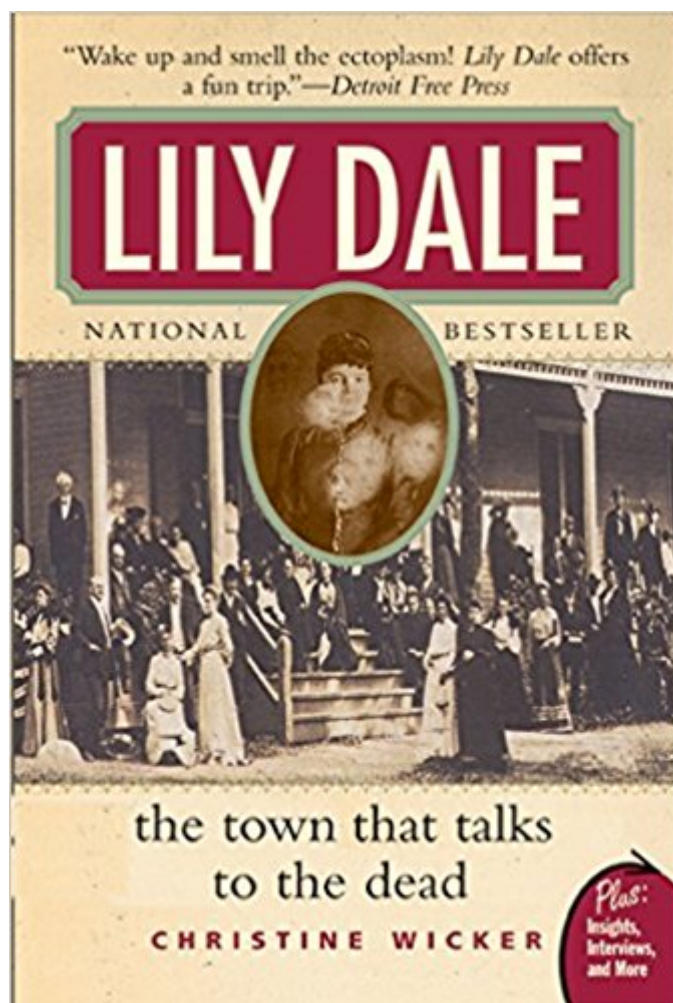


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# Lily Dale: The Town That Talks To The Dead (Plus)



## Synopsis

In Lily Dale, New York, the dead don't die. Instead, they flit among the elms and stroll along the streets. According to spiritualists who have ruled this community for five generations, the spirits never go away—and they stay anything but quiet. Every summer twenty thousand guests come to consult the town's mediums in hopes of communicating with dead relatives or catching a glimpse of the future. Weaving past with present, the living with the dead, award-winning journalist and bestselling author Christine Wicker investigates the longings for love and connection that draw visitors to "the Dale," introducing us to a colorful cast of characters along the way—including such famous visitors as Susan B. Anthony, Harry Houdini, and Mae West. Laugh-out-loud funny at times, this honest portrayal shows us that ultimately it doesn't matter what we believe; it is belief itself that can transform us all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Thoroughly engaging." (Cleveland Plain Dealer)  
"A probing study of the nature and power of faith, Wicker's story is often a hoot as well...." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)  
"Royally entertaining." (Dallas Morning News)

Christine Wicker was raised in Oklahoma, Texas, and other parts of the South. Her mother's grandfather was an itinerant Baptist preacher, and her dad's father was a Kentucky coal miner.

During her seventeen years at the Dallas Morning News, she was a feature writer, columnist, and religion reporter. She is the author of several books, including the highly acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Lily Dale: The True Story of the Town That Talks to the Dead*.

A friend of mine had visited the town of Lily Dale in off season. She had told me a little about the town, enough to intrigue me, and I wanted to know more. So, I bought this book. Unfortunately, the book was a big disappointment. It is a shallow, badly written, disjointed account of the author's visits to Lily Dale. It was difficult to believe the author is or was a journalist, because of the quality of the writing, rambling and almost incoherent, at times. Nonetheless, the author is apparently an award winning journalist, having been the religion reporter for seventeen years for the Dallas Morning News, the same newspaper that said this book was "royally entertaining". Well, the reality is that it is anything but, though it does contain some nice vintage photographs. There is very little of substance, and it is far from entertaining. Downright boring would best describe it.

Definitely a fun read before you go there for a visit. Written by a journalist with a skeptic eye and an open mind which I see as a good balance when you are trying to explore and explain Spiritualism.

I had been to Lilly Dale some years ago . It was off season. It is a reporter who wrote this book. You follow her through getting to know people living there (mostly) full time . She becomes friends with several Mediums. She is open to try everything. She is constantly objective. She almost ends the book with extreme doubt ... but continues and a life changing experience happens!

A beautifully written book on the psychic phenomenon known as Lily Dale. It takes a very objective view of spiritualism. I grew up with Lily Dale, I've had my own experiences with psychic phenomenon. The author embraces the essence of this small conclave of mediums, and explains it very simply: take what you need to believe, and leave the rest.

Let's face it: Whether or not you really believe that ghosts exist or not, it's still fun to read about them. The author takes a very subtle approach in demonstrating how for most people, ghosts represent feelings of loss, guilt, or unresolved issues rather than an actual spirit that has yet to make its' way toward the "Light". Especially telling is the believers that continue to have faith in the mediums despite failure to reproduce spiritual marvels under controlled conditions, or when the medium has been exposed as an outright fraud. It is very easy to look back on this era and laugh, or

make fun, but if one looks closely enough, you can make adequate comparisons between the Spiritualist Movement and several other religious, social and political ones. The power of belief is a phenomenon perhaps even more interesting than even ghosts and apparitions!

I'm a little partial b/c I'm friends with one of the people in the book. Anyway, Lily Dale is the real deal and it's certainly worth the read!

I chose this rating because I thought the topic was interesting. This was an average retelling of a real event. Definitely worth reading. Filled with ordinary things, but leading to so much more. You figure it out.

This book was very interesting. The author, a journalist, wrote from a skeptical yet open viewpoint. I am going to take a class in Lily Dale this summer and this book helped to set the stage for my visit. Christine Wicker's book gave me a great deal of background knowledge to make my visit more meaningful.

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