



The Abbot's Ghost: A Christmas Story

A.M. Barnard, Louisa May Alcott, Stephen W. Hines (Editor)

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Maurice Traherne is wrongly accused of fraud and gambling and must play a careful hand if he is to win his love, Octavia, from the grasp of other, less honorable men and retain the trust of those who had faith in him. Traherne is temporarily crippled saving the life of his well-born friend, Jaspar. Thus, Jaspar is assured of inheriting his father's estate, but it is expected that Traherne will inherit great wealth as gratitude for saving the heir. But--surprise!--on the death of Jaspar's father all are shocked to learn that Traherne has been disinherited: the will has been changed at the last minute and only the suffering Traherne knows why but won't tell and then he falls in love with Jaspar's sister, the fair Octavia. However, Octavia is forbidden to marry, as Traherne is penniless.

The Abbot's Ghost: A Christmas Story Details

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From Reader Review The Abbot's Ghost: A Christmas Story for online ebook

Shenek says

Alcott's thriller. It was a fun way to spend a few hours but compared to her other work it was shallow. If I had never read any other books by Alcott I think I would have enjoyed this book more.

Oscar says

En la mansión de los Treherne, antiguamente una abadía, se reúne un grupo de amigos para celebrar la Navidad. Están sir Jasper y su hermana Octavia, así como su madre. Maurice Treherne, amigo de Jasper, al que salvó la vida quedando él mismo en silla de ruedas. El coronel Snowdon y su joven esposa, fuente de conflictos para Jasper y Maurice, ya que tienen una historia de antes. Hay algunos personajes más, pero estos son los más importantes. La historia transcurre entre secretos medio desvelados, mentiras, intrigas y romances, quedando en un segundo plano el fantasma del antiguo abad.

‘El espectro del abad, o la tentación de Maurice Treherne. Una historia navideña’ (The Abbot’s Ghost or, Maurice Treherne’s Temptation. A Christmas Story, 1867), de Louisa May Alcott, es una novela corta que se lee con gusto, si bien es verdad que el terror está completamente ausente.

Whitney (First Impressions Reviews) says

The Abbott's Ghost is another hidden gem written by Louisa May Alcott. Maurice Treherne saved his cousin Jasper's life after a misadventure in the water and was made a cripple because of it. Jasper of course is forever grateful but due to a small faux pas does a poor way of showing it. Maurice is in love with his cousin Octavia but due to his circumstances Octavia's mother puts a wrench in any happiness as her daughter should and could do better. In the end, a ghost story comes true paving the way for the couple's future.

I felt the Abbott's Ghost was a cross between a Jane Austen novel and A Christmas Carol. Ninety percent of the book occurs during a dinner party with witty dialogue and scandal, also the ending has a very Austen feel with all the happy marriages. A Christmas Carol is reminiscent because The Abbott's Ghost is in fact a Christmas story but I would use this loosely as it is not very merry; this really reminds me of A Christmas Carol because of the amount of ghost stories in it, each more tantalizing than the last. The Abbott's Ghost is a small story with great depth, keeping eyes wide open to the unexpected end.

You can find this review among others, at my blog She is too fond of books

La Nave Invisible says

Louisa May Alcott es de esas (por desgracia) pocas autoras cuya obra ha sobrevivido al paso del tiempo,

llegando a nuestros días, y sigue siendo considerada como un clásico por el canon literario. Seguro que todas y todos conocéis su novela más famosa: *Mujercitas*, una novela imprescindible de la literatura norteamericana y que en ocasiones ha sido desprestigiada, etiquetándola como literatura juvenil o para mujeres. Lo curioso del caso es que, precisamente, *Mujercitas* no es la obra más representativa de Alcott, sino que la autora la escribió por encargo de su editor a cambio de la publicación de otra obra, como nos cuenta Cristina Domínguez en este artículo de la web *Librópatas*.

Lo que quizás no sea tan conocido es que, a parte de una extensa obra de corte costumbrista e infantil que fue la que la lanzó a la fama, Alcott también escribió *novelettes* y relatos de tipo *thriller* o gótico en revistas y publicaciones sensacionalistas. Y lo hizo usando pseudónimos para proteger su reputación literaria, aspecto del que habla **Óscar Mariscal**, traductor de la obra de la que os hablaré a continuación, en una aproximación a la figura de la autora que incluye la edición de la misma.

Uno de sus **pseudónimos** más prolíficos y conocidos es el de **A. M. Barnard**, que utilizó para firmar cuatro *novelettes* que publicó en *The flag of our union*, un semanario de relatos y poesía que se editaba en Massachusetts a mediados del siglo XIX. Entre esas *novelettes* se encuentra *El espectro del abad, o la tentación de Maurice Treherne*, una historia de fantasmas y pasiones, de la que os hablo en detalle en esta reseña.

Continúa en... <https://lanaveinvisible.com/2018/03/1...>

Lucinda says

I actually got caught up in this one more than I thought. There is Alcott's usual moralizing, but couched in her genuine belief that people truly want to be good, it's not as annoying as it could be.

Maria Teresa says

La reseña completa en <http://inthenevernever.blogspot.com.e...>

"Las mentes humanas atesoran más misterios que cualquier obra escrita, y son más mudables que las formas de las nubes en el claro cielo de abril".

Secretos, mentiras, herencias, intrigas, fantasmas, amor y desamor, *El espectro del abad*, es una novela corta ideal para conocer otra faceta de la talentosa Louisa May Alcott. Es el tipo de historia que te atrapa poco a poco por sus personajes y que terminas de leer porque necesitas descubrir todos sus secretos. Puede que no sientan miedo durante la lectura, pero se lo pasarán tan bien mientras lean que se olvidarán de ello.

Jenny Karraker says

Very sweet book in which all comes together well at the end, with virtue winning out. Though the setting was long ago and some of the culture old-fashioned, the author touched upon many assets of human nature that remain consistent over the ages. I was impressed by Maurice's loyalty to his friend Jasper and willingness to sacrifice his happiness for his friend. You had to dislike Lady Snowdon as she manipulated so

many characters, and felt sorry for her older husband when he overheard about his wife's unfaithfulness to him. Octavia was the naive heroine who, because of her purity and innocence, was able to turn Lady Snowdon back into a likeable character. When Jasper fell from his horse and came clean about his inheriting the family fortune dishonestly, all the bows were tied neatly. If only life worked this way in the real world. But it was fun to read and have a happy ending.

Cheryl DeFranceschi says

Rather predictable but the prose was magnificently purple!

Stacey says

Honestly, I do love Louisa as an author. Her "serious" works, such as "Little Women" or "An Old Fashioned Girl" tend to preach the healthy lifestyle, so it's nice to just read something melodramatic and gothic! A haunted former abbey, a handsome but crippled hero, a wanton woman from his past, a beautiful, innocent love interest, a mystery, and a dark secret! Seriously, so great. And it's a "Christmas" story. I had fun. I may read it again.

Abigail says

In this Gothic novella from Louisa May Alcott, better known for such children's classics as Little Women, a Christmas house-party at a grand old English estate brings together a group of family and friends whose complicated, and often fraught relations are clarified and healed over the course of the holiday. The hero of the tale is Maurice Treherne, a young man confined to a wheelchair after saving the life of his cousin, Sir Jasper Treherne. Maurice's love is given to his cousin Octavia, although their romance is blocked by Jasper and Octavia's mother, Lady Treherne, who feels that she cannot in good conscience give her daughter to a cripple. Also in the party is Mrs. Snowdon, a beautiful young woman whose affections Jasper and Maurice once vied for, and who, despite her married state, seems determined to renew her conquest. Truths are revealed in the course of the story - why was Maurice disinherited? what is the true cause of the ghostly appearances in the attic? is Mrs. Snowdon truly without any nobler feeling? - and the virtuous and noble triumph, whilst converting all around them to a better frame of mind...

Having long been aware of Alcott's dual career, as the noted author of children's stories with a strong moral character, and as the anonymous creator of numerous magazine stories of a more sensational, and (for the times) less respectable nature, and having long loved such works as Little Women and Little Men, I have been curious to read some of the author's 'other' work. That being the case, when I saw The Abbot's Ghost on a Christmas display, I immediately picked it up. I cannot say, all told, that it was really that interesting. The developments were all rather predictable, from the heroic self-sacrifice of Maurice (including the secret reason for his disinheritance), to the angelic influence of Octavia. I was disappointed, moreover, that the afterword gave no indication of the story's history - what magazine was it published in, for instance? I'm glad to have read it, if for no other reason than the knowledge it has given me, regarding the kinds of sensational stories that Jo begins by writing in Little Women, during her sojourn in New York, but wouldn't strongly recommend it on its own merits.

Nancy says

A great Christmas Eve read. Complete with ghost tales, forbidden love, miraculous recovery and drawing room intrigue, Alcott's tale would fit into any Downton Abbey episode.

Ignacio Senao f says

Muy simple historia. Gente reunida echándose porquería a la cara, una mujer que grita porque ha visto un fantasma. Y a echarse más porquería a la cara.

La edición extremadamente cara. Lo venden como una maravilla visual en la que el lector vamos a vivir una experiencia única con ese libro en la mano. Le ponen 11€ de precio. Y te encuentras un libro de bolsillo, sin coser, sin ilustraciones, sin introducción... La portada si que es bonita.

Subashini says

Christmassy Gothic-lite with sentimentality and melodrama. Not as bad as it sounds, actually, and was fairly entertaining. But it could have been more fun with a well-developed ghost.

Yes, that's right. Sometimes the thing that holds your story back is the lack of a *well-developed ghost*.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

This is a ghost story that is not very ghostly, also not very Christmasy. And definitely *not* Louisa May Alcott's best work (that would be Little Women, obviously.)

Mimi says

I've always been a fan of Alcott's writing ever since I read 'Little Women' many years ago. I spotted this and decided to read it as Christmas isn't that far away. The story is mostly about Maurice who after saving his cousin Sir Jasper is left unable to walk.

Even though his aunt and cousins do everything to show that they are grateful you see that he is not happy. Straight from the beginning I felt sorry for him. He loves his cousin Octavia, but he is unable to tell her at the beginning because it would be unfair to her. The story then moves on to a get together at Christmas and then ends with the new year.

Overall, I liked the characters but didn't think one of them really stood out to me. It's only a short story, but I

thought that it started a little slow. But once I got into it I enjoyed it.

I would recommend this if your a fan of Alcott's books.
