



# The Demonologist: The Extraordinary Career of Ed and Lorraine Warren

*Gerald Brittle*

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## **The Demonologist: The Extraordinary Career of Ed and Lorraine Warren** Gerald Brittle

If you think ghosts are only responsible for hauntings, think again. The Demonologist reveals the grave religious process behind supernatural events and how it can happen to you. Over twenty years in print, here is the original uncut version of this classic text. Illustrated with photographs of phenomena in progress, every sentence in the book is true. Used as a text in seminaries and classrooms, this is one book you can't put down.

## **The Demonologist: The Extraordinary Career of Ed and Lorraine Warren Details**

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Author : Gerald Brittle

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# From Reader Review The Demonologist: The Extraordinary Career of Ed and Lorraine Warren for online ebook

## Jeffrey Jensen says

Why can't I give a rating of ZERO stars? This is one of the worst books I've read. It was recommended to me as being one of the scariest books ever written, but it turned out to be laughable. For those of us who grew up during the occult scares of the 70's and 80's, this book demonstrates the nonsense people believed in and had children afraid of during that period. The basic message is Don't Play With Ouija Boards: you'll get infested, oppressed, and ultimately possessed by demons (who look like giant lizards if you were to see their actual form). In most "true" haunting and possession stories, the devil seems to follow film special effects technology, as he can only seem to do what is currently available at the movies. This book reads like a 1980 made-for-TV movie-of-the-week novelization.

So beyond the Ouija boards, I learned to avoid acquaintances and relatives who may have an interest or own anything occulty, mirrors, gifts from friends, rich sorcerers, secondhand furniture, picture of deity from other religions, dolls, anyone who had a loved one die recently, raping ghosts, rocks falling from the sky, levitations, dematerialization and rematerialization of objects, anything in 3s. And if you need to get rid of evil spirits: go to church, have only positive thoughts, paint you rooms white or yellow, cut down a tree to allow more light into your home.

Don't waste your time on this book.

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## Benito Jr. says

Maybe it's just me, but there's nothing like a "Based on a true story" message at the start of a movie that drives a horror fan to Wikipedia afterwards. I'm guessing that I can't be the only one who came to this book after watching James Wan's *The Conjuring*, and the truth is that I picked up the book to be entertained -- more specifically, to be scared. (Ed Warren may argue that this makes me a more inviting candidate for demon visitation, or a more innocent spirit manifestation, but at least I have better weapons now.) *The Demonologist* is touted as a reference book for exorcists-in-training, and you can't get more authoritative than that -- provided, of course, you give credence to the preternatural in the first place.

So is it scary? Oh, it is -- but only if you're a believer. And by "believer" I don't necessarily mean a devout and practicing Catholics like Ed Warren, I mean anyone who concedes even the slight possibility of people lingering on -- whether as spirits or as mere energy -- after death. If you believe this, then from there it's a slippery slope -- at least if you allow yourself to be seduced by the Warrens' lucid explanation -- to accepting the existence of malevolent entities. But it sure helps if you're a Catholic, and I guarantee you, you'll be good and scared.

As a book though -- and not just in terms of the stories being told -- *The Demonologist* is a mixed bag. The chapters are divided somewhat arbitrarily, sometimes by case, sometimes by theme, and it's confusing. Structurally, it's repetitive, as the same practical advice gets duplicated towards the end. Stylistically, *The Demonologist* is a bit of a mess, as it's written as a series of interview transcripts by Gerald Brittle, who isn't

the most critical raconteur. Some of the cases would have been more effective in the telling had they been fully narrated in the first person by Ed Warren. (Note that Lorraine Warren, clairvoyant and Ed's wife, is as much a part of the interviews, but there's only one demonologist in the title.)

At certain points one wishes Brittle -- and indeed, there's not much of him in the book, which is why *The Demonologist* reads more like dictation -- would interject with questions of his own. Ed Warren would interpret, with seeming authority, a demon's utterances -- and then turn around a page later and remind the interviewer that "demons are master liars" and that nothing they say -- ostensibly the basis for Warren's pronouncements -- should be trusted. Or Warren would expound at length on the demonic realm, for instance, then glibly provide the caveat "I'm a practicing demonologist, not a theologian."

What makes *The Demonologist* particularly interesting is how it stands as a kind of template / blueprint for just about every haunted house / demon possession cultural artifact in the past few decades -- far more so, I would argue, than William Peter Blatty's *The Exorcist*. (I mentioned something similar in my blog entry on *The Conjuring*; it's no different from previous movies, but that's because of the source material.) Every film staple you've seen -- doorknobs that won't turn, people that levitate, furniture that moves, mysterious knocks on the walls, footsteps in the middle of the night -- they're all enumerated here as evidence of an "inhuman presence." Even waking up the same time in the middle of the night (I felt the proverbial shiver down my spine just now, re-reading the passage below):

Most notably, the individual in an infested environment will have an unshakeable feeling of another presence in the house. This sense of presence will develop to a point where the individual... may begin waking up at fixed times of the night, or at precisely three o'clock in the morning.

And yes, I woke up at three in the morning for two successive nights after reading this book.

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## **Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says**

I truly tried. I really, really did. I love anything that belongs to the realm of ghosts and ghost stories. They're my favorite horror stories and movies of all time so when I saw the advertisements for *The Conjuring*, I had to read this book.

Incidentally, I did read the book first but I don't feel that whole 'read the book after the movie or else you'll be ruined' really applied to me. The movie wasn't scary at all and that's truly saying something. I mean, cheesy TV series like 'A Haunting' and 'Haunted' terrify me.

What ruined this book for me (in order of least to worst):

4. The number of times the author used the word diabolical. It was diabolical how many times it was used. Was there something NOT diabolical? Pft.

3. The examples of diabolical demonic things in people's life just wasn't concrete enough. It was like 'oh, you talked on a ouija board and that's why you had a flat' taken to the extreme AND ON BOTH SPECTRUM. If

you won money, it just be because a demon is luring you into something terrible. It's like you can't win. I will say that comparing it to old witch trials like throwing into a pond make sense now. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't. Basically. Find your dream house? Watch out! Demons are closing it. Got a painful hangnail? Fuck! Go find that holy water ASAP.

2. The bragging was way, way, WAY too over the point. He says, over and over, how he's the ONLY non-catholic exorcist recognized by the Church and how much proof he's gotten over the years. All of which is BS. If he had such solid proof, than it would've been documented. That's what scientists want, right? Documentation, not you tell us what you saw over and over and over again.

1. The worst, though, was his assertion that demons steal money to teleport into the bank accounts of satanic wizards. Famous cases like the Amity Horror where the brother in law lost 1500 for his wedding was teleport into an EEEEEBIL wizard's bank account. Apparently. Sounds legit. He states that these ebil wizards never have to work a day in their life. That the money just floats into their bank accounts and I thought: 'geez, do these two have something against trust fund babies? I mean, I'm all for the evils of greed and all that but come on!'

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## **Juli says**

Another book about fake demon hunting charlatans. Ugh. Tried to read this. DNF.

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## **Felicia says**

This book follows the career of Ed and Lorraine Warren. I first became interested in Lorraine Warren through her appearances on the TV show Paranormal State. Seeing her work on the show, I was interested to know more. I learned of The Demonologist: The Extraordinary Career of Ed and Lorraine Warren from a book written by Ryan Buell. When I saw this title, I knew I needed to read this book, and I wasn't disappointed. Being able to read about the things that they had experienced in their career was deeply interesting. The story that won me over in particular is when they talked about the doll, Annabelle. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the paranormal. If you are a skeptic, or downright do not believe in the paranormal or do not enjoy ghost stories, this book is not for you!

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## **Christopher says**

UPDATE 12/14/17: What a great opportunity to revisit this sorry excuse for a book. Basically, Gerald Brittle sued Warner Bros. because he claimed to have rights to the story of The Conjuring and its sequels. Warner Bros. said no you don't, because they are true events that really happened. Brittle retorts, nuh uh, these stories can't possibly be true because they involve ghosts and demons and stuff. Give me \$900 million dollars or else prove that ghosts and demons are real. Instead of proving that ghosts are real, they settled for an undisclosed amount of money. It's always a good sign when an author is extorting money from someone else to prove that what his nonfictional book is fictional.

## **ORIGINAL REVIEW:**

I know, I know. I should have anticipated this. I mean, it *is* a book about demon hunters. A supposedly

nonfiction account of two people who uncover ghosts and exorcise demons for a living.

What I expected was a kind of fun romp through the supernatural world that I don't really believe in but am still at least a little interested in. I wanted to read a book written by a skeptic, like me, who would probe into the lives of the subjects and try to separate the truth from the lies.

What I got was a book written by a fawning, gullible, pandering groupie whose primary objective is to swallow every lie fed to him by Ed Warren. There is zero critical insight in this book; no ability or even desire to discover truth.

The book reeks of the outdated fear popularized in the seventies and eighties that there is a witch or a Satanist in the house next door, just waiting to call forth demons from the abyss or to sacrifice your child on a pentagram on their bedroom floor.

The Warrens are frauds and that's all there is to it.

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## **Cat Scully says**

This book is a must-read for anyone wanting to write ghosts or learn more about the difference between demonic and ghost possession. It's also for those curious about the Warrens after seeing THE CONJURING movie that released to DVD recently.

FAIR WARNING. It's more about demonic possessions than ghosts. But if you didn't know the Warrens only really handled demonic cases, then you will after reading this book.

It does a basic overview but it doesn't go into detail of a wide variety of cases. It does cover Annabell the Doll and some about what really happened during THE CONJURING cases but the really intriguing part is the hints at Amityville. I want to pick up another book and see if I can find out more about it. Overall, I will be rereading this book again and again, but with the lights on.

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## **Abigail says**

I got hold of this book after watching the movie The Conjuring on Dvd and wanted to learn more about Ed and Lorraine Warren. I am a huge horror movie fan and am well versed in movies like The Exorcist and other demonic, paranormal films out there. I approached this book not just to learn about the Warren's but also because I wanted to be scared, which is why I love horror in general. It is fun to be scared! So I didn't take the book too seriously but instead suspended my disbelief just enough so that I could be taken in by the stories that Ed and Lorraine described. I "wanted" to be scared listening to the audio book in the dark, as I was reading it during the week of Halloween and getting into the spirit of things. While some of their claims borderline on the outrageous, there were admittedly some things brought up that made me stop and think. I remember in high school being in the basement of the school theater with some friends playing with a Ouija board. I admit having some dark fascination with those types of things, again mainly just for the novelty of it. But this book, if anything, did make me consider that perhaps it isn't right to play around with dark things like that even just for fun or entertainment. Anyway I'd advise anyone I know who was curious or wanted to read this book to do so strictly for entertainment value and to be scared. It does offer informative info about

exorcisms in real life and a bit of the history behind it. If you are a fan of horror, movies or novels and especially things paranormal, or involving "ghosts" or spirits, you may find something of interest here. And by the way the movie the Conjuring was quite good if you are a horror fan, but I'd recommend watching that movie alone for the best effect. Then if you liked it, this book is a great follow up.

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### **Danni The Girl says**

It is hard to rate this book as it's all meant to be true.

You won't believe in the paranormal until you've experienced it first hand.

When I was younger a lot of things happened, which I won't forget.

But this is just beyond. I can't believe any of this myself it just seems so unbelievable.

However I liked the style of writing and it's well structured. There's a lot of repeating of how the demoniac works. I would still recommend.

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### **Rachel says**

I read this book mostly because I think the Warrens are good for a laugh every once in awhile and that some of the stories in it could be creepy if completely unrealistic (and in my opinion, entirely made up).

Instead of being creepy, this book is mostly full of a kind of bizarre and excessive praise of the Warrens and how special and amazing they are and no one else can do what they do. It was pretty disgusting and arrogant (even though I know it wasn't written by one of them, the author was so clearly enamored of them it may as well have been).

And then there were the times when more than anything it was just kind of sad, such as the story about the homeless man in an alley who was "completely repulsive" and whom Ed Warren thought was "obviously possessed" when in fact, he was more likely just mentally ill. The second half of the book seems to be predominately taken over by asserting the opinion that many cases of possession are mistakenly identified as mental illness, when in fact, it is more likely the other way around. Kind of left a bad taste in my mouth.

So maybe this is a good book for people who believe all of this nonsense, but it's not a good book if you're looking for something creepy and possibly interesting, like I was.

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### **Danielle (The Blonde Likes Books) says**

The Demonologist had been on my TBR for a while, and I felt like this Halloween season was the perfect time to pick it up! I'm really in the mood for some creepy books about hauntings and possessions at the moment, so naturally this one fit the bill!

I'm a huge fan of horror movies, and The Conjuring and it's spinoffs are some of my favorites. For those of you who are unaware, that series of movies (including the Annabelle franchise) are all based on cases that Ed and Lorraine Warren handled throughout their career, and several of them are included in the book.

The Demonologist outlines many of the cases that the Warrens worked, including the Amityville Horror

case. It talks through the history of the case, what causes hauntings and possessions, and some background on the religious elements that go into exorcisms.

This book is definitely going to be hit or miss for people, depending on your beliefs and whether or not you're a fan of horror - I won't get into this in depth, because it's not the place, but I'll say that I don't believe in the supernatural, but I LOVE horror movies, so even though this book is classified as nonfiction, I read it like it was fiction and enjoyed it regardless. That said, I'm not about to go to playing with an ouija board or trying to summon demons as a joke just in case I'm wrong ;) no need to test that theory! Ha!

Anyway, I ended up reading the book in one sitting because I was so intrigued. There were definitely parts that creeped me out, and some that I found myself rolling my eyes at, but that's not surprising given that the book was written in the 70s. All in all, I was completely hooked, and loved reading the passages and responses to questions that the Warrens were asked by the author.

I think fans of horror movies, or who want to hear "true" accounts of exorcisms will enjoy this one! This was a 5 star read for me, and definitely got me out of the reading slump I'd been in!

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## **Alejandro says**

**Yes, I believe in the paranormal stuff and I am not ashamed of that.**

### **NO ONE BELIEVES UNTIL...**

And I don't blame anybody who didn't. I won't start a witch hunt! (pun intended)

I think that if you never have met anything paranormal, it's totally understandable if you don't believe in any of this.

So, it's normal that you won't believe in the paranormal until...

...something unexplainable would happen to you.

If you believe in God, then you have to accept the existence of demons. There is no light without darkness. Even the Bible mentions about demons and exorcisms.

### **PERSONAL EXPERIENCES**

My family have a couple of ghost stories (just to name some highlights):

First, my paternal grandfather died when I was a kid and some time later many stuff starting to get lost in my home and reappearing again later. He didn't live with us, and while he was my paternal granddad, it was my mom instead the one who was certain that he was behind of that. Some night, my dad was out working, I was slept and my mom was the only one awake (my brother hadn't born yet), so she "talks" to the air and she said to my grandpa that she knows that he love us very much but the thing about disappearing stuff was scaring her too much, so she pleaded him to stop doing that. She didn't tell anyone that she did that for quite



some time but right after she did the "talking", the stuff stopped to dissapear in my home.

Second, my mom was really close to my maternal great-grandmother and when my great-grandma was dying, the process took several time. One night, my dad got sudddenly awake and for a split-second he swore that he saw my great-grandma at the door of their room watching my mom. He awaked my mom and advised her to call to my maternal family's house since he thought that my great-grandmother had died. She phoned right away and they told her that indeed my great-grandma had died like half an hour ago and they were still making calls to tell all the family the sad news.

Yep, true stories. I gained nothing making up these.

### **101 ON THE WARRENS**

The book is about the lives of Ed and Lorraine Warren, that they were paranormal investigators since the 1940's and they were quite known by clergymen of several religions, college scholars and even the military but it was until the "Amityville" case that they got publicity enough to be known by general public.

Lorraine Warren is still alive (2014 (when I read this book)) and she has clairvoyance skills. Ed Warren was a demonologist, one of the only seven demonologists recognized (at least on the 1970s) and the only non-priest person allowed by the Catholic Church to make exorcisms. Both dealt with hundreds of paranormal cases on the United States and England since the 1940s until early 1980s.

### **SOOO, THE BOOK...**

The book was quite good and a very entertaining reading, however it didn't cover all the most important and famous cases of them.

While the book mentions here and there the topic of the "Amityville" case, it isn't exposed on detail. About that particular case, I don't know if it was a decision since the polemic status of may be a hoax. However, there are several other cases like the "Snedeker", "Union and Stepney Cemeteries" and "Smurl" cases, even the "Perrons" case, aren't commented in detail here, not matter when the publicity on the cover of the book mentions that that particular case that inspired the film of *The Conjuring*.

### **BUT...**

While the cases that the book does cover are quite interesting and I didn't know about some of them.

Honestly expected a most complete biography of their cases, especially the most famous ones. I know that their career was quite long, but definitely the book should cover the most known cases.

However, the cases that the book covers, indeed are captivating, so I have no real complains and I enjoyed a lot the reading (and yes, it got real spooky at several moments!).

Besides the info and details about some of their cases, the book also it gives extended explanations about the differences between kinds of spirits, human and inhuman ones, and also the typical signals of the process of a haunting in any house.

Many of those cases with people involved in hauntings, they were guilty for being playing with books with dark rituals and most commonly with ouija boards. Certainly not matter if you believe or not in those things, there isn't any excuse to start playing with dangerous stuff like that.

In some really rare cases, the person affected didn't do anything to deserve it, they say that it's like one every ten years that this may happen.

So, in the most cases, someone in the family must do something to provoke the haunting.

Quite interesting enough, besides civilian families (in most cases), in the book is detailed a paranormal case on the West Point Academy and the military command there, asked for the Warrens to help them. And you can bet that so prestigious institution wouldn't call them if they wouldn't believe that they were dealing with something paranormal.

On the book too, they detailed various cases of hauntings and demonic possessions presenting the transcripts of recordings while talking with the possessed people.

And one of the highlights is that the book indeed cover the famous case of the "Annabelle" doll.

So, while I expected that the book would cover all the major cases of the Warrens, still the book is well written, quite entertained and highly recommended to any interested on the real deal of the paranormal phenomena.

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## **Mark says**

Firstly I received this book free from Goodreads giveaways and here is my honest review.

I have intentionally given this book a mid range rating - not because I like it, nor do I hate it but I need to sit on the fence. With this book I do not wish to review on feeling as I do not wish to prejudice so I am going to try and review equally from two opposing sides.

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER in demons and exorcisms then this book is very much for you. It is not full of details of just one case after another, but more a look at Ed and Lorraine Warren's career as the cover says. There are some specific details of a few cases - including Amityville and is the basic text used for the film The Conjuring. Most of the book reads like a sit down interview with the Warren's as they discuss evils that exist beyond the realm. They speak in depth of how exorcisms are held, how evil or unhuman spirits are allowed into our lives and the differences between ghosts, unhuman spirits and the devil. Using a few of their cases as reference points they show how evil is allowed into our lives to manifest and create havoc with horrific results. They speak of what to avoid and what signs to look out for in family members who may have succumbed to possession. The courage shown by the Warren's and the priests who they align themselves to, is impressive.

IF YOU ARE A NON BELIEVER and you are frustrated or angered by people who believe in the occult. If you find the subject ridiculous then don't read this book. There is enough descriptive content in here to make

you tear the book apart. This will just waste your time.

IF YOU ARE A NON BELIEVER but find the subject matter interesting from a fictional sense then this book may still well be a good read for you. Coming from this point of view this book will read like a 'biographical horror' with enough content to keep you turning pages. It will seem far fetched at times but the imagery that builds as you read the descriptive passages will match some of the best horror novels you have read. I'm sure most ardent horror fans have read *The Amityville* horror and *The Exorcist*, or if not, are at least familiar with both books and/or movies. If you have seen the movie, *The Conjuring*, this is the main text that the movie was set on. No dull moments for you in this book although I expect it will leave you with many unanswered questions.

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### **Diane says**

Ok, so I will admit it....I was fascinated by this book. A bit of background on me....I grew up in a family in which Catholicism was a very central focus. I was warned as a teenager not to play with Ouija boards for many of the same reasons that the Warrens discuss in this book. I was interested in the idea of "The Exorcist" in high school. The priest of our parish was teaching our religious class one year and we actually watched the movie in class. He also discussed how he knew one of the priests that took part in the exorcism in St. Louis, MO, upon which the movie is based. SO.....I guess you would call me a believer. I love the adrenaline rush of being scared by a horror movie or ghost stories. However, to be quite honest, nothing scares me more than the devil and his followers, and it is a different kind of scared. It is not "fun"; it truly terrifies me.

I found this book to be insightful and intriguing. It is so hard to read something like this with a scientific eye. It is always hard to balance faith and science. So, I threw the scientific side of my brain to the wayside (for the most part) and went with the Warrens on their journey. I am not totally sure about EVERYTHING written in this book. At times the Warrens did seem to contradict themselves and I still had a lot of questions. For example, why they would choose to put all these supposedly "diabolical" items in a museum for multiple people encounter for the sake of making money? Wouldn't that increase the chance that someone would be affected by these unholy items? That does not make sense if the Warrens' intentions were purely selfless. So, I guess that I did not completely lose my skepticism while reading this book.....

Definitely an intriguing read no matter which side of the fence you find yourself (believer vs. non-believer).

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### **Marianna Neal says**

A reader's enjoyment of this book is going to depend entirely on how they feel about possession, exorcisms, and the supernatural in general. It's not going to convince anyone one way or another, so the skeptics are likely to find it ridiculous, and the believers will likely find this interesting and at least slightly terrifying.

Personally, I found myself somewhere in the middle, since I'm a big fan of *The Conjuring* films, and was really looking forward to learning more about Ed and Lorraine. I have to say, I wished the book was a bit more personal, characterizing them as people, but *The Demonologist* is 100% focused on the career (as the

title suggests) of the pair. The book discusses various cases the Warrens were involved in (very briefly for certain cases), while also detailing their point of view as far as dealing with the demonic goes. It does get repetitive—every case comes down to the basics: weird things happen, demons are exorcized, things get better.

As for whether or not this is fabricated—there are still a lot of questions when it comes to the validity of the testimony, and the extent of Warrens' involvement in certain cases.

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