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# Windsor Castle: England's Royal Fortress

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Ball, Jacqueline A. and Stephen F. Brown. *Windsor Castle: England's Royal Fortress*. Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 2005. ISBN 1597160059. \$22.60. 32 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Castles--Windsor Castle--Juvenile literature; Windsor Castle--History--Juvenile Literature;

In 1897, castle guard Carr Glynn encountered the ghost of a woman in the library at Windsor Castle. He followed the woman but she disappeared. She looked familiar to Glynn who later realized that he had seen the ghost of Queen Elizabeth I, who died 300 years earlier. With this brief anecdote, Ball captures her readers' attention. In her succeeding narrative, she highlights important events in the history of Windsor Castle, considered by some to be England's most haunted castle. She covers the time period from 1070, the date historians believe construction on the castle began, to the 1992 fire that damaged the northwest side of the building to the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee there in 2002. Windsor Castle was originally built as a fortress by William the Conqueror and later became one of Queen Elizabeth II's favorite homes.

Each double-page spread contains minimal, but informative text, several illustrations, and one interesting bit of trivia that is set off from the rest of the narrative. The illustrations are plentiful and are either clear, crisp color photographs or reproductions of artwork. Readers who are eager to learn more will find a bibliography and a list of related websites at the end of the text. Ball also includes a glossary, a timeline of events in the castle's history and one page entitled, "Just the Facts." This is the kind of book that makes readers want to travel. *Windsor Castle: England's Royal Fortress* is one of six books in Bearport Publishing's "Castles, Palaces & Tombs" series.