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Keith wants to find his killers, but Rosemary knows what's really keeping him earthbound. Is it too late for the ghost to find the true meaning of life? And can Rosemary find Keith's killer before her less-than-subtle sleuthing teaches her and her friends a lesson they may not survive.

If you enjoy Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, you're going to find a kindred "spirit" in Rosemary Fernandes.

House Haunting Details

Date : Published September 15th 2012 by Morningglory Publishing (first published May 28th 2011)

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Author : Mary E. Merrell

Format : Paperback 347 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review House Haunting for online ebook

Christina McKnight says

This novel kept me laughing and wondering what trouble/fix Rosemary would get herself into next. I don't read many paranormal romances featuring ghost...but I may have to now! Entertaining, fun, and fast read. I've already downloaded book #2, Curve Appeal. I look forward to seeing what is in store for Rosemary next...and I'd love more of Frank!

Anne says

I was given this highly enjoyable read with a fun premise in exchange for a review. A murder mystery with a ghost as a guiding force it not necessarily new, but this was done very well. It was faced paced and humorous with multi-dimensional characters. The story starts out with Rosemary Fernades struggling to create a new life for herself after her two-timing husband leaves her for a younger woman. In her quest for a new career, Rosemary got way more then she could have ever imagined – she discovered her ability to communicate with spirits.

As Mary Merrell takes us through Rosemary's adventure, she does a great job showing how these new experiences help Rosemary to grow into her new career, her new life and her new abilities. She is determined while insecure and has a knack for finding trouble. Keith, the resident ghost and former real estate agent, was a likable guy with a quick wit. He latches onto Rosemary (literally), offering to help her become a better agent in exchange for her helping him discover who murdered him. This starts them both on a journey that neither was prepared for. Along the way they meet a wide cast of players in the mystery and manage to get into some tough situations. As the truth about Keith's murder unfolds, he is forced to face some tough truths about his life and his actions.

All in all this was a fun read. I look forward to learning more about the owner of the house on Magnolia Street and seeing what happens with Rosemary and Frank. Thank you for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Ryan Mcknight says

I attended a local author book signing and came across House Haunting. Out of the 42 authors selling their books this was the only one that appealed to me. Her cover design and back cover synopsis gave me the chills. I stayed up for two days straight to finish this book!

I really liked the paranormal aspect of the book and the many funny, laugh out loud moments Ms. Merrell captured. I identified with her characters Rosemary and Keith. Keith was sarcastic and Rosemary was sometimes clueless. Great combination.

As soon as book 2, Curve Appeal is out in print I plan to buy it. I recommended House Haunting to several friends and family members.

Jesse Kimmel-Freeman says

I fell in love with this book! Rosemary is such a great character. She's ridiculous, but maybe that is one of her endearing traits? She's the kind of person that you want to have your back. I think that Mary did an awesome job at crafting her characters at the start of this series. They are the kind of characters that will make you want to keep reading.

I especially love Frank- although you really get more of him in the other books, this is a great intro to him- damn those real estate agents, right Frank? I would have his back.

Oh, and let's not forget Keith! Damn, what a character. There is nothing quite like him out there. I mean, the kind of guy that he was in life is a million times different than the kind of guy he ends up being around Rosemary- it's like she brings out the freaking good in everyone!

The story flows well and it's obviously thought out. Mary did her research and she knows what she's talking about. I love the different elements of the world around each of the characters that we get to see. And I love how Rosemary is just so fresh off the line- it's a great read!

Shirley Frances says

This is the story of Rosemary Fernandes, a funny, quirky real estate agent, who suddenly finds herself communicating with a ghost who is trapped in a house she is trying to sell. The ghost, Keith Laumer, was a successful real estate broker who suddenly disappeared without a trace leaving him stuck in the last place he visited. He latches onto Rosemary at the first sign that she acknowledges his presence and asks her to help him find who killed him.

Suddenly Rosemary is thrown into Keith's world. A world of the likes she never knew existed, where jealousy and greed were behind every action. The author, Mary Merrell, does a great job of painting a very interesting picture to the reader of this sinister 'world' of real estate Rosemary just discovered. The characters Rosemary encounters while doing her 'investigating' kept giving me the chills, making the mystery behind the story hard for me to decipher. I was suspecting most of Keith's acquaintances and just when I thought I had it all figured out, someone would say something or a new piece of information was thrown in which kept me guessing even more.

The characters were great. I especially enjoyed Keith. His humor and sarcasm were hilarious, but sometimes he showed some vulnerability and that really was great too. Rosemary was a pleasure to read. She was funny and insecure and completely prone to land herself in every kind of situations, be it by words or actions. I enjoyed her immensely.

What I liked most about this book was that the author took a typical murder mystery and added humor and a ghost to bring it all together to make it a great read. I was intrigued throughout the book **and** laughing out loud, which was a wonderful surprise.

Hazel *Craves the Angst Reviews* says

House Haunting is a Paranormal Mystery/Suspense written by *Mary Merrell*. I read this as a R2R with *Paranormal Romance & Urban Fantasy Fanatics!* As always, a special thank you to the mods and author for allowing me to participate.

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Fun, exciting paranormal adventure...

The Review:

I really enjoyed this read. It was a wonderfully written paranormal murder mystery filled with intrigue and a colorful cast of characters with a suspenseful backdrop to keep the reader glued from the first page to the last!

What do you get when you have a fixated real estate agent who moonlights as a ghost whisperer, a son who's entire vocabulary consists of the phrase "Oh hell no!", a perverted ghost with crossing over issues, a cheeky best friend who loves to use the word dude a lot, an insane old man who wields a dangerous makeshift golf club as a weapon, a useless cop who doesn't answer her phone and is scared of the ceiling, a sexy tattooist who loves pizza and a eerie tall guy with big white teeth? No, this is not some elaborate set up for a flippant bar joke. It's the set up for this crazy-fun-tastic book!

What's not to love? This read was terrific! It was light, with a side of heavy; it was exciting and full of action. I loved the heroine, Rosemary, who's reaction to her situation was right on cue! Her gift started out small but grew with the story and a promise for more to come with the next book. Keith, your friendly house haunting ghost, was hilarious with his antics and sarcastic humor and I loved the mystery surrounding his demise. The imagery the author writes to describe some of the ghostly scenes was creepy-thrilling and very imaginative. I loved the idea of a lifeline connecting Keith and Rosemary. The story was well thought out and just so entertaining!

Dislikes...

There's very little to dislike about this book. But I will admit that there was a time or two where the dialogue was a bit cheesy. Also there were a few editing errors. I also wish there had been more of a romance pull between the characters. I just wasn't feeling it with Frank. But other than that, this story was perfect read.

The Wrap Up:

Though it's not listed as a series, there is a second book titled, *Curve Appeal*, which I am definitely going to read! This book did a perfect job of setting up the story for book two and I'm anxious to see what's next for Rosemary!

Mae Clair says

If you like a ghost story interwoven with mystery, this book is for you! Rosemary Fernandes is just getting started in the real estate business when she enters an empty house and encounters the ghost of Keith Laumer. Keith has been sulking around in the house where he met his end five years earlier, unable to fully transition into the afterlife until he knows who killed him.

Rosemary – much to her initial shock and dismay – learns she has an inherited ability to communicate with ghosts. In no time, she's up to her ears in suspects, thugs, and an assortment of characters (including a hunky tattoo artist, a frustrated cop, and a tag-along friend) as she investigates Keith's murder. Given he was a hotshot real estate agent before his demise, her fledgling career begins to benefit from a few pointers he tosses her way and the two form a bond.

The mystery and assortment of suspects throughout this book is well done and keeps you guessing until the end. The author tells the story with plenty of humor thrown in, especially where the womanizing Keith Laumer is concerned. I loved his relationship with Rosemary, who is a fun heroine – resilient and quirky, plunging from one escapade into the next.

I'm looking forward to the rest of this highly entertaining series!

Jessica says

I was contacted by the author to review this book and was excited to get it! I love ghost stories and this one sounded fun and quirky. I was not disappointed. It was a fun, fast paced read that was perfect for summer!

Rosemary is divorced with a teenage son. She has a new job as a real estate agent and is suddenly dealing with a new "talent". Rosemary can see the dead. This is something she really doesn't want to deal with.

Then Keith enters Rosemary's life. He offers to help her learn the ropes of the real estate business. There is only one catch...she has to help him figure out how he died. Yeah, that shouldn't be all that difficult now, should it?

Rosemary starts to investigate Keith's death and becomes aware of some dark secrets in her new business. As she digs deeper, she discovers that person who killed Keith may be someone she actually knows. Now she must solve this crime before the killer silences her.

I liked Keith a lot. He was very arrogant but at the same time you felt sorry for him as he saw in death what he never could see in life. He was a fun character! I also liked Rosemary. She didn't back down even with the death threats. I loved her relationship with Keith.

This book has humor, mystery, thrills and chills! It was fast paced and kept your attention from page one. I was able to finish it in no time and now the only bad thing is I have to wait for the next book in the series. If you enjoy cozy mysteries, this one is a must read!

Bonnie Lamer says

With a cheating and greedy ex-husband, a teenage son, and a new job she's struggling in, Rosemary Fernandes does not need any more stress in her life. Especially the sudden ability to see and communicate with ghosts. But Keith Laumer bursts into her life anyway and he offers Rosemary a trade. He'll help her learn the ropes in the world of real estate and all she has to do is figure out how he died. How hard could that be?

As Rosemary digs into the death of Keith, she finds herself being sucked farther and farther into a dark world she didn't even know existed in real estate. With the help of a police officer, a hot tattoo artist and her best friend, she wades through the greed and jealousy that had surrounded Keith while he was alive, not knowing where she'll end up. What it eventually comes down to is that it might be someone she knows who killed him. Will that same person kill her before she has a chance to get to the truth?

Filled with action, House Haunting is a fun and suspense filled ghost story. Mary Merrell does an excellent job of creating a book that grabs the reader's attention and doesn't let go until the very end. Even with the seriousness of the plot, she is still able to weave humor in amongst the action while keeping the reader glued to the pages trying to guess who killed Keith. As for the main character, I found it heartwarming to read how she grows throughout the book from an almost devastated and overwhelmed ex-wife into a strong, independent woman who can take care of herself. I truly enjoyed this book. I thank the author for providing me with a review copy and I give the book five stars.

Aurora says

Name of Book: House Haunting

Author: Mary E Merrell

ISBN: 9780988297302

Publisher: Morningglory Publishing

Part of a Series: The Real Estate Paranormal Mystery Series

Type of book: Ghosts, family secrets, real estate, mystery, moving on, after-life, psychics

Year it was published: 2011

Summary:

Rosemary Fernandes is a divorced, naïve woman, determined to make it in the tough world of real estate. Keith Laumer is a ghost, eager to leave his earthly haunt. As a real estate agent and a womanizer in life, Keith is the perfect partner to teach Rosemary the ins and outs of the real estate business, and he's perfectly willing to teach her anything else she wants to know too.

Keith wants to find his killers, but Rosemary knows what's really keeping him earthbound. Is it too late for the ghost to find the true meaning of life? And can Rosemary find Keith's killer before her less-than-subtle sleuthing teaches her and her friends a lesson they may not survive.

If you enjoy Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, you're going to find a kindred "spirit" in Rosemary Fernandes.

Characters:

In this book Rosemary is best described as determined, a newbie who at first lets everyone walk all over her. I also wanted to bang my head against the e-reader whenever she tried to ask questions or investigate Keith's death because she is not, well subtle about it. Keith is a ghost who got killed under mysterious circumstances. In real life he is best described as a commitment-phobic, a good and loyal friend and brother, and sort of a hypocrite. I liked that while he is with Rosemary, he learns a lot and starts to care about things he never really cares about. Other characters include Laura who is married and isn't aware of her friend's psychic ability, then there's officer Perry who doesn't like Rosemary, Frankie whom Rosemary met and who is very protective of her. There are of course co-workers such as Todd who steals Rosemary's clients and some others who are determined to keep their knowledge secret and not let Rosemary know.

Theme:

There's a lot you're not aware of

Plot:

Its written in first person narrative completely from Rosemary's point of view. This is also the first book of The Real Estate Paranormal Mystery Series where Rosemary discovers fascinating family secrets that have been held back from her, as well as when she discovers her power to communicate with ghosts. I did enjoy reading how she discovers the ghosts, as well as a mysterious appearance by a certain person named Marcus who is Todd's client. The writing is tightly woven along with a mystery and I couldn't wait to see what happened next. Pity that I didn't read this book first.

Author Information:

Mary E. Merrell writes Paranormal Mysteries and Young Adult Urban Fantasy. She has worked many jobs, but always had stories in her head. It wasn't until she went into real estate and walked into that old, vacant home that The Real Estate Paranormal Mystery Series came to life. Fortunately, nothing spooky happened at the furniture store, or the first book might have been, "The Haunted Sofa."

Mary E. Merrell's plots are smooth and slightly dark, and her characters sinfully sweet. Try a little guilty pleasure with House Haunting, the first book in The Real Estate Paranormal Mystery Series. One reviewer called it "A good start to a new series."

Her Young Adult series, Affinity is also humorous but deals with very real life themes. A reviewer said, "Love it. So different. A fun read."

Mary E. Merrell lives in the Central Valley of California with her husband, two dogs, and five cats. She has two grown sons. When she's not writing, she's gardening or playing soccer.

Opinion:

For Sage's Book Tours, I read the third book first, and this was my second. In third book I had many question about Rosemary such as her background and why things were the way they were. This book did answer some of the questions I had from the third book. There was little to nitpick about the book; I loved the dialogue, the characters that tattooed themselves on my heart, their personalities, and so forth. I did sometimes feel that

a little too much has happened all at once, and for some odd reason I had a hard time reconciling Rosemary's attraction towards Frank. The mystery and what happened was very gripping and interesting. Just like in third book, Rosemary is her funny self and many times I wanted to knock my head against the table when she made mistakes in her investigation of Keith's death.

4 out of 5

(0: Stay away unless a masochist 1: Good for insomnia 2: Horrible but readable; 3: Readable and quickly forgettable, 4: Good, enjoyable 5: Buy it, keep it and never let it go.)

<http://sveta-randomblog.blogspot.com/...>

Natalie says

I liked this book, it had a great plot for mystery, murder and suspense. It had a hint of "Ghost Whisperers" from the tv in it and it made great reading with humour and a start of a romance.

I wished there was more to the romance and i hope this will be enlightened in the next book 'Curve Appeal,' which looks like an equally gripping book to continue this suspense.

The only thing that i found a little off putting is how easily the ghost could loose limbs, things flying off him etc.

All in all it was well written and a good read :)

Maree Lombardi says

I couldn't put it down. The connection she had to this ghost is what so many long for. There were many surprises and the personality of the characters were very diversified. Can't wait to get into the next one!

Penumbra says

[

House Haunting is a funny, suspenseful murder mystery that had me hooked until the very end. It centers around Rosemary Fernandes and a ghost named Keith Laumer. Rose is newly divorced with a grown son and she's trying to make a career in the real estate business. She's kind-hearted and likes to see the good side of people. While checking out a house for pote

Jill says

This was a fun book. A mystery with a supernatural twist! Rosemary is a quirky character with a lot of problems. She just got divorced from a jerk of a husband, started a new job, and because she isn't a pit bull, she isn't doing well at that either. Then one day, she is showing a house and learns she can communicate to ghosts. The relationship between Rosemary and her ghost Keith, is fun and imaginative. He loses body parts when he gets excited, and she is determined to help solve his murder.

Pros: The characterization in this book is well-done. It's easy to relate to Rosemary's uncertainty, both in her job and personal life, and also her strengths as she grows into her new job as a 'ghost whisperer' so to speak and a sleuth as she figures out what has happened to Keith. The sleazy real estate agents are done well, and you end up hating the creepy ones but still finding the humanity in some. Keith is fun as the scuzzy ghost who finally realizes that maybe he hurt someone while alive with his constant philandering and that maybe he could have found love if he'd spent more than two minutes with a woman.

Cons: It did have some spots that drag a bit and it could have been 50 pages shorter. There was a lot of running back and forth to the same place that could have been combined.

This was generally a very good story and I'm looking forward to the sequel, especially with the vampire teaser hints at the end of the story with the mysterious stranger at the magnolia house. That's the biggest thing I can say about a book, if I want to read the sequel, it was a good book!

I'd recommend to lovers of mystery and the paranormal.

Judith says

I won this book on Goodreads and I'm glad I did. I am a fan of the ghost story genre, both old and new. The central character, a new real estate agent named Rosemary, discovers she has some psychic abilities while looking at a vacant house for her clients and is soon caught up in an almost unbelievable race to find out how her ghost (I loved this character!) died in the house and if he was murdered. Throw in a few menacing people, a good friend to help out and a hunky tattoo artist and it's quite a fun read. Looking forward to reading Mary's other two books in the series. Thank for choosing me to read this fun book.
