

# Cacciatori di fantasmi (Accross the darkness)

**presentation sheet**  
by the editors of Runa Editrice



Presented on



**Runa Editrice**

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**Title:** Cacciatori di fantasmi  
(Accross the darkness)

**Author:** Fabio Monteduro

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**This novel is already translated into English and titled  
“Accross the darkness”**

## The Author



**Fabio Monteduro** was born in Rome in 1963. Author of novels always poised between thriller and horror, in that particular area of shadow where the difference between the real and the imaginative is increasingly blurred.

*Cacciatori di fantasmi* (Accross the darkness) is his eighth publication.

By the same author Runa Editrice has published *AIRAM - La sindrome della bambola di legno* (2018)

Other novels of the author: *So chi sei ...ed altre ossessioni* (2004); *Avamposto dell'Inferno* (2005); *Anima Nera* (2008); *Jodi* (2010); *Zona di Frontiera* (2011); *Otto Minuti a Mezzanotte* (2011); *Dove le Strade non hanno Nome* (2012).

# Synopsis

Different stories with different people that are entwined by dramatic turn of events.

That's what "Across the darkness" is about.

Everything started in a large country mansion, Pine Mansion, an unexpected and really unbelievable death. From this unexplainable death, the lives of the main characters go in different directions.

Matteo, who dreams of becoming a horror film director and whose relationship with his father, who became a widower the day he was born, so, because of this, their relationship was not one of the easiest;

Andrea, was left by his wife the same day she gave birth to their daughter, he was so intrigued about the paranormal that he went and bought all the equipment (recorders, EVP, thermal and infra-red cameras, etc.) needed to detect spiritual presences. Something that happened when he was young, together with his sister, led him into being interested and believing in these kind of things.

Meeting Matteo brings on the idea of becoming ghost hunters.

An idea which will reveal to have lethal consequences .

Emma, Andrea's sister, is also bothered about what happened to them when they were children: has strange powers as a medium.

Even more.

Alicia, a Peruvian girl, with a degree in psychiatry and with ideas that are completely the opposite to those of her "new" friends.

On all of them hover three eerie presences: Erwin Kanvans, a highly respected psychiatrist, author of many text books, that unexpectedly, changes his point of view regarding his profession: he would say in a convincing way that not all the people that say, that they see spirits/ghosts or other types of manifestations, are mad. He also has unusual ideas, regarding to demoniac possession. All this would be translated into a new book due to be published, under the title of Across The Darkness, that field will cast a shadow over him. The St. Cataldo, ex-mental hospital, abandoned over thirty years before, where Kanvans worked and that had been closed down after a night of terror. When two mad men, "KillamallKillemall" and the "butcher", massacred nurses, doctors and other patients.

Ending with Fatima Gutiérrez , a midwife..... so called for reasons that will become clear as the romance progresses, "la Santa mammana"\*.

Fatima Guttierrez lived in Pine Mansion but was then interned at St. Cataldo mental asylum.

Meeting Fatima is what will change forever the life of Kanvans and also that, of all the characters in the romance.

The ending will unravel all the heartaches that the main characters went through, all the stories will fall into place. When called by Kanvans to investigate inside the abandoned mental asylum, soon enough they will come face to face with their worst nightmares.

\*A name given in the south of Italy to women who not only delivered babies but also performed illegal abortions using a knitting needle.

# Introduction by Mirko Barbaglia - Ghost Hunters Team

It was one o'clock at night and we were inside a Psychiatric Hospital that had been abandoned many years before, it's yellowed walls due to the time gone by, on some of them still with what patients had written on the wall, that brought to light, sad memories made up of cruel practices, of sufferings and solitude; we read an expression that really hits us that makes our blood freeze: "...they smile at me..."

Only a few hours before we had gathered information about this place discovering the sad story behind it, on the other hand common to all psychiatric hospitals in the 70's, where in the majority of cases patients who did not really have real mental problems but were closed in an asylum only because they were considered different by the society at the time. Even simply stuttering would make you end up in a mental asylum, or even unfortunate in being homeless or even worse, being an orphan often brought about being locked up in one of these places staying there until you died.

Actually with regards to death, due to the living conditions that these people were forced to put up with, was probably wished for! Yes, because things that were inflicted on the patients in the name of psychiatry in that era were terrible: they used to be tied up to the beds with iron chains, forced to wear a straightjacket and forced to do their normal body functions into small holes into small holes in the pavement that were in their prison cells; they were made to go undergo a lobotomy operation (which consisted in severing (or scraping, ) the nerves that connect the frontal lobes to the rest of the brain,) and to electroshock therapy ( which consisted in electrical currents being passed through the brain).

We had already gone through a lot emotionally, only to discover this very sad reality, but, we wanted to carry on because in this place unexplainable events had been pointed out, or maybe there were ghosts! Many people, absolutely reliable, sustained in fact to have seen strange shadows wandering around in the long corridors of the building, to have heard footsteps and to have also seen doors shut.

That is why we decided to investigate, using our technological instruments and with the help of our medium, to try and discover if the things signaled were only fruit of personal imagination or real!

After having read the unnerving writing, we decided to proceed, in total darkness, walking through the corridors of the Mental Asylum.

The electromagnetic camp meters start to signal the first abnormalities, and there you are, soon after we start hearing the first sounds that echo through the building: "surely they're footsteps..." we uttered! The sounds are so loud and noticeable enough to convince us that we are not alone in the building; definitely some other person introduced themselves illegally, and seeing how dangerous the actual structure is, due to many years of total abandon, we have to intercept and force to leave.

We start a frenetic search for the intruder, but, slowly slowly we realized that the sounds were coming from different directions simultaneously, and the distances to great to cover in so little time by a single person, and if there was more than one person we would have seen them! We decide to separate so as to cover the biggest area possible, certain to discover who causes all these sounds, but after various minutes of careful searching we all met up again without having seen anyone along our path.

Suddenly the sounds stopped and everything sank back into the most deadly silence. In the frenzied search we found ourselves in another corridor that had in the middle an old toy pram , obviously used many years before by a young "patient", probably an orphan, it was without a wheel and it was worn and torn and the signs of time gone by could be seen on it.

Seeing this simple object, a sad feeling overcame us and created in our minds images that describe that tormented past and we can't ask ourselves if we were brought here, following the sound of footsteps, for a precise reason: maybe because of some past source of energy from the past wants their story not forgotten and that the suffering they went through no one else will ever go through it either? We are not capable of giving an answer, what is certain is that this experience, just like many others, has strengthened in us the stamina and conviction to go right to the end, without any prejudice, to the stories that we get told and we are certain an answer will come sooner or later! This is the life of a Ghost Hunter!

The term Ghost Hunter to many of you will have no meaning, if we do instead a literal translation of the term, “Cacciatore di Fantasma”, you will think it’s probably a joke, but it’s not so: Ghost Hunters really exist and they investigate paranormal situations! Contrary to what many people think, Ghost Hunting is a very old practice; the first “ghost hunters” go back as far as the 1st. Century. A.C.

Plinio the Young tells of the philosopher Atenodoro with the grips of a spirit that had caused big problems in a villa in Athens. Luciano from Samosata, who lived in the second century A.C. narrates in his writings, of the existence of a “Circle of Parapsychology” that studied unexplainable events and ghostly apparitions. Porfirio, a disciple of Plotino, had already noticed the incredible interaction that the “spirits” could have with people who were in the world of the “living”.

Even in different parts of the World, like in India, these phenomena (Virika, ghosts using the local language) were studied by groups of professionals that used to be called Shaycana.

In 1923, in Europe, the benedictine friar Jean Goby investigated a mysterious voice that could be heard in a dwelling in Alais in the South of France; with his studies Goby discovered that this voice belonged to the deceased Guy de Torno accused, first of all for disappearing, and then adultery.

The first real european pioneer of this experience was the Englishman Harry Price from the second half of the eighteenth century.

With the years going by and the technological progress, “ghost hunters” has become, as of today, a real and proper researcher that, with the use of advanced technological instruments, investigates the physical interaction of paranormal phenomena in the surrounding area. Unexpected drop in temperatures, objects that move, fleeing shadows and real live apparitions are only some of the tell tell signs that are often associated with various places: old Castles, uninhabited Villas, ex sanatoriums , till you get to private and modern homes; no place can be excluded as any place can be the setting for unexplainable phenomena. So you have the Ghost Hunters, armed with all his equipment, that heads towards the unknown! Yes, because, in this type of investigation, you never know what to expect, one can reach to give a rational explanation, or one can be faced with an unexplainable situation.

In this romance, this is what our main characters will go through, that will not only amuse and frighten ( for this reason we recommend it to be read in the evening!) it’s also capable of giving a precise and truthful glimpse on the real activity of a modern Ghost Hunter, that is very wisely described by my friend Fabio Monteduro.

So, if in the future you hear strange noises in your home, or you notice that an object has been unexplainably moved or a light that you are certain to have switched off and you find it on, stop a moment to reflect, maybe it could have been a slight distraction or maybe, even you, might need the help of a Ghost Hunter!

Mirko Barbaglia

Founder of The Ghost Hunter Team

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