



Local author highlights DeLand's haunted history

"Gently Haunted" book will be released this fall; cover just revealed



A new book will introduce DeLand's haunted history to thousands of readers worldwide, and the publisher has just revealed its cover design.

Corrine Kenner, the owner of DeLand's Haunted Antique Shop, is the author of *Gently Haunted: True Stories from the Haunted Antique Shop*. The book describes the history and hauntings of her shop, which Kenner has owned for three years.

She also shares true ghost stories from some of her favorite "neighborhood haunts," including DeLand's Athens Theatre, Chess Park, the DeLand House Museum, Stetson University, and the Stetson Mansion. She researched the book with the help of historians and librarians at the West Volusia Historical Society, the Stetson University Library, the Volusia County Library, and the State Library and Archives of Florida.

The book is already serving as the basis for "Gently Haunted" ghost tours. "We've had so many requests for tours that I used my research for the book to create walking and driving tours

of our favorite ‘neighborhood haunts,’” Kenner said. Tour information is available at gentlyhauntedtours.com.

Georgia Turner, executive director of the [West Volusia Tourism Bureau](http://WestVolusiaTourismBureau.com), said the book will boost DeLand’s visibility. “Ghosts and hauntings are big right now,” she said. “The shop is already drawing tourists who travel here based on the name of the shop alone. We’re so glad that Corrine’s new book will help even more visitors discover DeLand.”

Of course, the Haunted Antique Shop also attracts visitors from the spirit world.

“Here at the shop, we see evidence of hauntings every single day,” Kenner said. “We think some of the ghosts we encounter are people who treasured the objects in our collection. Some ghosts visit because they lived and worked here. And some come through the door with customers, joining them in spirit, hoping to reconnect.”

Kenner is quick to point out that her shop is *gently* haunted — which inspired the title for her book.

“Nothing truly scary happens here,” she said. “It’s all a little strange, but I’ve never felt afraid. Our ghosts all feel pretty friendly. They can be playful, too. Sometimes they move merchandise around during the night. Lights turn on and off by themselves, and doors open and close on their own.”

Kenner also says she also encounters “phantom customers” at least once a week.

“When I’m in the office or the back room, I hear the front door chime, just like a customer has come in. I hear the door open and close, and I hear footsteps and voices as they walk in. But when I come out to say hello, no one’s there.”

Kenner says she never planned to own an antique shop, haunted or otherwise. “I really just wanted to find a place I could use as a writing studio,” she said. “I’ve got several novels in progress, and I wanted to focus on them for a while. When I was looking for office space, this little vintage shop came up for sale. My husband Dan grew up in his dad’s flea market in Michigan, and he convinced me I could write whenever the shop was quiet.”

Kenner’s publisher, Llewellyn Worldwide, will make the book available to every bookseller in the country. It will probably be featured in chain stores and independent retailers alike. The Minnesota company also has a strong foreign-rights division, which means translations will be available in many countries around the world.

Kenner, a former newspaper reporter, magazine editor, and book editor, is the award-winning author of more than 24 books, including the critically acclaimed *Tarot for Writers* and *Tarot and Astrology*. Her works have been translated into 16 languages. She's a certified tarot master and certified astrologer, and she has spoken at tarot conferences in England, Canada, and across the U.S. Before Covid hit, she spent a month writing in a castle in France, as well as a month living above a restaurant near London's Kensington Palace. She also has a degree in philosophy and metaphysics from California State University, Long Beach.

Kenner and her husband have lived in DeLand for four years. They own a historic 1927 home three blocks from the antique shop.

Gently Haunted: True Stories from the Haunted Antique Shop is slated for release on September 8. It's currently available for preorders on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Publisher's description

Llewellyn Worldwide offers the following description of the book, which will be used on the back cover:

Join Corrine Kenner as she recounts gentle hauntings of her Florida antique shop. Meet the ghost of Annette Dennis, who holds everyone in the shop to her high musical standards and the spirits of Jim and Rossie Hearne, who possess the store's newlywed dolls. Whether they are attracted to the century-old bungalow or the collectables sold within it, these spirits interact with the living to show us life's joys.

In addition to hopeful stories, this book provides numerous tips for using psychometry, pendulums, dowsing rods, and tarot cards to help you reach out to friendly shadows of the past. Corrine's experiences with objects that appear out of nowhere, move on their own, and radiate psychic energy reassure us that we can still connect to loved ones on the other side.

Details

- Title: *Gently Haunted: True Stories from the Haunted Antique Shop*
- Author: Corrine Kenner
- Publisher: Llewellyn Worldwide, Woodbury MN
- Website: [hauntedantiqueshop.com](https://www.hauntedantiqueshop.com)
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- ISBN: 0738771813
- Amazon pre-order link: [amazon.com/Gently-Haunted-True-Stories-Antique/dp/0738771813](https://www.amazon.com/Gently-Haunted-True-Stories-Antique/dp/0738771813)