



Spirits of the Heart

Claire Gem

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News Flash! Spirits of the Heart is a finalist in the I Heart Indie Awards!

An addiction counselor & a security guard struggle to free a little girl and her father—lost spirits trapped inside an abandoned mental asylum.

Laura Horton returns from college to move in with an old friend & start her career. But her homecoming is jarring. Her friend's moved out, leaving Laura alone with the gorgeous but intimidating ex-boyfriend—in a house that snugs up to an ancient graveyard.

Officer Miller Stanford is a man with a shattered past. His alcoholic dad destroyed their family, a weakness Miller is terrified will consume him too. The last thing he needs is a sexy, blonde addiction counselor watching his every move. When he begins to see specters in the dark, he starts questioning his own stability.

But Laura sees her too—a pathetic child-spirit searching for her father. Can they unravel the mysteries of Talcott Hall without jeopardizing their love—and lives—in the process?

Spirits of the Heart Details

Date : Published February 14th 2017 by Erato Publishing

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Author : Claire Gem

Format : Paperback 316 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Spirits of the Heart for online ebook

Romi || Romi Reads says

Okay, I quite loved this book. It wasn't perfect, but it really was *near* perfect to me. It had almost everything I seek in a good book to cuddle up on the couch with: romance, lovable characters, a good plot and some thrills.

Reading about Miller and Laura felt like coming home. They were two genuine sweet people, of whom you can only think "they deserve the best in the world!". And they were such a great team together – I loved their relationship even before it became a romance. What also made it feel like coming home, was the gloomy ambience. Although it was Summer when the story took place, it had this Autumn-y vibe that consisted of cuddling up in quilts, (thunder)storms, and of course the two spirits and many other paranormal activities.

One minor point that was a bit confusing at times was that it seemed like Miller's best friend had two different names – sometimes he was called Rip, but most times Kip. But that was all. I already miss Laura and Miller and the cosy yet creepy vibes of *Spirits of the Heart* and I'm definitely going to look around for a copy of the first book in the series: *Hearts Unlocked*!

** An ecopy of this book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. **

The TBR Pile *Book review site* says

This story brings two flawed, lonely people together in a paranormal setting. I really like how the plot plays out. Laura and Miller are fabulous characters! They have a deep and complicated connection as the story moves on.

FULL REVIEW - <http://thetbrpile.weebly.com/reviews/...>

J. Saman says

I have never been an avid reader of paranormal romance, but I absolutely am now and it's ALL because of THIS book! Wow. Claire Gem has artfully written an incredibly suspenseful, intriguing, emotional and steamy journey that I was unable to put down until I got to the last page and then I just wanted more.

Laura is an addiction counselor who is returning to her hometown. Miller is a security officer who works the state grounds of the abandoned mental hospital. Laura thinks she's moving in with her old friend Angie and her boyfriend, but when she shows up at her new home she gets a surprise of a lifetime. A very sexy (and newly single) Miller. Angie had apparently run off and now Laura is stuck living with his large, sort of surly man who may or may not drink too much. At first they're sort of a mess together, who wouldn't be thrown into that sort of situation. But Laura quickly learns that the things Angie told her about Miller aren't exactly true. There is so much more to Miller than meets the eye.

Miller is doing everything he can to keep himself together. He works constantly, supports his mother who

gambles too much and sister who suffered a tragic car accident at the hands of his alcoholic father and is now stuck in a nursing home. Miller naturally blames himself and his demons run deep. But wow, I couldn't help but fall for him. He's so alpha and strong and just... sexy, but also sweet and vulnerable in the most perfect of ways. Their chemistry is simply off the charts and I found myself turning pages just to see what would happen between this smoldering couple.

As if all of this wouldn't make for an incredible story alone, both Miller and Laura (separately and together) see specters of light. What are they? Are they real? Are they figments of their overactive imaginations? And what about Greta, the mysterious, consistently dressed the same and often crying, little girl? She's lost, always in search of her father. Is she real? Can they help her find what she's looking for without it costing them their lives, their jobs and their love?

God, I have so much more to write about that but can't without giving away spoilers, which I don't do. It's simply a must read book. Hands. Down.

Anthony says

I received a free copy of this book for a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own.

Two people with haunted pasts are thrust together in this incredible romance/paranormal thriller *Spirits of the Heart* by Claire Gem. Whether by accident or fate, two strangers are forced to live together, but soon they find themselves facing their past head on and growing into something more than they were before. Here's the synopsis:

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Officer Miller Stanford is a man with a shattered past. His alcoholic dad destroyed their family, a weakness Miller is terrified will consume him too. The last thing he needs is a sexy, blonde addiction counselor watching his every move. When he begins to see specters in the dark, he starts questioning his own stability.

But Laura sees her too—a pathetic child-spirit searching for her father. Can they unravel the mysteries of Talcott Hall without jeopardizing their love—and lives—in the process?

This was an incredibly powerful story. Looking into the theme of first impressions and haunted pasts, this novel explores the way two strangers can find peace and perhaps more in one another in order to move on from their pasts. As the story of this mysterious little girl ghost begins to unravel before their eyes, Miller and Laura are forced to confront not only their own past, but the past of Talcott Hall. The incredible writing makes this story flow smoothly, creating a rich emotional narrative that tugs at the heartstrings throughout the entire novel. The book does a marvelous job of blending the paranormal thriller aspect of this tale with the dramatic and possibly romantic heat between these two strangers turned roommates. Exploring the need

to learn from the past and move on throughout the entire story, readers will be enthralled with not only the complex tale of these lost spirits, but with the connection Miller and Laura have between one another.

Overall this was an incredible read. Passionate, emotional and heart-pounding, this story does a great job of creating a beautiful sense of imagery throughout, and readers will absolutely love the roller-coaster of emotions that plays out until the book's end. If you haven't yet, be sure to pick up *Spirits of the Heart* by Claire Gem Today!

InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

Be prepared to take an emotional ride!

Read full review in the 2017 November issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Lynne says

Laura Horton, an addiction counsellor, is returning to her home town to begin a new job. She's arranged to move in to the house her old friend Angie shares with boyfriend Miller Stanford. However, there's a problem; Angie's unexpectedly cleared out and left town. With little alternative, Laura moves in and finds herself alone with a man she doesn't know; a man she's becoming increasingly attracted to. When Laura and Miller begin to experience paranormal activity, they must work together to discover exactly what's happening and why.

Firstly, I have to commend the author on her beautiful writing. The story flowed with incredible ease and I found it immensely enjoyable. The spooky parts weren't at all scary and far from being disappointed, I was totally immersed. At times I thought the pacing was a little slow and an element of repetitiveness crept in but otherwise this was a solid, delightful read worthy of a place on anyone's bookshelf.

Thanks to author Claire Gem for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

<https://barnseybooks.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/review-spirits-of-heart-by-claire-gem.html>

Kleio B'wti says

Title: *Spirits of the Heart* (Haunted Voices Book 2)

Author: Claire Gem

Publisher: Erato Publishing

Date of publication: February 14, 2017

Number of Pages: 322

E-Book ASIN: B01N7VIZU2

Store: Kindle

Spirits of the Heart by Claire Gem is a Haunted/Ghost novel set in Middletown, New York.

Laura Horton finds herself abandoned by her school friend, on the porch of Miller's house. Miller a security officer who works at the Middletown Psychiatric Center is nothing like she had imagined. Miller Sanford's abruptness disturbs her. Armoured with a raw masculinity and good looks he perturbs her more!

Ignoring the persistent urge to return to North Carolina, Laura joins The Alcoholic Rehab Center as a Therapist. The eerie view of an ancient graveyard from her room adds to Laura's discomfiture! The office premise piques her inquisitiveness.

Miller is equally unhappy with the unexpected circumstances. She reminds him of a recent wound that Laura's school friend inflicted on him recently. He tries his best to avoid Laura, yet a strong magnetism that draws him to her! As Laura and Miller unravel their enforced proximity, certain occurring shake their equanimity.

Brought together by fate, Laura and Miller commit to help a child spirit. In the process, Laura is able to overcome her abandonment issues and Miller is able to conquer his dark past. Together, the two start a beautiful journey that will stay with the readers ceaselessly. To find out if they do help the little sprite, read Spirits of the Hearts!

Author Claire Gem tackles issues of family ties, alcoholism, medical malpractices, homelessness, and trust, beautifully throughout the novel. The emphasis on all these concerns is interestingly merged with the storyline. This novel is un-put-down-able. Each line, every page of the story will pulsate the reader's curiosity. The tempo of the book is- undiluted suspense. At no point can the reader guess how it all would turn out. Spirits of the Heart is engrossing!

Judiciously set as a haunted novel, Spirits of the Heart explores the unknown - the paranormal. Spirits of the Heart encourages the readers to unravel mysteries rather than to succumb to fear. The feeling: 'everything happens for a reason' is appropriately predominant throughout the novel.

Every reader will appreciate their loved ones a lot more after a read of Spirits of the Heart by Claire Gems!

Spirits of the Heart most definitely deserves a 5 Star!

Morgan Matthews says

I instantly loved the characters. They were real and well-developed. I love a dark, brooding man so obviously Miller was an instant hit for me. Easy to read in one day because you can't put it down.

Books and Spoons says

The set-up for the novel is intriguing with the surprise roommates, the personal struggles both of the protagonist are dealing with, and the hunted environment where they live and work - the unexplainable instances with lights, voices, and people appearing.

Both Laura Horton and Miller Stanford lives have turned into a mess. They both have baggage from the teenage years that they have not dealt with, that affect their everyday life still to the day. Their current lives are not much better, from living situation to their careers to their families everything seems to be in upheaval or a problem.

When the stress from their lives are at the highest point, the unexplainable appearances of noises, voices, lights, and people could not be more distracting and fearful, mostly fearing for their sanity.

The story is an interesting mix of genres.

There is the Young Adult part where Laura is trying to start her life after school, find her place in her career, still looking for what, where, and how she is going to move on now that her life can truly start. Miller is also looking for a new chance with his career and continuing education.

Then there is the Women's Lit part that tells the journey of the protagonist and their families, the growth and the development of the characters, their relationships with their families, and their relationship with each other.

And then the touch of paranormal with the haunted grounds and houses where the main characters try to find help for the lost souls.

The story started a bit slow for me, it took to the half part of the book to set up the scene. I am glad I didn't give up on the story because when it picks up the tempo and the flow, it delivers a riveting and alluring tale of redemption. The characters get a chance to show their true colors, the people they grew up to be. The maturation of Miller and Laura is evident and a rather beautiful thing to witness, as well as the progress of their relationship.

A thought-provoking and a puzzling story about life both here on earth and there on ever after.

~ Four Spoons

Jamie Bellinger says

Addictive book with great characters, and a suspenseful storyline that was beautifully written.

John McKenna says

Spirits of the Heart

Mysterious Book Report No. 342

by John Dwaine McKenna and June Lynn McKenna

As the by-line shows, this will be a different—and special—MBR. It's not within our usual purview of crime and punishment, or murder and mayhem, nor even an exploration of the dark side of human nature. Instead, it's a goose-pimple inducing paranormal ghost and romance story which takes place at an addiction treatment center in Middletown, New York. It's a place that was once an institution for the criminally insane. And because it's for all of the ladies in the audience who aren't hard-boiled crime enthusiasts, June Lynn McKenna has gallantly offered a woman's perspective . . . so-you-know-who doesn't screw-it-up.

Spirits of the Heart, (Erato Publishing, PB, \$13.95, 312 pages, ISBN 978-0-9974326-4-0) by Frances Brown

writing as Claire Gem, is part of her ongoing Haunted Voices series, and is, in our opinion, the best one so far. It begins when Laura Horton returns from grad school in North Carolina to Middletown, New York; the place where she was born and raised. Laura's got a new degree, a new job as an addiction counselor, and not a dollar to her name. She does have a plan though, to move into a spare room at her high school friend Angie's house, where she lives with her boyfriend, Miller Stanford. Then, after Laura gets a paycheck or two, she'll find her own apartment and move out. But . . . as every writer of fiction knows . . . the easiest way to make God laugh, is to make plans. When Laura rolls into town flat broke, her car coasting on fumes, expecting a warm reunion with her gal-pal, she's met at the door by a grumpy, half naked and towel wrapped hunk of manhood. Angie, Miller tells Laura, has moved out, and relocated to Tampa, Florida. Laura is devastated, out of options and stuck in a "puke green, two-story house" that sits right beside the cemetery of the old insane asylum, with a man who doesn't want her there. Miller and Laura come to an agreement of sorts, she can stay . . . but . . . it's his house, his rules. Laura tries her best to comply, but their relationship gets more and more strained, as strange, weird and unexplainable events start to happen on a regular basis. Then, Miller sees the ghost of a little girl and thinks he's losing it. But Laura sees her too, in this vivid, suspenseful and romance-filled novel from the award-winning pen of one of the hottest romance and supernatural fiction writers in the country. Claire Gem's *Spirits of the Heart* will keep you glued to each and every page, until your glasses get too steamed to read!

Siobhan says

Series Ratings:

Hearts Unlocked: ★★★★

Dianne says

The perfect scenario for horror or the perfect opportunity to do the right thing? An empty insane asylum, long ago closed down and locked up, a cemetery for its residents, a two strangers caught up in an unforeseen muddle and a little lost girl who needs answers and her daddy to put her soul at peace. Claire Gem has outdone herself by blending an unlikely romance with a ghostly tale of darkness and suspense, all while twisting a few curveballs into a web of mystery and the paranormal.

SPIRITS OF THE HEART brings an addiction counselor and a security officer together as housemates through bad timing and perhaps even Fate. From their awkward beginning to the first time they began to see each other as more than strangers, a small ghostly vision tries to communicate what she needs, her father, long buried on the asylum property, or was he? As Laura finds herself drawn into the mystery of who and where the ghost child's father is, Miller finds she may have something more than an active imagination and is drawn in to protect her from evil. Miller has his own secrets, heartbreak and loving at the same time, his past is a nightmare he would rather forget, but he has made a vow and he is a man of his word, no matter what.

Laura finds Miller is like a still pond with so much beneath his calm surface, but can she trust him? As they get closer to the hidden answers of what happened to the last patients to be buried, their search becomes a death defying inferno of wandering ghosts, lost to their eternity of pain. What if they find the ghost girl's

father? Will his soul be spoiled and evil?

Hang on for a tale of determination, love and messages from beyond in an often nail-biting ghost tale where love has been found to once again, to win over even the vilest of evil.

Claire Gem knows how to cross genres without missing a beat while delivering great reading on each and every page!

I received this copy from Claire Gem in exchange for my honest review.

Series: A Haunted Voices Novel - Book 2

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>
