



## Restless Spirits

*Jordan L. Hawk*

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## **Restless Spirits** Jordan L. Hawk

After losing the family fortune to a fraudulent psychic, inventor Henry Strauss is determined to bring the otherworld under control through the application of science. All he needs is a genuine haunting to prove his Electro-Séance will work. A letter from wealthy industrialist Dominic Gladfield seems the answer to his prayers. Gladfield's proposition: a contest pitting science against spiritualism, with a hefty prize for the winner.

The contest takes Henry to Reyhome Castle, the site of a series of brutal murders decades earlier. There he meets his rival for the prize, the dangerously appealing Vincent Night. Vincent is handsome, charming...and determined to get Henry into bed.

Henry can't afford to fall for a spirit medium, let alone the competition. But nothing in the haunted mansion is quite as it seems, and soon winning the contest is the least of Henry's concerns.

For the evil stalking the halls of Reyhome Castle wants to claim not just Henry and Vincent's lives, but their very souls.

## **Restless Spirits Details**

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Author : Jordan L. Hawk

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## From Reader Review Restless Spirits for online ebook

**Bev says**

*Fascinating, just fascinating!! I really never understood, or was that interested in (it has to be said) what ghosts et al were all about, but the explanations the author gives in this story are simple enough for even little old me to understand, and the mechanics of Henry's machines are incredibly well thought out . Electro-magnetism folks, that's what it's all about!! 5 stars from me for this, the first in a new series from Jordan L Hawk. Loved it.*

*Yes, it gave me the shivers, I wanted to throttle Henry several times, and Vincent...well, what a sexy beast he was BUT the absolute best part for me was that the author used really diverse types of character that other authors wouldn't normally use...African American (Jo), Native American (Vincent), complete idiots (sorry Henry) and then...well, then there's Miss Lizzie Devereaux (view spoiler). And why they didn't think to take the bag of gold with them at the end, I'll never know...it's not as though Miss Prandle would miss it!! The 'baddie', and yes I'd guessed who it was, and his boss got their just rewards, richly deserved...especially in (view spoiler) case, disgusting person, and the ending...well, let's all move on to book 2 shall we?? Wonderful, just wonderful.*

\*\*\*Thanks to Inge, Sofia and Andrea for the buddy read.\*\*\*

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**Anne Boleyn's Ghost says**

**4.5 stars.** This book gave me nightmares - and I enjoyed every second that I spent reading it. But that is no surprise; it is a Jordan L. Hawk book, after all. Full review to come.

*Read for SBTB July - September 2018 Quarterly Challenge: A historical not set in England.*

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**Nick Pageant says**

Jordan L. Hawk does it again! This was a sexy, scary treat and I loved it to pieces. It has all the charm and thrills of Hawk's other books, but this one adds in some meditations on race and gender that are surprisingly rare in m/m reads. Great fun and highly recommended.

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**? Irena ? says**

I love *Whyborne & Griffin* series because it combines lovecraftian horror with action and romance. It is definitely not original, true, but how it combines all the above is what makes it good. Besides, I love all three main characters. What's not to like? You cannot go wrong with those themes. The series has everything I

like.

One of the things that redeems *Restless Spirits* is that it *is* a ghost story. Then you have great characters like Lizzie, Vincent and Jo. And it's not contemporary.

Considering the genre(s), I think Hawk went a bit overboard with the ugly. Sure, readers could argue that the times were exactly like that and they would be right. However, this is a paranormal romance and a ghost story and you don't have to beat me over the head with it.

As far as I am concerned, it failed as a romance. It went too far. When I don't want the two main characters together in the end, that speaks volumes.

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## **Macky says**

Well that was fantastic! Jordan L Hawk has kicked off the new year for me with a most satisfying and stupendous reading session, that I really didn't want to finish. All I can say is thank goodness this is a series because I've just fallen (again) for two more of her intriguing, engaging, unusual pairings. One book about this new couple would just NOT be enough. Psychical Society member and scientist, Henry Strauss and mysterious medium, Vincent Knight are definitely a winning combination.

Science meets Spiritual in a delightfully creepy, atmospheric story with both out of this world spookiness AND down to earth mystery. Plus a sexually charged, sensual romance that set my heart a fluttering, as well as thumping when the danger and ghostly shenanigans notched up a gear. Book one introduces us to two enigmatic men—and the people important to them in their lives—who begin their relationship at odds, as their conflicting ideas about the world of spiritualism, conspire to pit them, and their opposite beliefs, against each other in a lonely mansion where menace lurks amongst the cobwebbed corridors and impending peril hides in its dark, shadowy corners.

A cross between an "Olde Worlde" episode of Ghost Hunters and The Haunting Of Hill House, it kept me totally immersed and nicely creeped out all the way through. Set in the late nineteenth century, the historical side feels authentic yet at the same time never comes over as stuffy or formal, which I guess comes down to the paranormal aspects that add a touch of fantasy to the mix, and because of Henry's extraordinary ghost hunting inventions and machines; almost a bit steampunky...but not...

Anyway, however you pigeonhole it, *Restless Spirits* is an absolute blast and I loved every spookalicious moment of it!

Link to rest of review: <http://bit.ly/1sukimI>

?SINFULLY...Addicted To All Male Romance

Formerly

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## **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

After his family was conned, Henry is determined to make headway into the paranormal world with scientific inventions and logic/sense. He's paired with a relative who is 'colored', a controversy of the time when he fights for her equality. On the other end of the coin is another paranormal duo with their own baggage - Vincent Night is an Indian and used to controversy of his own, but he's also extremely gifted with spiritual abilities and ghost hunting. His companion has her own hidden story. Both are on the verge of bankruptcy, so when both teams are invited by an eccentric wealthy man to compete in a house to prove whether the talent versus science will win, all hell breaks loose.

The plot for this one was more than worthy. Convincing motivations and warring pairs who complement and work off each other. The mansion with its mysteries was an isolated, haunting setting that delivered the goods for creepy, ghost adventures. The overlying mystery of which ghost is who and what the ghost is up to is daunting and well-done. The finale at the end is a strong battle to the finish since the author gave plenty of steel behind a certain ghost.

There's intriguing world-building with the spirits, hauntings, and a strong balance of different types of mediums with different abilities. Jordan Hawk writes well with loveable characters, unique twists, and easily flowing dialogue. I love she included racial issues of the times on both teams, which complemented how unique the pairs stood out from society. I was annoyed with a character revealing a big secret/misunderstanding, but that worked well in the end.

I loved Henry, even if he is bumbling, stumbling and standoffish. His stubbornness can get on the nerves but he has redeeming qualities. Vincent as the handsome and flirting medium was an epic romantic interest. There's not heavy steam but I totally felt the chemistry to be legit between the two and was rooting for them all the way. Both had baggage but fortunately the author avoided angst and doom/gloom.

The only bad thing is I wanted more. A fun, rewarding book with humor, genuine tension and creative paranormal world-building, I highly recommend this one for m/m historical fans.

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## **K.J. Charles says**

I do love Jordan L Hawk's books and this is no exception. Masterful blend of scariness and sexiness. The concept of the rival ghost hunters, scientific and occult, is pure genius and I am deeply annoyed I didn't think of it, but delighted that a) Jordan has such excellent ideas and b) it's a series! Henry is adorable and the supporting cast (a huge strength of this author) are fascinating and I hope we hear lots more. Loved it.

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## **Ingie says**

*Written January 13, 2015*

**4 Spooky Stars - Booo!! - A very promising start to a new series by a favorite writer**

New modern technology and science versus old faith and questioned mysterious inner medium qualities. A hot but also impressive scary mess.

**Stunning action-packed horror entertainment** once again from the remarkable ghost master, Ms. Jordan L. Hawk (the superb 'Whyborne & Griffin' and 'Spectr' series 'writer).

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A yummy but also horrifying ghosts tale starts. - It all takes place on *Reyhome Castle*, the site of a series of brutal murders decades earlier, in north east U.S. - ..more than 100 years ago.

**It creaks and cracks between the cobwebs, dust and old blood stains...**

*Restless Spirits* is about **the inventor Henry Strauss** from *Baltimore* who is quite eager and determined to bring the otherworld under control through the application of science. All he needs is a genuine haunting to prove his *Electro-Séance* will work.

Henry is poor and the lack of money, reputation and honor —and his responsibilities for his young female (dark skinned) cousin, *Miss Jo Strauss*— makes him very happy when he gets an invitation to an contest.

**“Pitting science against spiritualism”**  
...with a hefty (\$500) prize for the winner.

Henry's rival for the prize is the dangerously appealing *New York*’er **Vincent Night**. Vincent is not just a stunning handsome and sexy charming man (‘.. *a Red Indian, his skin bronze and his black hair thick and shining*’) he is also a very talented spiritualist medium. To add is he now also determined to get this dull "(smarty pants") inventor Henry, into a big warm bed.

“You’ve a fascinating mind. You don’t think the way everyone else does, and I find you intriguing.”

**However, Vincent has a big problem**, he can easily make contact with spirits and ghosts, but he fears them. His and his medium partner, *Miss Devereaux*'s honor is at stake: Vincent have to bite the bullet, he must face this scary opportunity.

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To try to explain what is happening here is next to impossible but very short: This is a story in grand Jordan L. Hawk style about an ghost hunting adventure in an old haunted house.

**An old dusty house and seven visitors**

That is for sure as made for a horror tale. There are deep secrets and shadowy intrigues. There are mysterious sounds, myths told about the dead and some scary weird accidents. Our characters are in danger from start to finish.

...Simply an freaking exhausting scary read.

**I enjoyed naturally all sweet romantic parts best.**

This new Hawk couple feels like a winner already. I can't wait to meet them again and get more of them. There are of course some cozy moments here, when they steal an minute from the ghosts to some yummy snuggling kisses up there in the bedrooms, but I want more. Much more!

“When we first met, I thought you a self-aggrandizing prick. I was wrong.”

‘God. Henry had known it was insane. Known he should hold firm, make it clear there were to be no more intimacies of any kind between them. But confronted with the warmth of those dark eyes, the roguish curve of that smile, he’d crumbled.’

An extra round of applause for this author who show us the then-current ugly discrimination problems against dark-skinned people in the U.S. I can't but still feel a bit shocked about it. What a dark world for some people. I just hope that 'those problems' are more or less over by now. (I guess that this story takes place around year 1900.)

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~ It will be fun to meet Henry and Vincent and their two "ladies" in the future.

**I LIKE - when it's creepy and also very nicely sweet**

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*A buddyread with Bev, Sofia and Andrea (thread). Thanks Ladies - you finished days ago but it was fun as long as it lasted...*

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**Rhys Ford says**

I have never hidden my love for Jordan L. Hawk's writing. To do so would be like trying to keep the sun concealed under an umbrella. Not only would it be a neat trick, the umbrella would go up in flames. Just as it would trying to hide the sheer magnificence of Hawk's writing.

Restless Spirits launches Hawk's new series, Spirits and damn, what a great launch it is. Vincent and Henry are at odds, both philosophically, Henry is a scientist where Vincent is a spiritualist, and socially as Vincent is a Native American man during a time when being darker than a flushed beige relegated a person to the "lesser" column. However, Henry isn't one to let social constructs guide his behaviour, not where race is concerned.

Homosexuality, during the heyday of an alternative universe's Industrial Revolution , is a different matter altogether.

The story is a tightly knit, nearly single-room adventure reminiscent of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Caught in a paranormal mystery complete with murderous ghosts and stolen bits of forbidden love, Hawk crafts a damned good tale of scientific theory, spiritualism and simmering sexuality. This is definitely an origin story of a couple of men who first are at odds and then only find their footing when working together.

I'm looking so forward to seeing where we're taken in the rest of this series. Fantastic writing, great characters and burgeoning tension as only Jordan L. Hawk can deliver.

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### **Vivian says**

Malevolence in life and death.

Henry and Jo Strauss are bent on exposing scam artists and protecting vulnerable bereaved. These cousins use their scientific instruments to deal with the spirits of the dead. An unlikely partnership that pushes social restrictions of the time.

Vincent Night and Lizzie Devereaux are experienced mediums when the challenge set forth by a client pits them against the Strausses. It isn't long before the true opponent in this rather grim story appears and the teams begin to realize that there's more at stake than prize money, it's life and death.

This is written like classic horror with true evil and a plot that goes beyond chills and thrills. The plot itself is entertaining and creepy. This is not a happy ghost story. The intent and violence is gritty. There are a few twists in the social commentary between the characters and the time period, as well as the plot itself. I like the details of Strauss's invention and its performance as well as the discussion of race and gender roles, which is what pushes my rating from solid 3.5 stars to round up to 4.

Overall, chilling historical ghost story.

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### **Heather C says**

**Of course Jordan L. Hawk never fails to hook me!! She has created another world here that immediately sucked me in and creeped me the HELL out...while I fell in love with a whole new set of characters once again!**

It's late 1800s, in a time when electricity is quickly beginning to power the world, Henry Strauss is set on proving his electrical contraptions can take the place of psychic mediums and protect those grieving from fraud. Of course, making his name famous and securing the future for his young niece Jo would certainly be a plus! After spirit medium Vincent Night's mentor was killed in séance a few months ago, he has let fear get in the way of his practice. Close to losing their shop, Vincent's partner Lizzie has convinced him to enter a competition to exorcise a haunted mansion in upstate New York that will put the two mediums up against Henry...spiritualism against science. The mediums and the scientist will have to work together or they might all die before it's over.

**OhMyGod! So, this was amazing!**

**The Setting:** Even though this is historical romance, it had a very modern feel to me. I mean, yes it had all the advancements and prejudices you would expect to see during the Gilded Age, but maybe the isolation of the haunted mansion setting helped to separate it from the outside world and I kept forgetting I wasn't reading in a present time. Or maybe I'm just crazy and have read too many historicals??

**The Romance:** I love enemies to lovers and Henry and Vincent were pitted against each other from the very beginning. Henry, distrustful of all mediums, was an arrogant snit, but I still found myself rooting for him. Vincent's flirtations and constant sexual innuendo and double entendres were possibly a front to mask many of his vulnerabilities, but it certainly helped to increase the sexual tension between them. But DAMN there was some GOOD sexual tension and even a bit of risqué behavior taking place! I totally felt the current flowing between Henry and Vincent! Yes, Henry could be an asshat, but he had a big heart. I'm just glad Vincent was able to forgive Henry of his massive blunder.

**The Ghosts:** I love ghost stories! And let me tell you this is one of the scariest hauntings I've read in years. Of course it didn't help that I was reading alone in my house and all the creepy things happening in Reyhome Castle had me jumping at every sound. The entire idea of how Henry planned to use his devices was so well done and uniqueness of Vincent's talent was very vividly described. I never could predict how they were going to exorcise those ghosts!

**The Mystery:** Along with the ghost story, there is another, more subtle mystery taking place...maybe even a few mini mysterious because there were surely some crazy revelations near the end. I was taken by surprise over and over!

**The Female Sidekicks:** Jo was freakin' adorable and I loved how eager she was in her role as Henry's "assistant". I admit I wasn't a big fan of Lizzie's in the beginning and I didn't trust her at all...but she has a reason for her secrets...

**What's next?** *Restless Spirits* appears to be the start of an ongoing series and the HFN ending has the perfect set up for many more dangerous adventures to come for Henry and Vincent. I can't wait!

**Reviewed for The Blogger Girls**

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**Cristina T. says**

This was the first novel by Jordan L. Hawk I've read, and OH MY GOD, I adored it!!! Seriously... An old castle + ghosts + romance + great characters + fantastic writing = **recipe for perfection!!!**

This story is about Henry Strauss, firm believer in science and inventor of the Electro-Séance, a device meant to put mediums out of business. Due to a bad experience with a medium, Henry now believes they are all frauds, and is eager to prove himself. Enter Gladfield, who proposes a challenge—science against spiritualism—and offers the winner a prize.

The competition comes in the form of Vincent Night, devilishly handsome, charming medium, who's keen on not only flustering Henry with every given chance, but also getting the man into bed. Just like Henry, Vincent also knows the meaning of loss, as he has been forced to deal with it, too.

Bringing these two together should spell disaster, right? Well, yeah, but not quiet. They do exchange a lot of banter, especially on Vincent's side, they butt heads a lot, because each of them has his own beliefs, but when they work together, things finally fall into place... Their interactions were either laugh-out-loud funny or super hot, or a combination of both with a sprinkle of misunderstandings. Oh, by the way, that séance scene was SEXY!

Now, I wanted to smack Henry real bad at one point, and I really couldn't stand him for the way he acted. But luckily, he got over his arrogant, judgmental asshole act, and things eventually worked out and he apologized.

Another *amazing* thing about this book were the secondary characters who deserve being mentioned. Firstly, there's Jo, Henry's African-American cousin and assistant. Secondly, there's Elizabeth Devereaux (view spoiler), Vincent's partner since they were young and taken in by their mentor. They are both strong women, loyal, smart, and I loved how different they were!

And last but not least, Reyhome Castle was truly creepy, and the murders were all tragic. I was on the edge of my seat throughout every scary scene, and I loved every second of it.

I could go on and on about this book, and I still wouldn't do it justice, so I'll just say I can't recommend it highly enough!!! If you're a sucker for ghost stories *and* romance—like I am—go ahead and read this!

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## **Ami says**

This is my second attempt reading this book. The first time was back earlier this year when it was just released. Maybe I wasn't in the right frame of mind because I couldn't even pass Chapter 1. So I put it aside. Since then, a couple of my RL friends have read this: one liked it just okay, the other one didn't. So I got their opinions about it. Then book #2 was released couple of days ago and I thought I should give it a second look. This is Jordan L. Hawk's book, we're talking about :)

Well, it worked!! I guess sometimes a book needs the right 'moment' and this was one of the case.

I'm going to be honest, the main characters especially Henry Strauss and Elizabeth Devereux weren't easy to like. Henry was bordering snobbish and judgy towards all mediums while Elizabeth was also a bit cold. Duly noted they both had valid reasons to react like they did: Henry because he lost his family fortune to a fraud medium while Elizabeth had a totally different problem (which you must read by yourself, since I thought it was brilliant). Compared to them, I found Vincent Night was easier to like -- although the most darling character here was definitely Jo Strauss, Henry's black cousin slash assistant.

Having said that, because I have been pretty much 'warned' by those two friends of mine, I was also able to put a kind of 'distance' towards the characters. Meaning that I was able to enjoy the snappish behavior from Henry or Elizabeth as well as Henry's penchant to keep repeating that science was better than human as pure entertainment. I was actually amused with their rivalry and kept wondering who was going to 'win' the contest to get rid of the ghosts. I thought it was cute ^o^.

On top of that, I also very much enjoyed the ghost hunting part. It was creepy but it was good.

I'm looking forward to the next adventure of these people :)

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## Vanessa North says

FINALLY!

Okay, it's no secret that I really, REALLY admire Jordan Hawk's skills with plot and characterization. I think her books are so creative, and her characters so endearing--I couldn't help but feel frustrated in the past when I felt her books weren't edited as well as her writing deserves. And yes, as a fellow writer and as an editor, I NOTICE these things, and I am not the average reader, and I \*am\* harder to please.

HALLE-FREAKING-LUJAH!

This book is, IMO, not only Hawk's best work, but also her best-edited, most polished, most elegantly written work. It was well paced, the character motivations consistent and well described, the scary bits were appropriately scary, the sexy bits were appropriately sexy, and I did not break out my yellow highlighter a single time in the entire reading of this book. Not once.

I loved it. Loved it.

Highly recommend.

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## Sonia ~Ruber's fiancé in Crystal Court universe~ says

This book was awesome! I think it could easily be a movie or a TV series! In fact, I demand it!

We first meet our two lovable MCs. I was taken with them from the first!

But then, the competition.. I was torn, who should I root for, I like them both... OK, I can do this I shall be on Henry's side.. but.. no, Vincent's side.. but..

On the one hand we have Henry trying to be all proper and saying shit like *"The effrontery of the scoundrel"* I mean, seriously! I could just eat him up.

And on the other hand we have Vincent who just can't help himself and tries to fluster Henry at every turn *"There is nothing quite so rousing for a man as to have his bells played with."* You tell me, who do I choose?

Luckily before dying of indecision shit started to get down! We have ghosts left and right and a smokin' séance with some hot action.

And then things start to get **creepy**

and **scary**

with a little brake for Henry to be **stupid!!**

Henry!!! I expected more of you!

But I couldn't put the book down even if my life depended on it! I was hooked!

(although at some choice moments the popcorn eating was down under the blanket, with the light on and a bag of salt under my pillow).

But all is well when it ends well!

Well done Jordan L. Hawk, well done!

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