finally was able to get my hands on it through a library loan, and while the story itself is frightening, it is just another documentation revealing one of the many versions of the events the family claims have happened to them.

Each time the story is told, mainly by the mother, it changes. Not a single movie, documentary, article or book is the same. The story just grows more and more bizarre and unbelievable that eventually it ends up being just another Amityville Horror. Not surprising that this story made headlines soon after the Amityville haunting was hot off the press. Besides, who wouldn't believe it? An old funeral home, still holding old tools and machines making it hard to forget what it used to be? It was the perfect setup for their story to grip an audience. Only, they just couldn't stick to one story.

In a way, I am conflicted. Part of me hoped this was a true story, because how horrible to harm your family with stories of rape by an unseen spirit, and making your son out to be a monster driven mentally insane just to try and profit from the haunted house hysteria of that time. On the other hand, I'm now convinced it is nothing but a hoax, where the mother herself has done just as much damage to her family as the story she continues to make up.

Whether or not you believe, the book is a frightening read if you can get over the often painfully sterile writing style which is oddly similar to Jay Anson.
