In addition to being “great reads” that still frighten us today, Victorian ghost stories and supernatural literature reflect the growing apprehension that Victorians felt in response to rapidly shifting cultural boundaries, such as changes in religion, new scientific theories, and advancing technology. Examining the Victorian fascination with the spectral encourages us to consider the ways in which our contemporary culture’s obsession with the supernatural may mark a similar discomfort with fast-paced social change.

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