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Chicago's Street Guide To The Supernatural: A Guide To Haunted And Legendary Places In And Near The Windy City



Synopsis

Chicago's Street Guide to the Supernatural by Richard T. Crowe is a personally guided tour to local haunts and mysterious sites. All areas of Chicagoland and suburbs are covered and exact directions and field notes compliment the history of each location.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Finally, Richard T. Crowe's much asked for book is here.

Richard T. Crowe is a product of the south side of Chicago. Crowe attended De Paul University where he earned his B.A. and M.A. in English Literature. Geography was his minor. He was a journalism teacher and a city planner at City Hall before establishing his full time Chicago Supernatural Tours. However, Richard Crowe's tours are not just limited to Chicago. He conducts tours in Salem, Massachusetts, and New Orleans, and Gettysburg.

I was hoping for this book to be available through nook but bought it on Kindle anyway. Interesting read! I enjoyed exploring Chicago's history in a paranormal frame. Although a little spooky that I unknowingly bought it on the day that marked Crowe's 3rd death anniversary.

This book presents an uninspired retread of the same stories you can get from any book on Chicago ghosts. There is really nothing new here; I would like to have seen a little more depth and

research and not so much of the same tired tales I have heard since I was 8. As for the tour, my friend (almost former friend after this debacle) signed a bunch of us up. It was unequivocally the most boring, overpriced piece of tourist claptrap I have ever come across. It started out promising enough with a visit to the Biograph Theater and the death site of John Dillinger. I should have quit while I was ahead. The tour then spiraled downhill from there, eventually becoming almost comically bad (I say almost because of its ridiculously steep price). It was all over for me when we stopped at a Chinese grocery store where our "guide" obviously got some sort of kickback for parading a bunch of clueless tourists through the place. His monologue on Chinatown, which we were in for 45 minutes, was "Chinatown has a lot of ghost stories. Here is our next stop where you can buy candy and handbags." The tour was 4+ hours and, I kid you not, we heard at most 20 minutes of stories. That man should be ashamed of himself, I wish I had been mugged on the way there....I still would have lost my money but at least I would have saved a few hours of time. AVOID AT ALL COSTS!!

The person who buys this book should be someone who has been on one of Richard Crowe's ghost tours and is purchasing the book as a kind of souvenir. Crowe isn't much of a writer: the text of "Chicago Street Guide to the Supernatural" is mostly a word-by-word duplication of the speeches he gives on his tours. That being said, Crowe really knows his stuff. He's been giving ghost tours in Chicago for years and could talk to you for hours about any of the haunted locations mentioned in his book. He's not a scientist and not exactly a historian, but Crowe specializes in legends, and that's what ghost stories are made of. This book contains summaries of Chicago's most famous ghost stories, including Resurrection Mary and John Dillinger. Crowe includes information that he obtained from interviews as well as many interesting photographs. It's an interesting and entertaining read, and anyone interested in learning more about Supernatural Chicago will enjoy it immensely.

In his book, Richard Crowe attempts to provide the reader with a compilation of "ghost stories," associated with the greater Chicagoland area. What he accomplishes, however, is a fantastic guide to many supernatural sites (not limited to hauntings, but also to curses, hexes, and other superstitions and otherworldly phenomena). He is a superb story teller, and many of the passages in the book will give you "the willies." One reviewer commented that much of the book is "folklore" and this is true. However, I have not seen too many tales of hauntings published in scientific journals. Our source, as a society, of supernatural stories is folklore and people like Richard Crowe, who keep these stories alive. I recently was a guest on one of his tours, and it is far from a "party

bus." It is a great, fun time, but it is a tour, not a ghost hunt or research expedition. I never knew so many places that people walk through (such as the alley near the biograph theatre where Dillinger died) are haunted places. I would recommend this book and his tour to anyone with even a passing interest in the supernatural history of Chicago. The book also features great pictures of almost every site, and is very well written. It is one of my favorite ghost books.

This book does nothing more than reprint most common "folklore" of the Chicago area. With the exception of a handful of comments in the book, it sounds the same as any other books out there on Chicago haunted sites. After attending one or two tours on Chicago's haunted sites, you would have the same information as this book offers. This book is nothing special. The Author's Chicago Ghost tours are nothing more than a shopping trip with stops at stores, pubs and restaurants to spend money. No information about hauntings is give off the bus only shopping. I would recommend Dale Kacmarek's books on Chicago Ghosts because he is a noted researcher and investigator and not a "folklorist" who collects stories to retell. In fact most of the stories have already appeared in local newspapers for decades, and the folklore is famous before the author began his tours--example is Resurrection Mary. We went on his tours back in the 1990's through a Community College and it was the same then as it is now. The author is rude on his tours to people who pay high prices. We saw him get the kickback too at the Chinatown store and the free drinks at the bars as well. Rather read Windy City Ghosts by Dale Kaczmarek, he is president of the Ghost Research Society and has visited every site and interviewed people. Considering the author tells people on his tour that he has a Masters Degree in English, I am surprised he didn't write the book alone.

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