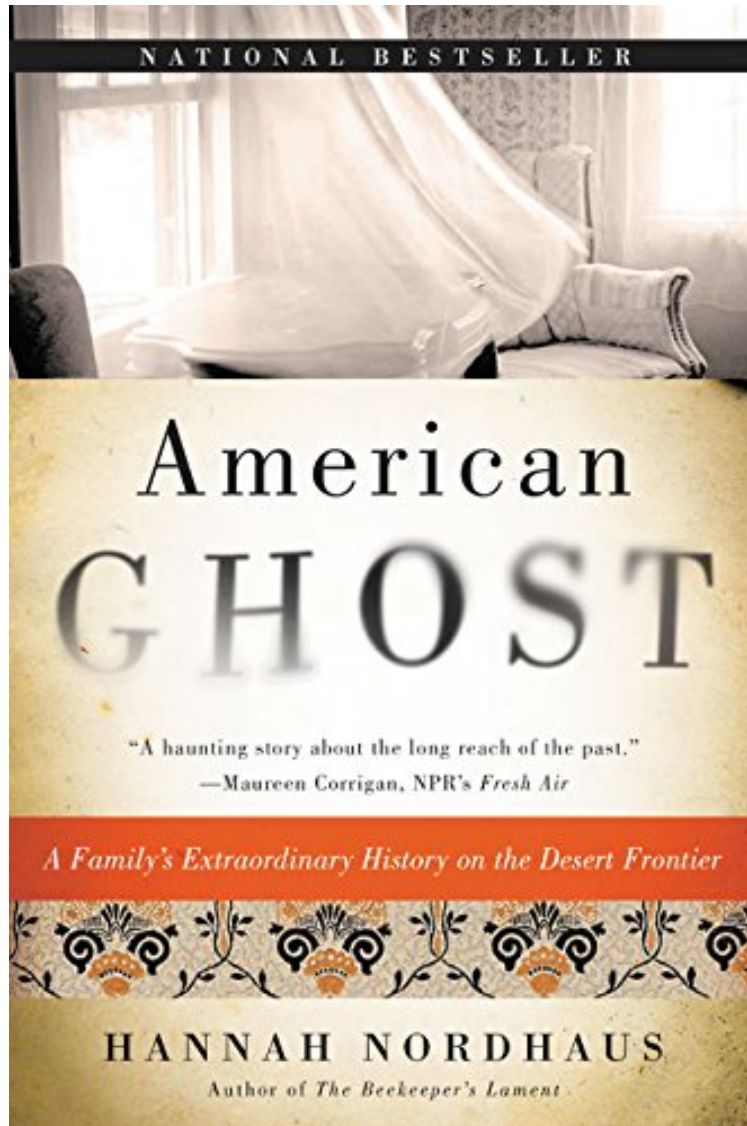


(Download free pdf) American Ghost: A Family's Extraordinary History on the Desert Frontier

American Ghost: A Family's Extraordinary History on the Desert Frontier

Hannah Nordhaus

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#206802 in Books Hannah Nordhaus Author 2016-03-08 2016-03-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .79 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062249207352 pages American Ghost A Family's Extraordinary History on the Desert Frontier | File size: 19.Mb

Hannah Nordhaus : American Ghost: A Family's Extraordinary History on the Desert Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Ghost: A Family's Extraordinary History on the Desert Frontier:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. but when exploring something nebulous like a legendary

hauntingBy Andrew LarkA fascinating account of a family's history; of pioneers, desperadoes, and a woman completely out of her element who's forced to live in a harsh and uncomfortable environment. The questions is; does her spirit still inhabit the house that her husband built for her almost a century and a half ago. Hanna Nordhaus explores this question from every angle, traveling to the southwestern United States, Europe, and many places in between, retracing the footsteps of her great-great-great-grandmother Julia - the woman said to haunt the old family Santa Fe mansion. The story was interesting as a history, and I was especially engaged when the author told of her encounters with mediums, spiritualists, and ghost hunters - some of who seemed fairly on target and others who were clearly way off base. Sometimes the story dragged on a little in its exploration and seemed to deviate off track, but when exploring something nebulous like a legendary haunting, I guess the author was justified in wandering a little. I recommend this book for people who like reading about interesting family histories - of a resilient, driven, prosperous (and possibly tyrannical) man, and a wife who, after being taken out of her element succumbs to the stress, the strain of loss and loneliness, and pioneer life to which she was ill suited. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Quirky and Imperfect, But FascinatingBy Robert B. LammThis is a quirky and imperfect book, but I enjoyed it a lot. Ms. Nordhaus writes about her great-great-grandmother, a rather sheltered and frail German Jewish woman who moved (or, perhaps more aptly, was moved) from Germany to Santa Fe, New Mexico when it was still just a territory with her new husband and who apparently haunts a hotel there that was formerly her home. The (true) story takes us through generations of a very successful and wealthy German Jewish family, both on the frontier and in their travels around the United States and Europe, but always returning to the saga of Julia Staab (the great-great-grandmother and/or ghost in question) and her husband and children. The story is fascinating and is "interrupted" (delightfully, in my view) by Ms. Nordhaus's visits with various and sundry mediums, some of whom seem, well, less than authentic in their efforts to communicate with Julia. Ms. Nordhaus perseveres and actually learns a great deal about the family, even though some major mysteries are left unsolved. The very fact that the family's tale isn't wrapped up in a box with a pretty bow, and the fact that the story is a mix of sadness and humor, makes it more realistic. I can't give it five stars for two reasons -- first, there's a rather lengthy digression about a sister of Julia who died in a concentration camp. It's not a frivolous digression, but it's a digression nonetheless. Second, there's a sort of touchy-feely "soliloquy" towards the end of the book that I could have lived without. That said, I very much enjoyed the book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Fun Interesting ReadBy Sophie ShopperAs a person who loves genealogy - that's why I bought this book - because it sounded so fascinating. Researching ones ancestors is a great deal of fun. You learn about history and so many things. I did enjoy reading about Julia and learning all about her family and life. I knew nothing about that part of America where Julia and her husband settled, which was quite interesting to learn about. Full of details and captivating scenes - this book is not boring at all. This is a true story and one that is pretty amazing as well. It takes you from Europe to the South-West and back again. The author did a great job of investigating all matters of these people's lives. She truly did all the leg work by going to each location. This keeps the book's flow going and it moves right along in a seamless manner. The only thing I didn't agree with - was her 'conclusions' about certain events. She put her own focus of reality onto these people. First at the beginning she was sure of this or that fact only to find out she was wrong. Later on she uses psychics and other methods of trying to learn about Julia and her family. I don't mind psychics at all. However, I don't think you can 'assume' they are always correct. However, since this is her very own relative and it's her book - she, as the author, has every right to put forth her own ideas and assumptions whether they are right or wrong. As a genealogist - you must rely strictly to facts that have proof on documents. As a person who is just trying to learn about her family - you don't have to rely only on documents or proof. There is room for speculation and/or conjecture in just story telling. Basically - if you like true stories about real people from the past - I don't see why you wouldn't like this book. It does take you on a journey and ends up with results that were unknown unexpected. I think Julia would be proud of her descendant for caring enough to do all the research and asking the hard questions. Hopefully this is one ghost who can now be at peace and who can move on to where-ever ghosts go to.

A haunting story about the long reach of the past. Maureen Corrigan, NPRS Fresh Air In this intriguing book, [Nordhaus] shares her journey to discover who her immigrant ancestor really was and what strange alchemy made the idea of her linger long after she was gone. PeopleLa Posada place of rest was once a grand Santa Fe mansion. It belonged to Abraham and Julia Staab, who emigrated from Germany in the mid-nineteenth century. After they died, the house became a hotel. And in the 1970s, the hotel acquired a resident ghost a sad, dark-eyed woman in a long gown. Strange things began to happen there: vases moved, glasses flew, blankets were ripped from beds. Julia Staab died in 1896 but her ghost, they say, lives on. In *American Ghost*, Julia's great-great-granddaughter, Hannah Nordhaus, traces her ancestors transfiguration from nineteenth-century Jewish bride to modern phantom. Family diaries, photographs, and newspaper clippings take her on a riveting journey through three hundred years of German history and the American immigrant experience. With the help of historians, genealogists, family members, and ghost hunters, she weaves a masterful, moving story of fin-de-sicle Europe and pioneer life, villains and visionaries, medicine and spiritualism, imagination and truth, exploring how lives become legends, and what those legends tell us about who we

are.

In this intriguing book, [Nordhaus] shares her journey to discover who her immigrant ancestor really was - and what strange alchemy made the idea of her linger long after she was gone. (People)Whether you believe in ghosts or are just intrigued by their persistence in popular culture, *American Ghost* is itself a haunting story about the long reach of the past. (Maureen Corrigan, NPR's Fresh Air)Expertly dissects fact from embroidery. . . . A colorful and engrossing quest. (Elle, "7 Must-Read Books")Nordhaus attacks her subject with the same scholarship and lively writing that made her nonfiction debut, *The Beekeepers Lament*, a beloved best-seller. . . . Fascinating. (Dallas Morning News)The more Nordhaus digs into the history and explores the supernatural dimensions of the story, the more complex and intriguing it becomes. *American Ghost* is a multi-genre work that succeeds on a number of levels. (Denver Post)Journalist Hannah Nordhaus braids personal memoir with historical research and resolute ghost hunting in a narrative that investigates the restless spirit of her great-great-grandmother Julia Schuster Staab. (Boston Globe)A gripping account of frontier life from an immigrant Jewish womans perspective. It is the authors connection of the past where she explores the story, trying to separate the history and the myth. (Working Mother)Part travelogue, part memoir, part ghost story, part history. . . . Nordhaus offers a deeply compelling personal account of her attempts to better understand her own family. . . . The books unique blend of genres and its excellent writing make it hard to put down. (Booklist (starred review))[A] funny, moving, and suspenseful tale. (The Week)The authors multifaceted work brings Julia back to life and explores the journey it took to rediscover her narrative. . . . Every aspect of the account is enlightening, well written, and entertaining. This touching and uplifting work is highly recommended and will appeal to a variety of readers. (Library Journal (starred review))An incredible story. . . . A haunting tale. (National Examiner)A fascinating and nuanced account of her ancestral ghost story and her complicated clan. (BookPage)A unique collision of family history, Wild West adventure, and ghost story. . . . Perceptive, witty, and engaging. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))Fascinating and frequently surprising. Ultimately, *American Ghost* is a reflection on how the unresolved questions in our own histories can be even more haunting than ghosts. (Shelf Awareness)Tenaciously researched and beautifully written, *American Ghost* gives flesh to a lost story, exhumes a bygone world, and animates the ways in which the past haunts all of us. Hannah Nordhaus has performed a lyrical feat of dead-raising. (Benjamin Wallace, author of *The Billionaire's Vinegar*)Beautifully written and self-aware, a memoir that tells a story and searches for broader lessons. . . . Ultimately, *American Ghost* is not just the story of a haunting, but a story that will haunt its readers. (Minneapolis Star Tribune)A thoughtful and intriguing chronicle of familial investigation. (Kirkus s)*American Ghost* is at once an engrossing portrait of a forgotten female pioneer and a fascinating meditation on the fine line between history and lore. Hannah Nordhaus has crafted a seamless blend of gripping mystery, moving family confessional, and chilling ghost story. (Karen Abbott, New York Times bestselling author of *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy*)Here is a very different sort of a Western, a deeply feminine story with a strong whiff of the paranormal--Willa Cather meets Stephen King. Dont read this book late at night . . . unless you like feeling your neck hairs stand up on end! (Hampton Sides, author of *In the Kingdom of Ice and Blood and Thunder*)Hannah Nordhaus approaches the legend of her great-great-grandmothers ghost with the insight of an historian and the energy of an inspired detective. A fine tale well told. I loved every word. (Anne Hillerman, author of *Spider Woman's Daughter*)A spirited memoir of one of the earliest Jewish pioneer families in the West. . . . A delightful travelogue. (JWeekly.com)Hannah Nordhaus braids personal memoir with historical research and resolute ghost hunting in a narrative that investigates the restless spirit of her great-great-grandmother Julia Schuster Staab. (Boston Globe)Hannah Nordhaus writes a detective story, although its not fiction, and a ghost story, although its not a chiller. Its biography and history and the product of investigative research, yet everything of power, even scholarly process, must come from the heart, and so does this story. (Washington Independent of Books)A spirited memoir of one of the earliest Jewish pioneer families in the American WestA delightful traveloguerreads like a novel. (Jewish Book Council)All of us are haunted by vestiges of the past, and, as Hannah Nordhaus poignantly observes in *American Ghost*, by the ghosts of who we thought we were or thought we would become. (Boulder Weekly)Nordhauss lyrical memoir untangles truth and legend, the tale of success and the hardships of life, the woman and the ghost. (Jewish Woman Magazine)[A] chronicle of German-Jewish immigration to the American Southwest, a reckoning of family secrets, and an account of the authors personal ghost hunt. (Santa Fe New Mexican)Nordhaus takes us on a journey back in time by any means possible in order to draw a better picture of who her great-great-grandmother was. (Washington Post)From the Back CoverLa Posadaplace of restwas once a grand Santa Fe mansion. It belonged to Abraham and Julia Staab, who emigrated from Germany in the mid-nineteenth century. After they died, the house became a hotel. And in the 1970s, the hotel acquired a resident ghosta sad, dark-eyed woman in a long gown. Strange things began to happen there: vases moved, glasses flew, blankets were ripped from beds. Julia Staab died in 1896but her ghost, they say, lives on.In *American Ghost*, Julias great-great-granddaughter, Hannah Nordhaus, traces her ancestors transfiguration from nineteenth-century Jewish bride to modern phantom. Family diaries, photographs, and newspaper clippings take her on a riveting journey through three hundred years of German history and the American immigrant experience. With the help of historians, genealogists, family members, and ghost hunters,

she weaves a masterful, moving story of fin-de-sicle Europe and pioneer life, villains and visionaries, medicine and spiritualism, imagination and truth, exploring how lives become legends, and what those legends tell us about who we are. About the Author Hannah Nordhaus is the author of the critically acclaimed national bestseller *The Beekeepers Lament*, which was a PEN Center USA Book Awards finalist, Colorado Book Awards finalist, and National Federation of Press Women Book Award winner. She has written for the *Financial Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Outside* magazine, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Village Voice*, and many other publications.