Review of Deborah Blum's Book: Ghost Hunters: William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life after Death
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Abstract

Psychical energy, even in its subtle form, is felt directly when our affections are found conflicted. Deborah Blum’s "Ghost Hunters" provides many examples of conflicted affection, both in the positive and in the negative. You can find this book at Amazon: Ghost Hunters: William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life after Death.

Full Text:

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Deborah Blum’s Ghost Hunters: The Victorians and the Hunt for Proof of Life after Death is a fascinating, moving and, most importantly, paradigm-challenging account of the lives and work of the many scientists and thinkers who championed the cause of psychical research. These included Nobel Prize winners such as Lord Rayleigh; a future prime minister, Arthur Balfour; a poet laureate, Tennyson; a knight of the realm, Oliver Lodge; and other notables like Ruskin, Lewis Carroll, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Leslie Stephen, the literary critic and father of Virginia Woolf. William Bulman is an out-of-body expert. His first book, Adventures Beyond the Body, describes in fascinating detail his own experiences as he learned how to travel outside of his body in the astral and spiritual realms. This book is a fictional account of the experiences of a person who is recently deceased and their entry into the afterlife. The protagonist dies and finds himself in the traditional Christian heaven. Science and the Near-Death Experience: How Consciousness Survives Death. Science and the Afterlife Experience: Evidence for the Immortality of Consciousness. The Sphere and the Hologram Explanations from the Other Side. Understanding Life After Death An Exploration of What Awaits You, Me and Everyone We’ve Ever Known. Cyrus Kirkpatrick. by Deborah Blum. Blum should have called this book Gullible Travels: Ghost Stories for the Faith-based Inquirer. Written like a historical novel, complete with descriptions of citrine skies and references to various items of historical interest, Blum's book is a herky-jerky ride from one unbelievable tale to another, many of them involving alleged mediums Leonora Piper (1857-1950) or Eusapia Palladino (1854-1918). The ghost stories are woven around the life of William James (1842-1910), a sympathetic ghost chaser, and a bevy of other scientists who took time off from their important work. Book Information. Ghost Hunters: William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life After Death. By Deborah Blum. Ratings: Rating: 4 out of 5 stars4/5 (5 ratings). Length: 561 pages7 hours. Description. easy answers in this book. If you're looking for solid proof one way or the other, that there is or isn't life after death, you won't find it here. What you will find is, in my honest opinion, just as good if not better: descriptions of research and experiments, mediums and charlatans, and most importantly, the discussion of great ideas. What roles do science and religion play in modern society? Is it possible to believe in both? For those, like me, who are as interested in the quest as the conclusion, this book will be a tasty, thought-provoking treat. Deborah Blum has produced one of the best books about ghosts and "ghost hunters" to come along in quite a while. As its subtitle suggests, it centered on 19th Century thinker William James and his quest to investigate allegations of ghostly activity and alleged clairvoyants and spiritual mediums who claimed to be in contact with such ghosts. Many of these ghost hunters, such as James, were quite skeptical of ghosts. Most of their cases involved palpable frauds. However, there were a few cases such as that of Boston medium Leonora Piper that they were unable to explain away.