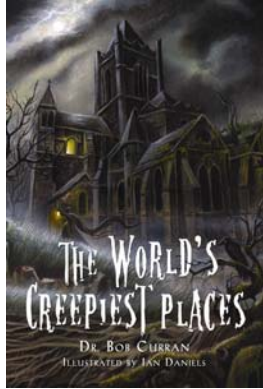


THE WORLD'S CREEPIEST PLACES

By Robert Curran

BOOK SUMMARY



Are there actually some places in the world where people shouldn't really go? Places where strange memories and ancient forces might still linger, even in the modern everyday world? And do we get a physical warning when we approach or enter such places? Are we in fact hot-wired to respond to such things? Perhaps this is what we actually mean when we talk about a place being "creepy" or of something "giving us the creeps".

Psychologists and thinkers have argued for some time as to what causes the "creepy feeling", but there's no disputing that it is a sensation which quite a lot of us experience. Maybe it's a response to the overall atmosphere of a place, maybe it's a reaction to the history of a site <many, though not all, of such places are those where something terrible or horrible has occurred> or it could perhaps be an awareness of *something* outside of ourselves – something which lingers about the place and which doesn't really *want* us there. A sort of *genius loci* if you will. There are actually hundreds of such places dotted all across the world and they are probably best avoided, except in the comfort of your own chair, through the pages of an expert guide book.

In his book *The World's Creepiest Places*, Dr. Bob Curran takes the reader to such places and explores some of the myths and legends associated with them. As with all his other books, Dr. Curran searches behind the story and looks into where it might have originated and what might have given the site its sinister reputation or the odd sensations which it generates. A castle built over a suspected entrance to Hell; a tomb which has given rise to a celebrated ghostly detective story, an isolated monastery, high in the Himalayas where *something* may be confined in a secret room; a remote island in the West of Scotland from which men have mysteriously disappeared; an entire ghostly region in South Africa where phantom fires and even townships come and go. And just what might be lurking in the woodlands of rural Ohio? These are just some of the eerie places which Dr. Curran visits as part of his terrifying travels.

Some of course, may be easy to explain – the ruined castle on a rocky overhang which was once home to a suspected vampire; the falling church which stands over a flight of ancient and weathered steps allegedly leading down to the Infernal Regions; a mist shrouded moor across which a demon hound continually calls – these are the stuff

of ghost story and cinema. But there are some which are not so easily dismissed. A tower in the centre of a busy marketplace for example; a mysterious island which supposedly drifts in and out of other realities, an eerie and impossible house – the relic of a sad and lonely woman - which simply grows and grows. All of these have the innate power to affect us and give us that peculiar tingling at the base of our spines which we call “the creeps”. So take a trip with us and see where ***your*** heart starts pounding! It’ll be well worth the ride!