

st louis haunted history

St. Louis Haunted History: Exploring the City's Spooky Past

st louis haunted history is a fascinating journey into the eerie and mysterious tales that have shaped the city's identity over centuries. Known for its iconic Gateway Arch and rich cultural heritage, St. Louis also harbors a darker side—a tapestry of ghost stories, haunted landmarks, and unexplained phenomena that continue to capture the imaginations of locals and visitors alike. Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, delving into St. Louis's haunted history offers a captivating glimpse of its supernatural undercurrents.

The Origins of St. Louis Haunted History

St. Louis's past stretches back to the early 18th century when French fur traders established the settlement. Throughout its growth from a frontier town to a bustling urban center, the city has witnessed numerous historical events—wars, epidemics, and social upheavals—that have contributed to the legends surrounding its haunted sites. The mix of Native American heritage, European settlement, and later industrial expansion created fertile ground for stories of restless spirits and ghostly encounters.

Many tales originate from tragic or violent incidents, which locals believe have left an imprint on the physical locations. This concept, often referred to as “residual hauntings,” suggests that intense emotions or trauma can echo through time, replaying in the form of apparitions or strange sounds. In St. Louis, these hauntings are tied to specific buildings, neighborhoods, and landmarks, making the city a hotspot for paranormal enthusiasts.

Famous Haunted Locations in St. Louis

The Lemp Mansion

One cannot talk about St. Louis haunted history without mentioning the Lemp Mansion. Once home to the Lemp family, famous brewers during the 19th century, the mansion is infamous for a series of tragic suicides and mysterious deaths that befell the family. Visitors and staff often report eerie footsteps, cold spots, and shadowy figures roaming the halls.

Today, the Lemp Mansion operates as a restaurant and inn, offering paranormal tours that allow curious guests to explore its haunted past firsthand. Stories of ghostly apparitions sitting at tables or wandering through the

basement have become part of the mansion's allure.

The Missouri Botanical Garden

While the Missouri Botanical Garden is celebrated for its lush landscapes and beautiful flora, it also has a reputation for ghostly sightings. Reports of a spectral woman dressed in white wandering the gardens at night have intrigued both gardeners and visitors. Some believe she is the spirit of a woman who died on the property long ago, adding a mysterious layer to the serene environment.

The Old Courthouse

The Old Courthouse, part of the Gateway Arch National Park, is another hotspot for paranormal activity. With its long history as a legal center and site of significant trials, the building has seen its share of human drama. Visitors have reported unexplained noises, footsteps, and cold drafts in areas where no one is present. The building's historic significance only deepens the allure of its haunted reputation.

Neighborhoods and Streets with Haunted Tales

St. Louis's haunted history isn't confined to famous buildings; entire neighborhoods also carry ghostly legacies. One such area is Lafayette Square, known for its Victorian homes and intriguing past. Residents have reported strange noises, flickering lights, and phantom figures appearing in windows.

Similarly, Soulard, one of St. Louis's oldest neighborhoods, is rich in haunted folklore. The bars and restaurants in this lively district sometimes share stories of spirits that linger after dark, making a night out there potentially more thrilling than you'd expect.

Tips for Exploring Haunted St. Louis

If you're interested in experiencing St. Louis's haunted history yourself, here are some practical tips:

- **Join a guided ghost tour:** Local companies offer walking tours that blend history with ghost stories, providing context and safety.
- **Visit during special events:** Many haunted locations host events around Halloween or paranormal investigation nights.

- **Bring the right gear:** A flashlight, comfortable shoes, and an open mind can enhance your experience.
- **Respect the sites:** Remember that many haunted spots are private properties or functioning businesses, so always seek permission and be courteous.

The Role of Folklore and Paranormal Investigations

St. Louis haunted history is as much about cultural storytelling as it is about actual supernatural occurrences. Folklore plays a significant role in preserving the city's ghost tales, passed down through generations and adapted over time. These stories often serve as cautionary tales or ways to explain the unexplainable.

In recent decades, paranormal investigators have taken a keen interest in St. Louis's haunted locations. Using tools like EMF meters, infrared cameras, and audio recorders, these groups aim to capture evidence of paranormal activity. While skeptics question the validity of such findings, many visitors remain intrigued by the possibility of encountering something otherworldly.

How Haunted History Shapes St. Louis Culture

The ghosts of St. Louis are more than just spooky stories—they contribute to the city's unique cultural identity. Haunted history influences local art, literature, and tourism, drawing visitors eager to explore beyond the usual attractions. Festivals, ghost walks, and themed events celebrate this aspect of St. Louis's heritage, blending entertainment with education.

For residents, these stories create a sense of mystery and connection to the past, reminding them that history isn't just about dates and facts but also about the people and spirits who once walked the same streets.

Exploring Beyond the City: Haunted Sites Near St. Louis

If you're willing to venture just outside St. Louis, several nearby locations offer their own haunted histories. For example, the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, once a thriving Native American city, is rumored to be haunted by ancient spirits. Similarly, old inns and historic homes scattered throughout Missouri add to the region's extensive paranormal map.

These sites help broaden the understanding of how haunted history extends beyond urban centers, reflecting the deep-rooted connections between land, history, and the supernatural.

St. Louis haunted history invites us to look beyond the surface and explore the stories that linger in the shadows of this vibrant city. Whether through chilling ghost tales or immersive tours, uncovering these mysteries offers a new way to experience St. Louis—one footstep at a time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the most haunted location in St. Louis?

The Lemp Mansion is often considered the most haunted location in St. Louis, known for its tragic history and numerous ghost sightings.

Who were the Lemp family and why are they associated with hauntings?

The Lemp family were prominent brewers in St. Louis whose tragic suicides and mysterious deaths in their mansion have led to reports of paranormal activity and hauntings.

Are there any ghost tours available in St. Louis?

Yes, St. Louis offers several ghost tours, including walking tours through haunted neighborhoods and visits to locations like the Lemp Mansion and the Missouri Botanical Garden at night.

What kind of paranormal activity is reported in the Lemp Mansion?

Visitors and staff at the Lemp Mansion have reported sightings of apparitions, unexplained noises, cold spots, and objects moving on their own.

Is the Old Courthouse in St. Louis considered haunted?

The Old Courthouse is rumored to have paranormal activity, with reports of unexplained noises and ghostly figures, possibly linked to its long history including trials and executions.

What role does the Missouri History Museum play in

St. Louis haunted history?

The Missouri History Museum sometimes hosts events and exhibits related to St. Louis haunted history, sharing stories of ghost sightings and paranormal investigations in the city.

Are there any legends or ghost stories unique to St. Louis?

Yes, St. Louis has unique legends such as the haunting of the Lemp Mansion, stories of the Spirit of St. Louis Hotel, and ghost tales tied to the city's historic riverfront and underground tunnels.

Additional Resources

St. Louis Haunted History: Exploring the Shadows of the Gateway City

st louis haunted history is a subject that captivates historians, paranormal enthusiasts, and curious travelers alike. As one of the oldest cities in the American Midwest, St. Louis carries a rich tapestry of stories, some of which are steeped in mystery and tales of the supernatural. From historic landmarks to forgotten alleyways, the city's haunted past offers a unique lens through which to understand its cultural and social evolution. This article delves into the many facets of St. Louis's haunted history, weaving together documented events, local legends, and the ongoing fascination with its ghostly reputation.

The Foundations of St. Louis Haunted History

St. Louis's haunted history is deeply intertwined with its development as a bustling river port and its role in American expansion. Founded in 1764, the city witnessed numerous waves of immigration, economic booms, and social upheavals. These historical dynamics created the backdrop for many supernatural stories. The city's architecture, ranging from antebellum mansions to industrial warehouses, often serves as the stage for reported paranormal activity.

The significance of St. Louis in the context of the westward expansion and the Civil War also contributes to its haunted lore. Sites associated with these periods frequently report unexplained phenomena, suggesting that the lingering impressions of past conflicts and hardships may manifest as ghostly encounters.

Historic Sites and Their Haunted Reputations

Several locations in St. Louis are renowned for their eerie histories and reported hauntings. Among them:

- **The Lemp Mansion:** Once home to the Lemp family, famous for their brewing empire, the mansion has a tragic history marked by multiple suicides and mysterious deaths. Visitors and staff have reported paranormal occurrences such as unexplained voices, apparitions, and sudden drops in temperature.
- **Union Station:** This iconic train station, now a hotel and entertainment complex, has long been rumored to harbor spirits of travelers who never left. Reports include shadowy figures and footsteps in empty corridors.
- **The Missouri History Museum:** Built on the site of numerous historical events, the museum reportedly experiences ghostly activity, particularly after hours.
- **Old Courthouse:** A landmark of legal and civil rights history, the courthouse is said to have spectral presences linked to its past trials and executions.

These locations are not only tourist attractions but also serve as living museums of the city's haunted past, blending historical fact with folklore.

Analyzing the Cultural Impact of Haunted Sites in St. Louis

The fascination with St. Louis haunted history extends beyond mere curiosity; it plays a significant role in the city's cultural identity and tourism economy. Ghost tours and paranormal investigations are popular activities, drawing visitors eager to experience the supernatural firsthand. This trend reflects a broader societal interest in connecting with history through immersive and experiential means.

From an economic perspective, haunted landmarks contribute to local business by attracting niche markets such as paranormal investigators and history buffs. However, the commercialization of haunted sites also raises questions about authenticity and respect for historical tragedies. Balancing entertainment with education remains a challenge for stakeholders in St. Louis.

St. Louis Haunted History in Popular Media

St. Louis's haunted reputation has been featured in numerous documentaries, television shows, and podcasts dedicated to ghost stories and paranormal phenomena. This media exposure amplifies the city's mystique and attracts a wider audience. The portrayal of St. Louis in these formats often emphasizes dramatic encounters and chilling narratives, which can sometimes blur the lines between documented history and legend.

Nevertheless, this media attention provides an opportunity to explore the historical context behind hauntings, encouraging critical thinking and historical inquiry. It also highlights the importance of preserving these sites not only as tourist destinations but as cultural heritage landmarks.

Investigating the Reliability of Haunted Accounts

When examining St. Louis haunted history, it is essential to consider the reliability of reported paranormal experiences. Eyewitness testimonies, while compelling, are often subjective and influenced by psychological and environmental factors. Skeptics argue that many hauntings can be explained by natural phenomena such as electromagnetic fields, structural noises, or optical illusions.

Paranormal investigators in St. Louis employ various technologies—including EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) recorders, infrared cameras, and motion detectors—to capture evidence. While some findings remain inconclusive, these investigations contribute valuable insights into the nature of reported hauntings and encourage a methodical approach to understanding the paranormal.

The Role of Folklore and Oral Traditions

Much of St. Louis haunted history is preserved through oral traditions and local folklore. These stories often serve as cautionary tales or reflections of societal fears and values from different historical periods. For example, tales of restless spirits in the Lemp Mansion may symbolize the burdens of family legacy and mental illness, while ghost stories tied to the Old Courthouse reflect the city's complex judicial past.

Oral histories provide a rich source of cultural information but require careful interpretation to distinguish between metaphorical storytelling and potential historical truth. Collaborations between historians, folklorists, and paranormal researchers help contextualize these narratives within St. Louis's broader historical framework.

St. Louis Haunted Locations: A Closer Look

Beyond the well-known landmarks, several lesser-known locations contribute to the city's haunted mystique:

1. **The Campbell House Museum:** This 19th-century mansion is said to be haunted by former residents, with reported sounds of footsteps and doors opening mysteriously.
2. **Beaumont Hotel:** Guests have reported sightings of shadow figures and unexplained noises, possibly linked to the hotel's long history dating back to the early 1900s.
3. **Calvary Cemetery:** Established in 1854, this cemetery is a hotspot for ghost hunters due to its many historic graves and reported spectral activity.

These sites illustrate the diversity of haunted experiences in St. Louis, ranging from urban legends to documented historical tragedies.

Balancing Preservation and Public Interest

As interest in haunted history grows, preserving the structural integrity and historical authenticity of these locations becomes increasingly important. Efforts by local historical societies and preservation groups aim to maintain these sites not only for their paranormal allure but also for their educational value.

Public engagement through guided tours and interpretive programs fosters appreciation for St. Louis's layered history, while responsible tourism minimizes the risk of damage or disrespect to sensitive sites.

Exploring St. Louis haunted history reveals a city where past and present coexist in intriguing ways. The interplay between documented events, folklore, and paranormal investigation enriches the cultural fabric of the Gateway City, offering residents and visitors alike a window into its complex and captivating legacy.

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st louis haunted history: Haunted St. Louis Troy Taylor, 2002 St. Louis ghosts, legends &

lore! Welcome to Haunted St. Louis ... one of the grand cities of the Mississippi River, the gateway to the western frontier and a very haunted place! This is no mere book of ghost stories by a page-turning account of how history and hauntings have shaped the city, from the early days to the 1904 World's Fair, the bloodbath of Prohibition and beyond. Taylor plunges the reader headlong into the mysterious past, violent history and bloody deeds of this great city, intertwining these events with tales of ghosts, hauntings and the unsolved!

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st louis haunted history: *The Lemp Mansion Haunting* Patrick Gunn, 2025-06-02 *The Lemp Mansion Haunting: A True Story of Tragedy, Spirits, and St. Louis's Most Haunted Home* Nestled in the heart of St. Louis, Missouri, the Lemp Mansion stands as a chilling monument to one of America's most tragic family legacies. Behind its ornate walls lie the echoes of untimely deaths, scandal, and the spectral presence of those who refuse to rest. *The Lemp Mansion Haunting* dives

deep into the real-life horrors that unfolded in this historic home—from the meteoric rise of the Lemp family brewery empire to a harrowing series of suicides that cemented the mansion's haunted reputation. Blending historical fact with chilling eyewitness accounts, this book reveals: The untold story of the Lemp brewing dynasty's rise and tragic fall Paranormal investigations and chilling encounters inside the mansion How architecture may amplify haunting phenomena Firsthand visitor testimonials and emotional responses to the space The mansion's influence on local folklore, ghost tours, and media Perfect for true crime aficionados, ghost story lovers, and fans of historical mysteries, *The Lemp Mansion Haunting* is a meticulously researched and emotionally gripping journey into one of the most notorious haunted locations in the United States. What draws so many to Lemp Mansion—morbid curiosity or the restless spirits within? Decide for yourself.

st louis haunted history: *The Big Book of Missouri Ghost Stories* Troy Taylor, 2019-07-17 Hauntings lurk and spirits linger in the Show Me State Reader, beware! Turn these pages and enter the world of the paranormal, where ghosts and ghouls alike creep just out of sight. Author Troy Taylor shines a light in the dark corners of Missouri and scares those spirits out of hiding in this thrilling collection. From a headless ghost who stalks the aptly named "Murder Rocks", to a large hairy monster that roams the banks of the Missouri River, there's no shortage of bone-chilling tales to keep you up at night. It's even rumored that the devil himself came to St. Louis in 1949, but nobody knows for sure if he ever left. Around the campfire or tucked away on a dark and stormy night, this big book of ghost stories is a hauntingly good read.

st louis haunted history: *Big Book of Minnesota Ghost Stories* Andy Weeks, 2025-07-01 A thrilling collection of haunting stories from all around the state of Minnesota. Stories vary in length, from 750 words to 2000 words each and are broken up by city or region, including Twin Cities, central Minnesota, Northland, the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast. Ghost stories are retold with historical information and recounting the activity of the spirits that linger.

st louis haunted history: *Ghosts of St. Louis* Bryan W. Alaspa, 2007 St. Louis is a modern metropolis still rich with legends dating back to the early Native Americans, and a history that lives on through many spirits that refuse to die. - Visit the infamous Lemp Mansion and discover its scandalous history; a tragic tale of a wealthy family plagued by multiple suicides, madness, depression, and public ridicule. - Read about the Gehm House, if you dare, where footsteps fall where no man walks and visitors are attacked as they sleep. - Learn about Building 28 at the haunted Jefferson Barracks. - See spirits of children floating on the lawn of the haunted Rock House. - And don't forget to peer back into the past to see the ghost-infested McDowell Medical College! A ghost-lovers paradise, these and other tales will haunt you.

st louis haunted history: *The Haunted South* Alan Brown, 2020-09-07 Southerners love the South. And some souls never leave. Savannah, New Orleans and St. Augustine are among the most haunted places in America, and chilling stories abound nearly everywhere below the Mason-Dixon line. At Seaman's Bethel Theater in Mobile, Alabama, actors and staff are frightened by the unnerving sounds of a child's laughter. The ghost of Alfred Victor DuPont, a noted ladies' man, is said to harass female employees in the stairwell at DuPont Mansion in Louisville, Kentucky. The Café Vermilionville is housed in what is reputed to be Lafayette's first inn. A young girl in a yellow dress, thought to be a previous owner's daughter who died from polio around the time of the Civil War, startles patrons from the balcony of the restaurant. Join author Alan Brown as he traverses the supernatural legends of the American South.

st louis haunted history: *America's Most Gothic* Leanna Renee Hieber, Andrea Janes, 2025-09-30 From the Bram Stoker nominated author team who penned *A Haunted History of Invisible Women*, the first book of its kind to investigate gothic tropes that define American lore. Here is the hidden, dark history of what frightens us—and why. The Gothic. Brooding, atmospheric, chilling, and not always the outpouring of a feverish imagination. Reality can be even stranger as borne out in this lush and ghostly look at real people who lived--and died—amidst the trappings of the Gothic. Fog clinging to an isolated mansion. A dangerous patriarch or an overbearing matron. Locked doors and forbidden rooms. Whispers of murder and madness. And a woman shadowed by

omnipresent threats. You've guessed it. You've stumbled into a Gothic tale, and it will haunt you like a ghost. We often think of the enduring tropes of the Gothic in terms of fiction and film—breath-catching escapes that tap into our fears, anxieties, forbidden desires, and unsettling dreams. But what if some of these chilly vibes are rooted in the experiences of real and tragic people who danced a macabre waltz with love and death? That's why we're here. Take the case of teenage Mercy Brown, victim—or was it predator?—of Rhode Island's vampire hysteria of the 1890s. Marguerite de la Roque, a French noblewoman condemned for "sexual crimes" to Canada's long-lost Isle of Demons. What happened to her and the barren landscape itself is the stuff of legend. And "Mad Lucy" Ludwell, the decidedly peculiar eighteenth-century high-society hauteur driven mad in the Virginia estate she prowls to this day. President Helen Peabody's spirit still stringently watches over her Women's College, now part of Ohio's Miami University. Ghosts of workers lost in horrific conditions while building the Hoosac Tunnel warn of imminent danger. Settle in. There are more. Welcome to the phantom ships, haunted academic halls, menacing landscapes, and family curses of America's Most Gothic—a tour of true spectral sightings and disordered minds. But beware: it's sure to get under your skin. The haunted—and haunting—figures herein want it that way.

st louis haunted history: *Haunted America & Other Paranormal Travels* Sherri Granato, 2015-04-09 *Haunted America & Other Paranormal Travels* allows the reader to discover haunted venues in every state in America and even some abroad. Creepy tales from celebrities, ghost-riddled trains and highways, eerie phenomena, and unexplained anomalies. Its all here if you dare.

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st louis haunted history: *Hauntingly Good Spirits* Sharon Keating, Christi Keating Sumich, 2024-08-13 Capture the paranormal essence of New Orleans in a glass with 40 tasty, gothic, and unique cocktails designed for Spooky Season and the great beyond. Few places possess such a robust and thriving culture of death as does the soulful city of New Orleans. In this captivating cocktail book, travel enthusiasts and Big Easy locals Sharon Keating and Christi Keating Sumich take you on a historical romp through the supernatural by way of the NOLA bar scene and its spirits (the boos and the booze!) celebrating local New Orleans ingredients and the hometown mixologists who make them sing. Separated into five sections—Reverence and Revelry, Tomb Time, Ghosts & Haunted Libations, Vampire Bars with Killer Cocktails, and Voodoo & Witchcraft—*Hauntingly Good Spirits* unearths the eerie roots of the city's culture as you savor spooky sips like: Corpse Reviver Spooky Smoked Sazerac The Soggy Grave Deadly Vipers Drunk Ghost Mistakes Were Made Bloody Gin Fizz Fang-ria Undead Gentleman The Gris-Gris Night Tripper Saint 75 And more! Work up a thirst exploring all the spooky NOLA places mentioned in the Haunted History sections and reference the Spirit Guide map for their locations throughout the city. Serving up cocktails that are delicious, steeped in spookiness, and historically accurate, let *Hauntingly Good Spirits* be your guide for your next trip to the City of the Dead during Spooky Season and beyond as you plunge into these decadent drinks and the creepy culture that inspired them.

st louis haunted history: *Haunted Salt Lake City* Laurie Allen, Cassie Ashton, Kristen Lynne Clay, Nannette Watts, 2021-04-13 Haunted mansions, phantom nuns and a poltergeist wedding crasher . . . The book's pages are filled with accounts of ghostly sightings. — Deseret News Uncovering ghost stories in Salt Lake City leads to a spooky mixture of legend, lore and local history.

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st louis haunted history: Haunted City Joy Dickinson, 2004 One of America's most romantic and mysterious cities - its steamy languid climate; its cultural gumbo of Catholicism and voodoo, French past and Creole present; and its celebrated corruption, cuisine and cemeteries - all combine to make the Crescent City a magical place. A magic enhanced by Anne Rice's novels of the sensually supernatural. Newly updated, this guide offers a tour of hotels, gravesites, streets and places mentioned in these novels, complete with maps, photos, some usual and some unusual tourist information like the fictional settings of Anne's Vampires and Witches.

st louis haunted history: Haunted Canadian County Tanya McCoy, Whitney Wilson, 2018-10-08 Keeping time with the river for which it was named, Canadian County courses with haunted history. The heritage of persecuted tribes, outlawed fugitives and struggling pioneers runs through the region with the strength of desperation. Apparitions walk the shore of Lake Overholser, and disembodied voices echo around Yukon's Stage Door Theatre. Strange presences peer through the broken windows of the abandoned Concho Indian School. From Deadman's Curve to the Chisholm Trail, Tanya McCoy and Whitney Wilson trace the story of Canadian County's spectral past.

st louis haunted history: City of the Undead Robin Ann Roberts, 2023-09-13 From its looming above-ground cemeteries to the ghosts believed to haunt its stately homes, New Orleans is a city deeply entwined with death, the undead, and the supernatural. The reasons behind New Orleans's reputation as America's most haunted city are numerous. Its location near the mouth of the Mississippi River grants it a liminal status between water and land, while its Old World architecture and lush, moss-covered oak trees lend it an eerie beauty. Complementing the city's mysterious landscape, spiritual beliefs and practices from Native American, African, African American, Caribbean, and European cultures mingle in a unique ferment of the paranormal. An extremely high death rate in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and a long history of enslavement and oppression have also produced fertile soil for stories of the undead. Focusing on three manifestations of the supernatural in New Orleans—Voodoo, ghosts, and vampires—Robin Roberts argues that the paranormal gives voice to the voiceless, including victims of racism and oppression, thus encouraging the living not to repeat the injustices of the past.

st louis haunted history: Real Hauntings 5-Book Bundle Mark Leslie, Jenny Jelen, Shayna Krishnasamy, 2018-10-13 Experience a ghostly thrill with Mark Leslie's five books on strange supernatural happenings. Macabre Montreal Montreal is steeped in history and culture. But there are dark tales, eerie stories, and ghostly spectres that come alive once the sun goes down. Creepy Capital True stories of ghostly encounters and creepy locales lurk throughout the Ottawa region. Come along with Canada's paranormal raconteur extraordinaire, Mark Leslie, and discover the first-person accounts of ghostly happenings at landmarks throughout the historic city and surrounding towns. Haunted Hamilton From the Hermitage ruins to Dundurn Castle, from the Customs House to Stoney Creek Battlefield Park, the city of Hamilton, Ontario, is steeped in a rich history and culture. But beneath the surface of the Steel City there dwells a darker heart — from the shadows of yesteryear arise the unexplained, the bizarre, and the chilling. Spooky Sudbury From haunted mine shafts to inexplicable lights in the northern sky, there are strange things afoot in the peaceful northern municipality of Sudbury; eerie phenomenon that will amaze, give you pause, make you wonder, and have you looking twice at what might first appear to be innocent shadows. Tomes of Terror It's been said that books have a life of their own, but there's more than literature lurking in the cobwebbed recesses of dusty bookstores and libraries across Canada. Read about some of the most celebrated and eerie bookish haunts, and try to brush off that feeling of someone watching

from just over your shoulder...

st louis haunted history: Haunted Ozarks Janice Tremear, 2011-08-16 The hills have scares in this haunted history of the Ozark Mountains from the paranormal investigator and author of Missouri's Haunted Route 66. Tourists flock to the Ozarks region every year to dip their paddles in the pure waters of its wilderness, or to lose themselves in the happy bustle of its theme parks. But the serene hills and hollows often hide something darker. The Civil War and the Trail of Tears left their marks on the region, as did the James-Younger Gang and the Baldknobbers. Ghosts linger in resorts and penitentiaries, while UFO's and buried treasure rest in uneasy graves. Those startled by seeing a hellhound run through their backyard, however, might also catch a glimpse of author Janice Tremear and her team of researchers in hot pursuit of the mysteries of the Ozarks.

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