

NORFOLK
FOLKLORE
SOCIETY

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BLACK
SHUCK
FESTIVAL



Present



Naomi Ryan
The X-Trails: A Forensic
History of the Supernatural



What happens when the supernatural ends up in court?

The law is supposed to deal in facts, evidence and reason. Unfortunately, human beings have always been fascinated by ghosts, witches, demons, curses and things that go bump in the night. The result is a long and extraordinary history of cases where the paranormal collides head-on with the legal system.

Join barrister Naomi Ryan for a captivating journey through some of the strangest courtroom dramas ever recorded.

Discover cases involving witches accused of leaking military secrets, ghosts identifying their own murderers, fraudulent mediums, supernatural witnesses and one particularly foul-mouthed furry demon that somehow found its way into legal history.

As judges, lawyers and investigators attempt to apply reason to the unreasonable, the bizarre is subjected to forensic scrutiny and the unexplained finds itself under cross-examination.

Can a ghost solve a murder? What happens when a haunting becomes evidence? And how does a demon mongoose end up troubling the BBC?

Drawing on her experience as a criminal and public law barrister, Naomi Ryan uncovers the surprising places where folklore, belief and the justice system intersect, revealing a side of legal history that is as entertaining as it is extraordinary.

A fascinating exploration of the moments when the courtroom doors opened and the supernatural walked in.