

## Finding ghost stories, telling ghost stories

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### Folklore, true experiences, or research?

*Characteristics of folklore:* Told for a "good scare." No supporting evidence. No name (or a fictional name), no precise date, no media reports. Lots of variations. (Ref: hitchhiker ghosts, ghostly party, vanishing bldg.) Stories usually follow established storytelling patterns.

*Characteristics of true experiences:* Names, dates, locations mentioned. Often historical evidence and/or media reports.

*Characteristics of ghost research:* Names, dates, locations clearly stated. Historical and anecdotal evidence, media reports. Notes about research tools and/or psychic documentation.

### Public library resources (Dewey decimal system)

Folklore - 398, fiction, literature, history (regional) / True stories - 130 - 135, spirituality (235), biographies / UFOs - 999

### Online resources

*Folklore:* [www.AmericanFolklore.net/spooky-stories.html](http://www.AmericanFolklore.net/spooky-stories.html),  
[http://www.ShortStoryarchive.com/ghost\\_stories.html](http://www.ShortStoryarchive.com/ghost_stories.html),  
[www.TheMoonlitRoad.com](http://www.TheMoonlitRoad.com), [FionaBroome.com](http://FionaBroome.com)

*True stories/research:* [HollowHill.com](http://HollowHill.com), [GhostHounds.com](http://GhostHounds.com),  
[theShadowlands.net](http://theShadowlands.net), [www.the-atlantic-paranormal-society.com](http://www.the-atlantic-paranormal-society.com)

*Storytelling tips:* [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_6111\\_tell-ghost-story.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_6111_tell-ghost-story.html)

To learn more about ghosts and read about real ghost research, see **HollowHill.com** (See the Reviews section for recommended "good scare" reading & movies.)

To hear Fiona talk about her real ghostly encounters, visit **HollowHillPodcasts.com**

## HOW TO FIND real GHOSTS ©2007 by Fiona Broome

### Look in books, newspapers, magazines & websites.

The Halloween issues of most newspapers include ghost stores; check their archives. Also ask the Reference librarian at the public library; he or she may know stories and regional books.

### Ask people, especially students.

Many middle and high school students know the local urban legends. Some of those stories may be true.

### Visit established hauntings to see how they feel.

Once you know how a haunted place 'feels', you'll be able to identify other haunted places. Maybe it's an aura or an energy field, but *haunted places feel different*.

### Look for patterns. Become an historian.

Haunted places often have things in common, such as a violent or tragic history. (Ref: Austin's 'haunted bricks')

### Be very observant.

There may be far more ghosts than we realize. Learn to watch for signs everywhere: Something that you keep seeing out of the corner of your eye. Something odd (too quiet, cold spot, etc.). A 'creepy feeling' that you can't really explain.

### Investigate... as a skeptic.

Any site with apparently unexplained phenomena--even a 'creepy feeling'--will have hard evidence to support or debunk a haunting. Learn to look for it. Learn which ghost hunting tools work for you, and use them. (Ref. *Hollow Hill Podcasts*, 3 Sep 07 podcast.)

And, use common sense. *Never* investigate a haunted location by yourself.

For more tips, how-to articles & courses, see <http://www.HollowHill.com>