

Book Watch

HAUNTING

by Alex Moore



Short and slim, she appears with intense blue eyes in pale white clothing. A daughter of Chief Seattle, she haunts the Pike Place Public Market, drifting through the stalls and passageways. Before the market was established, Princess Angelina peddled clams on this bluff overlooking Puget Sound.

This may sound like fiction to some; to others it's real. A 2000 Gallup poll revealed that thirty-one percent of the respondents believed in ghosts. In 2005, a CBS News poll discovered that twenty-two percent thought there was activity in the Afterlife. This belief is reflected by television shows like NBC's *Medium*, CBS's *Ghost Whisperer*, and the Travel Channel's *Most Haunted*.

Numerous ghost hunting books have drifted into the *ForeWord* offices recently, corroborating a trend toward interest in the paranormal. In *Ghost Hunter's Guide to Seattle and Puget Sound* (Pelican Publishing, 978-1-58980-517-0), author Jeff Dwyer, an experienced paranormal investigator, begins by defining what a ghost is and under what conditions a sighting is most likely. If one wants to see Princess Angelina at the market, summer nights are best. The author presents an additional ninety spots for specter spying, including buildings, houses, and cemeteries. In the appendix, a Sighting Report Form is available with spaces for auditory phenomena and temperature changes, for example.

Pelican is soon to publish another Dwyer apparition apprehender: *Ghost Hunter's Guide to California's Wine Country* (978-1-58980-604-7). At Sonoma Plaza in the Valley of the Moon region, there is the ghost of Indian chief Sem-Yeto. He died after performing the Bear Sacrifice, a ceremony to ensure the abundance of future crops and rainfall. Dwyer has seen him.

The above books are mostly for travelers, but ghost hunting can be more serious. In *Ghost Hunters of New England* (University Press of New England, 978-1-58465-720-0) Alan Brown, professor of English at the University of West Alabama, profiles twenty-seven paranormal research groups. Paranormal Liz Howard, a mom and photographer, likes to visit New Hampshire's Gibson Cemetery. There, she was once "touched by an unseen presence," and has heard tribal drums made by spirits of Native Americans. The book lists ghost hunting tools such as ion counters, infrared thermal scanners, and talcum powder, which is used to capture footprints during an investigation.

"The once and proud chief of a fallen nation, now comes to speak to his palefaced sister." This message was reported in 1853 by a thirteen-year-old, and is an example of Spiritualist Indian messages. Molly McGarry, assistant professor of history at the University of California, outlines the mysterious world of Spiritualism in *Ghosts of Futures Past: Spiritualism and the Cultural Politics of Nineteenth-Century America* (University of California Press, 978-0-520-25260-8). In the chapter "Indian Guides," the author notes that "Indian spirits began to appear as guides to the afterworld." The proud chief was Powhatan, the father of Pocahontas.

This writer, after having immersed himself in many ghostly books, including Marianne O'Connor's *Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire* (Publishing Works, 978-1-933002-59-0), one stormy night, turned off the lamp. Hovering between consciousness and sleep, an eerie yellow-green glow was seen. After a few moments of fascination, it was discovered that the cover of the aforementioned book was printed with glowing ink. A creative cover concept, like many books by independent publishers, it provides a fitting end to the night's foray into the supernatural. **F**

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