



Constable & Toop

Gareth Jones

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Something mysterious and terrible is happening throughout Victorian London: Ghosts are disappearing. When this reaches the attention of the Ghost Bureau, the diligent but clueless Mr. Lapsewood, a paranormal paper-pusher, is sent to investigate, and what he discovers is grave. The Black Rot has arrived—a voracious spiritual infestation whereby empty haunted houses suck in unsuspecting ghosts and imprison them. Lapsewood's investigation weaves through the plotlines of several other memorable characters—both living and dead—including an undertaker's son who can see ghosts, a serial throat-slasher reminiscent of Jack the Ripper, an evangelical exorcist, and many more. The living and dead must work together if they hope to destroy the Black Rot—before it destroys both the ghost and human worlds. This highly atmospheric and biting funny ghost story by successful British author Gareth P. Jones will delight fans of Eva Ibbotson and Neil Gaiman.

Praise for *Constable & Toop*

STARRED REVIEWS

"Jones has crafted a menacing, spooky Victorian London full of criminals and unfinished business, which is well balanced by the biting satire and buffoonery of the Bureau. Add to that a cast of fascinating, well-wrought characters—from the smarmy and threatening Jack, to the precocious, pot-stirring aspiring journalist, Clara—and it's a winning combination of macabre atmosphere, whimsical antics, and heartfelt, earnest friendship."

--*Booklist*, starred review

"This story is sure to tickle the funny bone and satisfy the taste for some gruesome adventure while appealing to both girls and boys. A fun read that includes intrigue, murder, mystery, and a young damsel who rescues them all."

--*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Both spine-chilling and raucously funny, this ghostly Victorian mystery knits humor and horror into a lively supernatural escapade for confident readers."

--*Library Media Connection*, highly recommended

"Jones is interested in giving readers more than spooky thrills; his characters have moral heft and are concerned with issues such as culpability, whether people can be considered good if they have done bad things, and the importance of living life to its fullest."

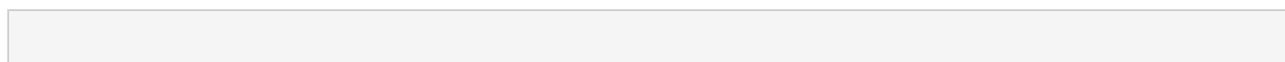
--*Kirkus Reviews*

"British author Jones offers a witty take on Victorian ghost stories that mixes dark humor and satire with an almost traditional boy's adventure format."

--*Publishers Weekly*

"It is part mystery, part adventure, and thoroughly delightful."

--*VOYA*



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Christine Frazier:

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