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## Spirits of Place

*Alan Moore, Warren Ellis*

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**Alan Moore, Warren Ellis : Spirits of Place** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirits of Place:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerGreat product and arrived on time0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How does place inform creation?By Jim CrosbyA little bit irregular. Some essays are excellent (Ellis as you would expect) and some a bit hazy. The whole idea of place having a unique underlying spirit is spot on: place is as much a part of creativity as the human conductor. And this is not a work of new-agey ley lines and fog. Worth a read for the gems, with only a few duds.10 of 10 people found the following review

helpful. An incredibly eloquent investigation of space and narrative By IG Campbell I've just finished reading *Spirits of Place*, edited by John Reppion, the Daily Grail-published collection of writings on place, narrative, history and spirit. I was not disappointed. Reppion opened by among other things describing an event of the same name he organized earlier in 2016 hosted on the same site as a degraded Neolithic tomb. The event itself raised sacred space in spectacular fashion and is, perhaps, a lesson and charge for the coming year without the participants having known just how stark it feels. As Reppion states, To create a space that is emphatically anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-sexist on the grounds of so malevolent an enterprise and to fill it with events for young people does seem redemptive. Yet to perform in such a space can never be lighthearted. There's a bit too much to unpack in a proper review the collection is part essay grouping, part philosophical studies journal, part occult newsletter but the essays in each case stand proudly for themselves with each raising their own space. Whether its Gazelle Amber Valentine talking identity, Warren Ellis writing on radio signal as bomb blast radius, Maria J. Perez Cuervo illustrating the process of secret, dangerous and necessary libraries growing seemingly of their own magnetism or Vajra Chandrasekera on fascism, nationalism and grief, the contents are topical and fascinating and juggle between dreamily speculative and heartbreakingly eloquent. Chandrasekera's contribution in particular felt crucial and grounding, setting the tone almost as clearly as Reppion's introduction:--"In our periodic riots, Sinhala mobs in search of Tamil or Muslim people to assault but still unable to identify them on sight (because we all pretty much look the same) would demand that potential targets perform their Sinhala-ness or Buddhist-ness with shibboleths: pronouncing particular words to test for accents, or reciting Buddhist prayers that people of other religions were unlikely to know. For example, the , which in a great irony is a recitation of the virtues of the Buddha, probably including suitably incongruous things like kindness and compassion. I say probably even though I know it by heart (I suspect my not-particularly-pious parents insisted on me learning these prayers by memory in anticipation of future riots) because the prayer is in Pali, not Sinhala, and I've long since forgotten what the words mean: to me, its just a string of sounds that represent thuggish fanaticism."--With my breath fully taken away by lines like:--"Grief is a nation, like the dead are a nation. These are the nationalisms I can get behind."--I name only a few here not to suggest they held themselves over the rest, but precisely because I could go on and on about the other writers included and so bore you to death and draw my review out to outlandish and unhelpful proportions. I do want to single out the piece by Damien Patrick Williams, one of the primary reasons I picked up this book (along with the topic itself and work by luminaries like Ellis and Alan Moore). In addition to being a friend, Williams has been quoted in WIRED magazine and interviewed on the Flashforward and Mindful Cyborg podcasts on the intersection between magic and technology, one of my primary interests. His contribution to this book excelled my expectations as it seamlessly covered biographical explanation, philosophical exploration, virtual space and place, mythology and psychology. He covers two more of my favorite topics, ravens and synchronicities, and pulls apart the phenomenons of my experience masterfully:--"But the concept structure of ritual space can be applied to any time or place which, for reasons of mentality and mood, must be set apart. In sociological and trauma studies, we discuss this idea in terms of safe spaces; in martial arts, we have the dojo; in magic, the drawing of the circle. In all of these instances, we use words, or a knife, or chalk, or a song, and we carve out something sacred from within the profane, and the 1990s Internet was pretty much a perfect expression of this. The complex protocols to log-in, the aforementioned terminology and conceptual framing, all of it conjured an intentional Otherness of place and mind."--The ever-magical Alan Moore closes out the collection with a fantastic and thoroughly electrifying piece that serves, as Reppion laments not doing with the actual event in April, as a closing ritual for the book. And as many of the other pieces do, spiraling ever outward from Reppion's convocation, Moore's entry exists in a sort of trifold space; it covers the past, it applies to the present, and reaches out to the future with a mystical, speculative beckoning:--"Everywhere the grind and rumble of epochal gears, the flat stones of Satanic mills as they commence to turn. A creaking at the limits, at the edge of our condition, a raw frontier of our lust and fear and capability."--The topics truly covered across the book are legion; if your interests cover anything around philosophy, place, folklore, magic, immediate urban experience, history and future of politics, this book will absolutely have something for you. My suggestion: seek the book out, raise your own space, read it and proceed from there. Its easily one of my favorite books of 2016.

Stories are embedded in the world around us; in metal, in brick, in concrete, and in wood. In the very earth beneath our feet. Our history surrounds us and the tales we tell, true or otherwise, are always rooted in what has gone before. The spirits of place are the echoes of people, of events, of ideas which have become imprinted upon a location, for better or for worse. They are the genii loci of classical Roman religion, the disquieting atmosphere of a former battlefield, the comfort and familiarity of a childhood home. Twelve authors take us on a journey; a tour of places where they themselves have encountered, and consulted with, these *Spirits of Place*.