



# Horror at the Haunted House

*Peg Kehret*

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## **Horror at the Haunted House** Peg Kehret

It was a job any kid would kill for: to play a role in the Historical Society's Haunted House Halloween fundraising event. Ellen Streater was thrilled to play Joan of Arc, burning at the stake. It was for a good cause—to benefit the eerie old Clayton House, soon to reopen as a museum. They said the house was haunted. Ellen didn't believe it—until she felt a strange, icy feeling when she touched the beautiful Fairylustre bowl. Then she saw the ghost in the mirror—a beautiful phantom who beckoned her into a nightmare beyond her wildest dreams.

**"Entertaining and appealing, with lively and believable young people and a personable ghost."**  
—*School Library Journal*

## **Horror at the Haunted House Details**

Date : Published June 10th 2002 by Puffin (first published 1992)

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Author : Peg Kehret

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## **From Reader Review Horror at the Haunted House for online ebook**

### **Jen says**

I really liked this book when I was a kid, which is odd considering I am a terrible coward about horror and all things meant to be frightening. But this is a well-woven tale with moderate scariness (for kids) and a dash of history thrown in; a very quick read, an interesting idea, and just a fun departure for a few hours.

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### **Amy says**

A ghost story with a real ghost who turns out to be more helpful than harmful. The real danger comes from crooked people. I liked that I learned about Wedgwood pottery in this book - "Fairylustre" is a real thing, and it's gorgeous. The villains in the book are trying to steal a valuable collection of Wedgwood, and the ghost is trying to warn Ellen so she can stop them. There are also the remains of the ghost's dead infant son in a Wedgwood urn, and the ghost wants Ellen to reunite the remains with her body. The inclusion of cremated infant remains is a pretty gruesome detail, so of course I loved it - and it made this book stand out to me. I always remember the books with dead babies - like *The Red Room Riddle: A Ghost Story*, which includes a description of a tapestry that depicts the slaughter of the innocents.

The ghost parts were pretty good towards the beginning, but then Ellen starts to get used to the ghost which kind of ruined the ghost story aspect of the story for me. The ghost even starts saying that it wants to be Ellen's friend, which was too corny. But the climax was great, where Ellen is trying to get away from the Wedgwood thieves after they discover she knows what they're up to. They're about to burn her alive (!) but then the ghost appears as a horrifically decayed version of itself and scares them away. The only thing that really didn't make sense to me was how Ellen returned to the scene of her near-death experience the very next night - I would think she'd be all PTSD about that place and thus never want to go back.

Not my favorite ghost story, but a decent one to recommend around Halloween.

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### **Michelle Wardhaugh says**

The details worried at me a bit. At first I wanted to know more specifics about where this was set. I should have known it was set locally. Then I wondered why characters jumped to the least logical conclusions, but in time I relaxed and just enjoyed the book. It was fun, and it made me head for the computer to look up images of Wedgwood Fairylustre. The only Wedgwood style I can identify is the blue and white. Fairylustre is pretty stuff, but I like the colors better than the actual artwork on the pieces.

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### **Annaka says**

This is such a good book! It's my favorite of Peg Kehret's writing that I've read so far! I love the end. My mom was scared that I was reading about ghosts, and I was, but this is a good ghost story. Plus, I like to read

about ghosts, because most of the time, the ghost turns out to be either nonexistent or nice. In this case it's the second one.

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### **Megan says**

I found this book again while looking for books to donate to my library's book sale and couldn't remember what the story was about. It was a good, short read for needing something different. The second half of the story picked up the pace and kept me wanting to know why Lydia was so upset and trying to get Ellen's attention. I didn't even think about someone stealing the Wedgwood until they mentioned Agnes had taken a piece home. There was when I really started thinking, yep, she's stolen it

I mostly read this because it was a Halloween book and I was in the mood for a creepy-ish tale. Not a bad story overall but I don't know if I'll read this one again.

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### **American says**

Peg Kehret is one of my favorite children's mystery authors, though they are never usually 'scary', more what I call 'spooky', but I like the spooky atmosphere. They usually all teach a moral lesson, which I do like about them, and they sometimes show what to do in a dangerous situation and what not to do. The books by her and 'Pete the Cat' are some of my favorites by her, but I like the 'Ellen and Corey' series a little better. I also like some of the single books like 'Stolen Children'. I've never read the 'Frightmares' or the 'Disaster' books by her.

This is my favorite in the 'Ellen and Corey' series, recommended to me by a close friend.

Ellen and Corey each get to play a role as famous historical characters to raise money for a historical house to be turned into a museum, but strange things start happening. The new museum is said to be haunted, which Ellen doesn't believe at first, but starts to change her mind when she sees a ghost in a mirror, that only she can see. Is the place haunted? Or is something more suspicion going on? Read my favorite 'Horror at the Haunted House'!

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### **Jules Heberer says**

Do you like horror and books that give you the chills? If so, this novel, "Horror at the Haunted House", is the book for you! Ellen and her little brother, Corey have been invited by their grandmother's friend to act in a haunted house. First, Ellen starts off with getting chills after hearing the story of the ghost. Next... I guess you have to find out by reading this novel by Peg Kehret!! I recommend you read this amazing novel!

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### **RumBelle says**

This was one of my favorite ghost stories growing up a child. I loved the idea of playing a role at a Historical Society's Haunted House, working in a beautiful old mansion. What really always stuck with me about this book though, was the Wedgwood bowl. How that incredible antique played such a role in the hauntings, and

the mystery within the book. I don't recall any other ghost story having an element quite like it. This book was a wonderful way to while away an afternoon, not too scary, but with a lot of interesting elements and characters.

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### **Monster says**

Ellen Streater and her brother Corey have volunteered to play roles in the local Historical Society's haunted house fundraiser. However once Ellen enters the old mansion that will house the benefit, she feels a cold and chilling presence. Soon, the ghost of Lydia Clayton, whose husband built the house, appears to Ellen. Ellen even starts to see and feel the ghost's presence at home. Ellen thinks that the ghost is trying to tell her something and begins to investigate the house and the owners to try to find out more about their history and to put the spirit to rest. *Horror at the Haunted House* is a ghost story with a dash of a mystery thrown in. Ellen is a strong, inquisitive female character who may appeal particularly to girls. The writing is solid, and the fast-paced plot and imaginative elements of the story will grab the attention of both boys and girls. *Horror at the Haunted House* is a good core ghost story book. Appropriate for children ages 9-12, this book is recommended for elementary school library media centers and public library children's collections. Contains: attempted murder.

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### **Harriet says**

I would have rated it 16 stars.

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### **Kayla Blair says**

took too long for it to actually get interesting

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### **Amanda says**

For a kids' book, this was a great deal of fun to read. I had it figured out about halfway through, but it was still a great story with a lot of fun for the entire family. I will definitely keep my eye out for more from this author, if there is any!

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### **03danielr says**

summary:

Ellen and her little brother Corey are way excited because they found out that they get to die... all week long. At a haunted house that they will be in. Ellen gets to be Joan of Arc, burning at the stake. Everyone thought that the old Clayton house would be a good place to do the haunted house because the old creepy mansion was already haunted! But who would think that the old ghost of the Clayton home would haunt Ellen and take her to places in her wildest dreams...

a rate for this book: I rated this book 4 stars because it was really scary, it was very intense, and just a good book but I think a little something was missing.. for example they should of described the mansion and the ghost a little better than maybe it would of been better.

recommend?: I would recommend this book to anyone who likes scary, horror, intense, books. Once you start reading this you cant stop, read it, I guarantee you will like it.

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### **Kim says**

For halloween, Ellen participates in a haunted house. The house is staged in an old mansion and she is Joan of Arc. Unfortunately, not all of the characters are fake. A former resident (a ghost) is trying to tell Ellen something and she won't leave Ellen alone until she does!

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### **Eden says**

Ellen and her brother Corey have been asked to play roles in the haunted house at the local historical society. Both agree to do so, with Corey being the most eager. He's wants everyone to hear just how good he can scream when he gets his head "chopped off". Ellen, however has a strange feeling about the mansion where the historical society is. She's had feelings like this before and they never end well.

On their first visit, Ellen experiences feeling cold and she doesn't know what it is. She really doesn't know what to do when the mansion's ghosts begins appearing to her. Who will believe her? And what does exactly the ghost want with Ellen?

I think the book started a little slow, but it definitely got better. Ellen and Corey were likable, even if Corey was a tiny bit annoying. Ellen's experiences were definitely interesting parts and the book kept me guessing. It was a mystery and a ghost story all in one! I also liked reading about the haunted house and the part Ellen played.

I also think the book teaches a good lesson and that's not to fear what you don't understand. If you don't understand something, it is best to research and not make any judgments beforehand. I thought it was a good book. It's one I will be buying and reading again.

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