



Lancaster House

Taylor Dean

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Alternative Cover Edition

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Same book, new cover!

A Paranormal Romance

Zoe Grayson needs a change. So, she moves to another state, purchases an old, dilapidated 1920s Victorian Mansion, and sets out to restore it to its former glory. As she begins the restoration, she finds herself falling in love with the old house . . . not to mention its illustrious builder, Mr. Lancaster. Zoe becomes obsessed with the house as she discovers its secrets; hidden rooms, secret passageways . . . and a mysterious man who seems to think the house is his. Who is he? More importantly, how does he live in her home unseen and unheard?

The unexpected answers leave her reeling—and questioning everything she's ever known. To her dismay, Zoe's actions land her in the local psychiatric hospital, scheming for ways to return to Lancaster House . . . and the love of her life.

Lancaster House Details

Date : Published by Taylor Dean Books (first published June 7th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Taylor Dean

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Mystery, Ghosts

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From Reader Review Lancaster House for online ebook

Shelly says

The review was originally posted on my blog {Dive} Under the Cover ...

This book sucked me in from the very first chapter. Once I got started I literally put it down one time to make dinner for my family. As soon as dinner was over I was back reading! I probably read it in 3 hours, maybe a little more.

I have never read a book quite like this one. I can't begin to describe to you how good it was. When Taylor contacted me and asked if I would be interested in reading and reviewing it here on my blog, the thing that intrigued me the most was the old house. I remember reading a Nora Roberts book a long time ago about a woman (I think) who bought an old house and was restoring it and I really loved that book. So, I was pretty sure that I was going to like this one. This one took me quite by surprise. I wasn't at all prepared for the depth of the paranormal aspect of this story. Just when I thought I had it figured out something else would happen to take the story that much deeper.

One thing is certain, Lancaster House is a main character in this story. There is a little bit in the book about The Winchester House, I remember reading about it or seeing about it on a TV show. I love how the builder of Lancaster House incorporated some of the things he learned on that construction site into the construction of his own home. It gives Lancaster House some very distinctive characteristics.

I don't want to give anything away since this story is so unique. This story is told from two points in time. Zoe is in the present, in a place she doesn't want to be, telling her story to someone else. The story flows really well from one to the other and when she was telling her story I felt like I was right there with her. I was having a hard time not being really angry about what was going on in the present. I was frustrated for her and I just wanted everything to work out.

Zoe is young and energetic and takes this huge house on without a single thought. She walks right in to a house that the Realtor doesn't even want to go into and she sees it in all it's former glory and just knows that it's meant to be hers. She moves in and gets to work without any hesitation. Then odd things start happening, but at first she just chalks it up to exhaustion and things maybe she is just imagining it. One night something happens that she just can't deny and her life changes. She meets a mysterious man who seems to have been watching over her since the moment she walked into Lancaster House.

Zoe spends all her time working on the house and getting to know her mystery man to the point that she isn't even leaving the house at all. She discovers things about him that leave her with more questions than answers and he isn't even telling her everything. She searches out answers by researching the house and it's history, but even this isn't enough.

As the story goes back and forth from past to present, as a reader I was left wondering if she really is crazy! I know one thing is certain, I loved Andre and their love story is so romantic and original. The whole thing is a little reminiscent of random episodes of some of my very favorite paranormal shows. It's a theme that has been played on a handful of them, but I have never read a story with this theme. It's really something else, I know that I keep saying it, but I just can't get it out of my head!

I was NOT happy when it ended, but there is a second book coming out this winter that will hopefully tie it all up nicely. I can't wait to see how Andre and Zoe's story ends. I wholeheartedly recommend this for anyone who likes paranormal books, you will not be disappointed at all. It's not just a good story, it's really

well written and just overall a great read.

There are really no content concerns, I don't think there was any profanity. There are some kissing scenes and talk of being intimate, but no detailed love scenes in this one.

I am going to tell you one more time...click on one of those links up there and BUY this book. You will not be disappointed and if you are then I don't think we can be friends anymore! (Just kidding...kind of!!)

Melanie says

(4.5 stars) A paranormal romance sounded like a perfect Halloween read! An old house with lots of secrets that is supposedly haunted, psychiatric hospital, mysterious man, mystery and clean romance. It all sounded like a great recipe to me!

We start with Doctor Channing, a psychiatrist in a psychiatric hospital, meeting with his patient, Zoe Grayson. She's believed to be schizophrenic and suffering from hallucinations and very dangerous. She's also believed to have killed two men and is suicidal. For two weeks, she's said nothing. She wants her house and life back, though, so she starts to open up to him. The story is told in flashback and we get her story piecemeal with commentary from Dr. Channing throughout. She starts by telling him about Lancaster House, and then we learn more about the mysterious man (Andre), her ex-fiance, and everything else that's happened to bring her to the hospital. Is Zoe sane or crazy? That is the question!

Once I started reading, this book was hard to put down. I loved getting the story piecemeal and was anxious to find out what would happen next. There were also quite a few twists and turns. Zoe is likable and I felt that her obsession with her new life with Andre was realistic. She knew she would be viewed as crazy so tried to act normal but it became difficult. I loved reading their story and look forward to reading more! There are a few swear words and some passionate kissing which I consider clean. I recommend this to anyone looking for a great paranormal mystery with some clean romance!

Mel's Shelves

Laura Thomas says

To find out why Joy tried to kill herself, why she is under the care of Dr. Channing at Serenity Hills, and why she is suspected of killing two men, we have to go back to the beginning.

When Joy first laid eyes on Lancaster House, she knew she had to have it.

She couldn't wait to get started on the restoration. Couldn't wait to bring the old house back to its former glory.

The work was slow but rewarding. She was doing one room at a time. She would go to bed exhausted and rise to start again the next morning.

After five hours of scraping and sanding the bannister, she took a lunch break. When she returned to finish up, she couldn't believe her eyes. It was finished!

She told herself maybe she was confused, being so tired and all.

But the next night it happened again. She didn't get the wall papering done.

In the morning, when she came downstairs, it was finished.

Now she panicked, racing through the house, but no one was there.

Not one to be scared, she knows she can figure this out.

Stop standing here like a ninny and figure this out. There has to be a logical explanation.

But there isn't. And she is beginning to think the former owner, Andre Lancaster, is still living in the house. Either that or she is going crazy.

~

Mini Excerpt for ya.

"You can see me?" he asked again, his tone urgent.

"Yes," she whispered, unable to find her voice.

For several seconds he simply stared at her, his eyes smoldering. She trembled under his gaze, her bottom lip quivering. One hand reached up, his motions slow, and cupped her cheek. He let out his breath and closed his eyes as if the feel of her did something to him.

"I won't hurt you Zoe."

~

But how can that be? He's been dead for many, many years.

A really fun part of this story is the language. The slang from the 1920's is quirky and I enjoyed reading how Joy figured out what Andre meant by some of the sayings.

Stuff like giggle water is alcohol. Makes sense. And Bank's closed which means no kissing.

After you finish reading Lancaster House you tell me what you think. Is Joy crazy?

Did she just make up Andre and their passionate affair to keep from being alone?

Is Dr. Channing right in that ghosts don't exist?

So many questions and an ending that will let you decide, or not.

I adored Joy and Andre and want a Lancaster House of my own.

Sarah says

I don't usually read what pop culture refers to as "chick lit." I've never, for example, read a Nicholas Sparks book. But I'm still a sucker for romance, especially paranormal romance. The problem is that there is so much paranormal fiction hitting the shelves these days, it is really difficult to find one that is well-written. Even more difficult to find a story that is relatively clean.

I must admit, I was pleasantly surprised to find such a well-written, fun paranormal romance in the indie-published Lancaster House by Taylor Dean. I was even more surprised to find out that paranormal romance was a new genre for this author, because the unique love-story is both charming and heart-felt.

The story begins when Zoe Grayson decides her life needs a big change after experiencing several major losses. She sells her business, moves states, and purchases the rambling Victorian home, Lancaster House, with the idea that she can use her interior design skills to fix it up and sell it. Despite warnings from concerned neighbors that the house may be haunted and could spell bad news for residents, Zoe's fiery-spark of adventure and desire to prove herself leads her to purchase the home and begin renovations.

When work Zoe begins is finished in the night, she begins to wonder if someone is hiding in the enigmatic house. When a mysterious protector comes to her rescue, she begins to wonder if she is crazy. Zoe's time in Lancaster House introduces her to love, is rife with adventure, and has her question the world around her in such a way that lands her in a mental institution.

Lancaster House is a thought-provoking romantic read that isn't afraid to confront darkness, but doesn't wind up sliding down the shadowy slope that many current paranormal stories do. Dean's writing also brings the house to life, and you can tell that she did her research. Lancaster House becomes both a secondary character and a splendid setting for the story.

Some critics are probably going to call this book out for making easy use of mythology to explain certain things. Although some of the explanation is a bit abrupt, I still found myself pulled into the story. Even the romance, which could easily have been cheesy, is real for the reader and you empathize with both characters.

Although there are some repetitions and slight editing hiccups, Lancaster House is very well-written, especially for an Indie book. Literary snobs may look down their nose, but anyone who is looking for a compelling story or a fun Saturday-night romantic read will enjoy this book. I'd recommend it over at least 90 percent of the "romance" lit I've read this year and am very much looking forward to the next book in the series. In fact, I finished Lancaster House in a single evening, and I'll probably do the same with The Middle Aisle.

Kathy says

4.5 Stars - Review to come

Content: Clean (mild language)

Lynn says

what can I say,back great book, reverting read, by the time I got to the end of the book new I'd be buying the 2nd

Heidi says

For me one of the most important parts of a book is the setting. While character development is vitally important and an interesting plot is essential, if I can't visualize the setting I have a hard time reading the book. That wasn't a problem here, Dean does a fabulous job creating a very vivid setting. In fact, she did such a great job that I wanted to actually leap into the book and visit the place, old and damaged or not. I loved the idea of secret hiding places and staircases that go nowhere and I'm a big fan of carved wooden features. I also really enjoyed Zoe as a character, a woman who is dealing with the grief of losing her father and the unfaithfulness of her former fiance, throws herself into renovating Lancaster House. I admired the fact that she didn't let her struggles from doing something she wanted to do. Of the strange things that start happening throw her for a loop, but she tries to deal with it the best way she knows how. I found the other characters interesting as well, especially Andre. The plot is definitely an intriguing one, which I enjoyed immensely, I found it very unique and compelling. I can whole-heartedly recommend this as a clean, intriguing romance with lots of mysterious elements.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

A Ghostly Romance

The perfect Halloween book to read. Not scary but just this side of "normal". Paranormal! Although this isn't my favorite Taylor Dean book, it was still great and I was engaged beginning to end. Now I MUST read the next book!!

Holly says

Wow! Another really clean romance from Taylor Dean! If you're looking for a paranormal romance that isn't smutty and gives you a warm fuzzy feeling inside, Lancaster House is the book for you. I was surprised at the direction that it took in the paranormal sense as I thought it was just going to be a ghost story. But there's much more to it than that! I found myself wondering if maybe the main character, Zoe, really was imagining things, but really hoping that Andre was real. I look forward to reading the sequel. However, my one complaint is that while the cover is pretty, I don't think it gives you much to go on about the story's plot. I don't normally judge a book by it's cover, but I think sales would improve if it sort of gave an idea about the book.

Tammy says

Zoe Grayson has just purchased her dream house. A 1920's Victorian Mansion that she is going to slowly fix

up and restore. She loves the old house with all of its secret passages and history. People think it is strange for her to live alone in such a big house but she has never been happier. With a hefty inheritance, Zoe can work on the house at her leisure and not have to worry about income. Then strange things start to happen. Is Zoe imagining things or is some unseen force behind it? Zoe meets and has an instant attraction to a handsome. Who is he and where did he come from? He has obviously been living in her house but how does he come and go without her knowledge? Zoe tells us her story of love and heartbreak through her psychiatrist at the local hospital.

Another wonderful book written by the wonderful Taylor Dean. Just when you think you have figured out what is going on, you are blown away with more surprises. Zoe is such a wonderful character. You feel for her and want desperately to believe her story. After you read this book you will believe in true love and that it can withstand anything, even time. A wonderful clean love story that will keep you up all night to finish reading it. I recommend this book to everyone. You will love it!

Michele says

Wow, a great ghost romance. Riveting to the end

Sherry Fundin says

Zoe was in Serenity Hills because she had tried to kill herself. She was also accused of killing two men. Dr. Channing had taken over her care and was weaning her from the heavy medications she had been on since her admittance. When he told her there was no such thing as ghosts, she told him they had nothing to talk about. He asked her to tell him about Lancaster House. He didn't think she would answer, but she slowly began to tell him how she fell in love with the house and why she was so desperate to return to it.

The realtor explained about the old Victorian home. It needed a lot of work. She tried to discourage Zoe from going in, let alone buying it, but Zoe could feel the house calling to her. For the second time she thought she saw someone in the window. She laughed with delight at the unexpected finds and oddities of the house. She was intrigued by its idiosyncrasies, the hidden rooms and secret passageways. She loved it. The real estate agent, Barbara, called the builder, Andre Lancaster, peculiar, but Zoe thought him amazing.

The neighbor lady, Mrs Pearson, had come in with them and, while Barbara was busy on the phone, she told Zoe the story of the house. The builder's wife and a vagrant were found dead in the house. The husband was never found. Everyone thought the house was haunted. But that wasn't going to stop Zoe.

After making the place livable, her first project was the banister. She worked late into the night, and even though she wanted to finish it, she quit with ten rails to go. In the morning she found it was done. She thought she must have been high from the fumes and turned her mind to the next project.

When she arose the next morning, the piece of wallpaper she had deliberately left unhung, was put up. Also, during the night a blanket had been placed over her. Did she have an uninvited guest living with her? As she thought about it, all the acts were helpful and caring towards her, so she wasn't afraid, was she?

Still... She went to the courthouse and got the original blue prints. She found the builder had intentionally created an illusion on the outside of the house to hide the additional room. She tore through the wall and found the wife's bedroom and knew she had been murdered there. But the room was covered in dust and no

one could have been in there for a long time. So where was her elusive guest staying?

That night someone broke in and attacked her. Zoe was surprised when another man came to her rescue.

He was shocked that she could see him and speak to him. It wasn't long before she was wanting more than his help with the house. She wanted him. She wanted to see him, speak to him, be held by him.

Where in the house did he Live? Why can't he leave? He had told her his name was Andre, but she had never done her research on the house, so the name held no meaning for her.

She questioned if he really existed, but she felt his presence. He was physical, because she saw him, talked to him, touched him, loved him. She couldn't be imagining him, could she?

4 - Would Highly Recommend To Others

This was definitely a different twist on a vampire (?), ghost (?) or madwoman (?) story. I got about halfway through and thought WT. Never saw that coming. Now I get it, or do I?

A psychological thriller that will keep you guessing. The minute you think you have the answer, you better think again.

The plot had me guessing if HE was real or not, but I'm a reader, not Zoe, so it is totally feasible to me. The book was well written and I liked that it took a twist here and there. Not your typical vampire or ghost story. Or even that of a locked up mad woman. As soon as I thought I had it figured out, something else would happen and I would be wondering, what now? Definitely messed with my mind, had my head spinning. And still does.

What would you do if you had an uninvited guest in your house? Would you believe it was supernatural or would you think your mind was playing tricks on you? Even though you felt him, touched him, kissed him, would you be able to hold to your belief while everyone is telling you that you are wrong? That is Zoe's situation.

Zoe was confident in her knowledge of Andre, no matter what anyone else tried to tell her. All she cared about was being with Andre. He tried to make her see they couldn't have a relationship, that they lived in different worlds - his was supernatural and she couldn't join him there, or could she?

I felt the doctor was arrogant and controlling, and I really didn't like him. He became obsessed with Zoe and lost his perspective. Maybe he's the one who needs help. lol

Shortly into the book, I thought, this will be a three. It quickly turned into a four, for the simple reason I began to read faster and faster. I had to know what was going to happen next. The writing was captivating and took me deeper into the story as it built to its suspenseful ending.

The end will take you away. Just hope you don't end up in Serenity Hills with Zoe.

I received this book in return for an honest and unbiased review.

Lancaster House Taylor Dean

Paula Phillips says

Zoe Grayson loves decorating and old houses, so when she saw Lancaster House for sale and once she viewed inside she fell head over heels for the house. She could see it had so much potential. Over the next few months though, strange things kept happening around the house. It was almost like she had one of the elves from the story the Shoemaker's elves as all her jobs seemed to be finished. One night, she decided to stay up and got a fright. There was a man in her house. One thing leads to another and turns out that the man is, in fact, Andre Lancaster - the creator of the house who supposedly died over a century ago after his wife and her lover were murdered in the house. As people who aim to harm Zoe are killed, the police start to look at her as the main suspect but know that there is more to the story than what she is letting on. Can Zoe prove that Andre still exists or is he as the doctors say a figment of her imagination? Lancaster House is told from Zoe's perspective during her therapy sessions as she is currently in the Mental hospital after being diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Lancaster House has something for everyone from dealing with Mental Health to Paranormal Romance and the Supernatural.

Kathy Jo says

October 2018:

Oh my gosh! You guys! I still totally LOVE this book! It's SO good! And now is the perfect time to read it! Who doesn't love a spooky ghost story in the month of October?!

October 2017:

From the moment that Zoe Grayson laid eyes on Lancaster House she fell in love and just had to have it! While most people saw an old, run down house that is quite possibly haunted, Zoe saw a gorgeous Victorian that is in need of some major TLC. Lancaster House isn't some ordinary old Victorian home. No... it holds secret rooms, doors that lead to know where, secret passages and lots and lots of secrets.

Strange things start to happen at Lancaster House. Work that Zoe has started during the day is completed at night while she's sleeping. At first she thinks that she is beyond delirious and just forgot that she had completed it. She sets out to figure out what is going on. She purposely leaves work incomplete, only to discover the next day that it has been finished. What in the world is going on? Is there someone hiding out in her house without her knowledge?! Who is it and where are they hiding?! They just can't take up residents in her house! She refuses to allow it!

One night she hears someone climbing her stairs. She rushes out with baseball bat in hand ready to do damage. But she is quickly over taken by a burglar. She knows that she's in real trouble and that there is no way she can get out of the situation unscathed.

Enter in Andre... a mysterious man who appears out of nowhere. He rather forcefully tears the burglar away from Zoe and throws him out the window... to his death. Zoe can't believe her eyes! Did that just happen?! And where did this guy come from?! He just appeared out of thin air!

To Andre's utter shock, he realizes Zoe can see him. How is that possible?! No. No! He can't dwell on that right now. He must get Zoe to call the police, tell them the guy attacked her, that it was self defense, and do not tell them about him. Ummmm. How is she going to explain THAT to the police?! Will they even believe her?! But with no time to waste, she does as she's told.

From then on, Zoe is determined to figure out who and what Andre is. They spend as much time together as possible. Zoe and Andre soon find themselves falling in love. But how can they make it work? He's not human, he's not sure exactly what he is. Half-vampire, half-ghost. This will never work out.

So Andre starts to pull away from Zoe. He refuses to let her ruin her life on something that she will never have with him. Breaking his promise of never leaving her, he disappears and refuses to show himself to her. Zoe can't handle it and takes matters into her own hands. Little did she know that her choice would land her in the local loony bin. How will she ever get back to Andre?! It doesn't matter. It's what she has to do. She just can't live without him. She WILL see him again, or die trying.

Oh. My. Gosh! Someone please tell me why I waited so long to read this book?! I absolutely loved it and devoured it as quickly as I could! I am hurrying through my review so I can start book 2 right away! This one ends in a cliffhanger and I just HAVE to know what happens! Eeeeeeeek!

Ms. Dean does an amazing job of sucking me into her books and taking me on a journey with her beloved characters. I can't wait to read more by her!

And for my casting... *dreamy sigh* I absolutely love these two! What do you think?

Content: Mild language. Mild violence. Attempted rape but doesn't go into detail.

Emily F says

Riveting

Want a book you can't put down? Try this (or any other Taylor Dean book)! I was a bit skeptical of this book from the description, I typically don't enjoy paranormal stories, but this is a fantastic exception. I would recommend this book to mature readers as some of the themes, mental illness, affairs, and intimacy (discussed generally, no explicit details given). I would rate it PG-13 for these mature themes. I enjoyed this story, especially the romance between the two protagonists, and look forward to the sequel! This story used flashbacks quite well to progress the story and didn't lag anywhere.
