



The Ghost Children

Eve Bunting , James Cross Giblin

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When Matt and Abby go to live with Great-Aunt Gerda in Sierra Madre Canyon after their mother dies, Matt is put off at first by the life-size wooden dolls whom Aunt Gerda talks to and calls her “children.” However, when someone vandalizes the dolls and two are stolen, it is Matt, with the help of his new friend, Kristin, who foils the would-be thief and returns the dolls to Aunt Gerda.

The Ghost Children Details

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From Reader Review The Ghost Children for online ebook

D.M. Dutcher says

Matt and Abigail are two children who after the loss of their mother go to live with their aunt. Their aunt is a kind old woman, but she has a weird quirk to her: she has a bunch of wooden scarecrows she keeps in her yard and talks to like they were her children. Matt soon discovers that they might talk back, and the town wants them out of there. Can she help her aunt and the children stay?

The problem with the book is that it doesn't choose one way to be. It mostly is a minor mystery and character study of a lonely aunt and two children. This wouldn't be so bad if the ghostly children were active in helping Matt save his aunt, but Bunting also tries to keep the whole "are they ghosts or not?" mystery going, and add minor horror to the mix. It makes for a book that is half and half, and disappointing all around.

Steph Lovelady says

The book starts strong, with orphaned brother and sister Matthew and Abigail moving in with their great aunt Gerda, who has a set of creepy life-size wooden dolls who may or may not be alive. But the plot soon turns from the supernatural question to Aunt Gerda's financial and social difficulties (ostracism and harassment from locals who are afraid of the creepy dolls) and these questions dominate most of the book, as Matthew, Abigail, and their new friend Kristin try to help Aunt Gerda. The two strands of the plot do come back together in the end and it's tied up pretty well. I just would have preferred it to be more of a ghost story.

Jessie says

I read this when I was about nine and I hardly remember anything about it. All I know is that I loved it then.

Harley Bennett says

Matt and his little sister Abby move in with Aunt Gerda. Aunt Gerda has seven life-sized dolls that her late husband had made. She talks to them as if they are real. Matt begins to think that they just might come to life when no one is looking.

Matt unnaturally overreacts. For a thirteen-year-old, this behavior comes too early in the story. If he had been nine or ten his reaction would have been more believable.

The ending was rather abrupt. I was expecting more.

Sammi says

I badly wanted to love this book. The plot line was awesome... When Matt's mother passes away, he and his little sister Ab go to live with their Aunt Gerda. Gerda keeps life-sized dolls in her front yard, and refers to

them as her 'children'. She talks to the dolls and treats them as if they are human. But one of the 'children' is dead, and buried in the yard. If the dolls aren't alive, how could one be dead? And when Matt hears the dolls talking at night, is it possible they are alive?

The book started out enticing because it established this storyline. It slowed down after Matt hears the dolls talk for the first time. The middle was kind of boring, and so was most of the end. Eve Bunting really set this up to be a terrifying horror story, but it was more of a childish mystery. If I wrote this, man I would make it creepy as heck. The characters were overall well-written, except the annoying Kristin... Matt's new friend. She kept popping up at the most unnecessary times and I had no interest in her or her home life. Overall, "The Ghost Children" was a pretty fun, and really quick read. Would I recommend it to somebody? Possibly. Would I recommend it if you are looking for a scary thriller? Not at all.

Molly S says

If you like books that give you the chills I recommend this one. This book is like the movie Annabelle because they both involve scary looking dolls. The Ghost Children is about two kids named Abigail and Matthew. They have to come to California to live with their great Aunt Gerda because their mom died of cancer and their dad had died many years before. Their Great Aunt Gerda has 7 wooden dolls in the back yard and they are as big as a baby great white shark. She calls them the children. They also are scarier than the clown from It. On the first night they are with Aunt Gerda Matt heard Aunt Gerda say goodnight to the children and he heard them say goodnight back. So are the children alive or is Matt imagining things. To find out you have to read this book. I hope to find a book as good as this one in the future. I also hope you read this book.

A. Riley says

After the loss of his mother, Matt and his little sister Abby move off to California with their great-aunt Gerda, whom they've never met. But not only do they have to adjust to a new home, they must also get used to the life-sized dolls known as "the children." These dolls, which adorn the front lawn, are not well-liked by the neighbors and have been the target of many dangerous hate crimes. How can Matt help protect his aunt and "the children" if he's not so sure about "the children" himself?

Augusta Michelle says

Well if you know I just made an account last month, and I usually like the books I read, but this was awful! Let me tell you what happens that way nobody else buys this book and hates it like I did! I bought this book and thought, "Hey this must be about ghosts who are children." FYI I didn't have time to read the summary! The story line is poorly created! So what happens is Matt and his little sister go to live with their Aunt Gerda. So anyhow she has these dolls and she talks to them and they talk back to her! Next some art guy steals her dead doll and Matt and Abby plan on retrieving the doll. Before they do you find out that Aunt Gerda has a recorder that makes the dolls talk. At the end of the story they retrieve the doll and the last page the dolls start singing to Matt (the art guy said Aunt Gerda was a terrible singer and the dolls weren't.) The point is if you're like me and don't have time to read a summary, go on goodreads and look at the reviews

first!

Jerry says

This one was just weird.

Emily says

This book is actually really good I thought I wasn't gonna like it. After I read a couple of chapters it was then it started to get good. This book kept me at the edge of my seat the whole time. The trippy part about it is that the aunt was talking to the dolls I thought it was pretty crazy. That's when I kept on reading it a lot. At first they start to not like it there then they made a discovery that they are ghost children which is really amazing in my mind. If you like non scary but creepy books I recommend this one for you to read.

Anette says

Tried to read this many times as a child, and remember it being veeeery weird. Not creepy, just plain weird, and that's what made it so hard to get through it. I think I finally made it through though, when I got older.

Raven says

I enjoyed this book as a very young child, I remembered it for all of my life, and when I saw it at a discount book store I snatched it up with a gasp of excitement. I have recently been collecting a lot of books from my childhood that I enjoyed and that bring me such happiness to read again. I was afraid that this book would in reality be a greatly different from what I remember from my childhood, but it was just as wonderfully creepy as I remembered.

I love the characters, the story and the way this book still gives me the chills. I really enjoyed the fact that this book deals with real problems facing children and with the fears they struggle with.

This book is definitely at the top of my list as a great read for kids, it's a fun and creepy way to talk with children about real world problems that they and their peers face, along with fears they struggle with.

carolyn says

A story about a widowed woman, whose husband made her these wooden dolls when he was alive. She referred to them as her children, as if they were alive and could talk. She kept them all propped up in her yard and many people were scared of them and have even mentioned that they heard them talking. Other people just wanted to get the old lady and her dolls out of their town because it wasn't good for business. She

takes in her nephew and niece to live with her after their mother passed away. The "children" were being defaced, abused and even murdered. Her nephew was determined to find out what all this was about and soon the story starts to unfold. A quick read. Kind of entertaining but not a story I would ever recommend someone to read, or even read again myself.

Monique says

Uh boo..yea not the scary Halloween fun Boo..but uh boo this book was not what I expected at all..The premise was there--the small mystery of the dolls and endearing main character make you want to read but it was not worth it ultimately LOL..Okay so this is the story of a young Matthew his little sister Abigail who sadly and recently are turned into orphans with the death of their parents. They are sent to live with their elderly widowed Aunt Gerda in a house she inhabits with the title characters-and who the book is about: the creepy dolls. The dolls are her children, wooden and hand carved by her late husband, they have hair and are meticulously dressed by Aunt Gerda and sit in the yard prominently displayed with their carved smiles..but everyone in the town is creeped out by them and soon Matthew is too. With random acts of vandalism against the dolls and some weird moments of the dolls talking and having a ghostly aura, even a dead doll and a huge theft—but alas this book was just okay, it ended rather silly and were the dolls haunted um you have to read through yourself to find out—LOL ..so will I be recommending this..I will tell my seventh graders about it but won't hype it..sigh the reads I find on my shelves to promote..ah well if I won't read it neither will they..Read on!

Camden Johnson says

This book was alright. It wasn't bad but it was predictable at some parts. It kind of reminds me of goosebumps and 90s kids horror books. If you like that style then this book would definitely be for you :)
