



The Doom of the Haunted Opera

John Bellairs, Brad Strickland, Edward Gorey

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When Lewis Barnavelt and Rose Rita Pottinger explore an abandoned theater, they discover an unpublished opera score. Ignoring a strange omen, they show it to their music teacher, who heralds The Day of Doom as a masterpiece. Then eerie Henry Vanderhelm, the composer's grandson, arrives-with a plan to awaken the dead and enslave the world!

The late John Bellairs was the critically acclaimed, bestselling author of many Gothic novels. Brad Strickland has seamlessly completed several John Bellairs' novels, and is the author of The Hand of the Necromancer and The Bell, the Book, and the Spellbinder, both based on Bellairs' Johnny Dixon character.

The Doom of the Haunted Opera Details

Date : Published September 1st 1995 by Dial Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780803714649

Author : John Bellairs , Brad Strickland , Edward Gorey

Format : Hardcover 153 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Mystery, Fiction, Horror, Childrens, Juvenile, Paranormal, Ghosts

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From Reader Review The Doom of the Haunted Opera for online ebook

Jennifer says

i'll be the first to admit that i love john bellairs. love love love him. some of his books, first read when i was 10 or 11, gave me the heebie-jeebies well into adulthood. i'm very glad that brad strickland took up the torch and all, but i admit that i can tell it's more his story than mr. bellairs'.

one thing that tends to irritate me about books that follow an author or a certain field (i'm looking at you, star wars books) is that sometimes the new authors tend to throw in things that show they read all the earlier books, too. (this is especially noticeable in some of kevin j. anderson's star wars books, where i can see him writing and basically saying "HAY GUYZ CHECK THIS OUT I READ ALL THE BOOKS AND SAW ALL THE MOVIES LIKE, EIGHT THOUSAND TIMES AND DID YOU REMEMBER THIS ONE LITTLE THING THAT HAPPENED SO DID I!" this happens a couple of times in this book, where mr. strickland rehashes some of the earlier books in an unnecessary way. it slows down the dialogue. also, making johnathan and mrs. zimmerman randomly go to florida seemed a little contrived.

i do love the stories. i really do. i just think i'll stick more to the ones that mr. bellairs was able to finish in his lifetime. it's a subtle difference, but i love his style so much better.

Justin K. Rivers says

After the exotic travels of Rose Rita and Lewis in their prior two adventures, coming back to Michigan seems somewhat anticlimactic. I love the title of this book, but it doesn't quite live up to its potential. The idea of a haunted opera is interesting, but the plot hinges on enough randomness to make it seem a bit weak. Although the conclusion is a rather typical Bellairs-style resolution, Strickland has already demonstrated that he can do a bit better.

I did like the incremental subjugation of the town, although I don't find their town to be particularly interesting. And seeing Rose Rita and Lewis trying to save the day without any of the adults was satisfactorily suspenseful.

Cynthia Egbert says

This one is a creepily wonderful as the previous five Lewis Barnavelt novels! There is a scene with ghosts chasing Lewis on his bike that really got me based on an experience I once had in my own life. This one felt more like Bellairs and less like another author than the last book. I'm not sure if that is kudos to Strickland or whether Bellairs wrote most of it but I loved it!

Tara Lynn says

While I normally LOVE Bellairs, this mystery, written in part by Bellairs and finished by Brad Strickland, just didn't appeal for me.

Willow says

Any of John Bellairs books are worth the time, gothic novellas for young adults. I loved him and the illustrations by Edward Gorey years ago, and still do. The stories are always about old curses, evil sorcerers trying to kill off humanity, the seraphim and cherabim, solving occult mysteries, time travel, the light of the moon reflecting off a certain mirror which creates a tunnel to some ancient evil. Great stuff!

Erin says

Ah, finally back to just the right amount of creepiness. I adore this series, and this was one of the best ones in it so far. Operas of the dead and a fog that traps the whole town, and Lewis and Rose Rita being themselves trying to save everyone, it's perfect.

And can I just say how awesome the ghost was? He begins by being so spooky and doing the ghost voice, then just starts talking normally when asked to. Made me laugh, it was great.

Ethan says

Brad managed to finish this one well. Another wonderful Lewis Barenvalt tale.

Nocturna Syn says

Der Fluch der alten Oper. by John Bellairs (2002)

Ken says

The town of New Zebedee is cut off from the outside world by a powerful wizard who wants to raise the dead and enslave them. Uncle Jonathon and Mrs. Zimmermann are out of town on wizard business and are unaware of the happenings in their hometown, leaving Lewis and Rose Rita to figure out how to stop the evil wizard's plans.

4 STARS

Rage says

I love these books, even with the shift to Brad Strickland. I actually enjoyed all of the details from past books, the little bits of magic (whistling cats) that are everywhere in the house of a wizard. There are some really spooky moments in the story, but it's also all about friendship and having hot cocoa after a scary experience in a cemetery.

BOBBI says

good read, has interesting twists to it.

Alec Hawkins says

I really like seeing the development of Lewis and Rose Rita's relationship. This one moves really fast with some great scenes. Certainly one of the best of Strickland's J.B. books.

Matthew Connolly says

A fairly run-of-the-mill Bellairs (Bellairs-type, anyway) adventure, given a bit of a lift by two interesting concepts:

- (a) the idea of a magical spell so complex that it can only be cast by a fully staged operatic performance; and
- (b) the incidental inclusion of a monster eerily similar to the Weeping Angels from Doctor Who!

Hannah says

A fun, scary, and adventurous book! It may be the reading level of a 7th grader, but it still has that magical feeling of horror that Goose-Bumps used to give us. Highly Recommend!

Alberto says

In the book by John Bellairs I learned that friendship can go to extremes. One way that I noticed is when they walked on a ledge of a building to get a sacred charm to save a friend. Then all of a sudden the building just breaks down and gets destroyed.
