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## Eerie South Carolina: True Chilling Tales from the Palmetto Past by Sherman Carmichael

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## **Eerie South Carolina: True Chilling Tales from the Palmetto Past by Sherman Carmichael**

### **Abstract**

Review of Eerie South Carolina: True Chilling Tales from the Palmetto Past by Sherman Carmichael with illustrations by Kristen Solecki.

### **Keywords**

book review, Eerie South Carolina, Sherman Carmichael (author), Kristen Solecki (illustrator)



## BOOK REVIEW

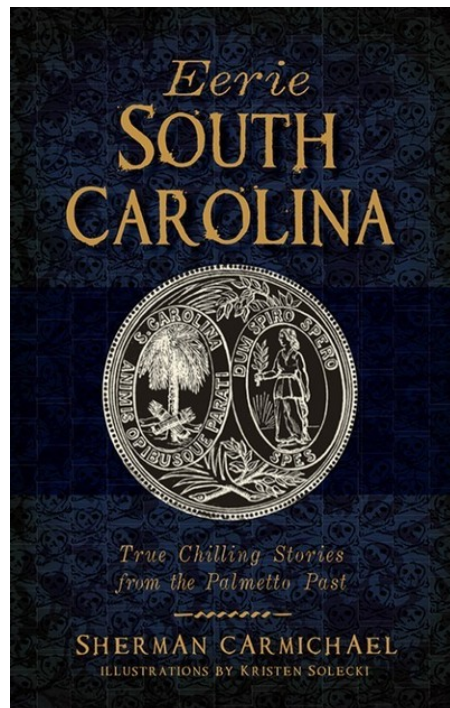
**Eerie South Carolina: True Chilling Tales from the Palmetto Past** by Sherman Carmichael with illustrations by Kristen Solecki

The History Press, 2013, \$14.99

For gathering around the campfire, grab the marshmallows and leave *Eerie South Carolina:*

*True Chilling Stories from the Palmetto Past* on the shelf; however, for a spine-tingling history lesson, consider cozying up with this book, the third book written by Sherman Carmichael. The title is a bit misleading, as the stories are less horror fiction and more historical non-fiction. The purpose seems to be documenting arcane South Carolina phenomena, ranging from strange aspects of natural history to everyday supernatural occurrences. As such, Carmichael is successful, writing in an unpolished style that is accessible, albeit often mundane, to a variety of audiences. Barring some minor but noticeable errors missed in pre-production proofreading, the casual style situates spooky, unnerving perspectives in the element of truth, which enhances the thought-provoking nature of the book and demonstrates respect for the subject matter. Rather than relegating the time-honored tales to mere ghost stories, Carmichael mentions theories of parapsychology and physics in an attempt to broaden the understanding of why paranormal events transpire in the first place. Of particular interest are the stories from the South Carolina Lowcountry; the insertion of colloquial bits of curiosities and wonders streamlined with historical facts of Southeastern South Carolina, told in a matter-of-fact style, is surely effective history telling. Also of note are the

accompanying drawings by Kristen Solecki. While Solecki is an accomplished illustrator, the whimsical folk art drawings fail to purposefully augment the text. Overall, Carmichael is a knowledgeable writer and steadfast researcher who obviously has a genuine affection and great love for the people, places and stories about which he writes. The publication performs as a collaborative, grassroots effort involving South Carolinian players Carmichael, Solecki, The History Press, and other personalities, both living and ethereal, with the best of community-oriented intentions. All said and done, the recommendation is to check expectations and preconceived notions at the door and give *Eerie South Carolina: True Chilling Stories from the Palmetto Past* a try, with the lights turned on, of course.



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