



A Haunted House

Virginia Woolf

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Short story by Virginia Woolf.

A Haunted House Details

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From Reader Review A Haunted House for online ebook

Maria Clara says

Un relato tan pero tan corto, de sólo cinco páginas, que no puedo puntuar más.

Tara says

3.5 stars. A short story inhabited by a quietly palpable haunting, this was charming, moving, and actually rather sweet.

J says

I had to read it twice to decipher it, but you can't beat the tone of melancholic romance Woolf creates.

Elizabeth says

This is my first experience with Virginia Woolf, and I do perhaps wish I had read one of her full novels instead of this. It isn't that I did not enjoy A Haunted House, I simply found myself wishing there was more there.

The story is a sweet one, with just a hint of melancholy. The language she uses is poet and beautiful, without being overly complex. I didn't feel like there was enough really "going on" for me to fall in love with this one, but I did enjoy it.

The writing style definitely leaves me inclined to read more of Woolf's work. I would recommend this for anyone looking for a quick and poetic read.

? Su ? says

a ghost couple searches for buried treasure in the house of a living couple. ♥

Diane S ? says

There is something so different about the way she writes, I can't quite put my finger on it though. Anyway this short story reminds me of the beginning of the movie Beetlejuice, when the two ghosts are talking in the attic. Beautiful end to this one though.

Florencia says

'What did I come in here for? What did I want to find?'

I don't know. In any case, I'd have loved to be in a less cynical place right now to enjoy this very short story. Three stars because it's still Woolf.

Jan 26, 19

Bobby Jandrew says

If you turned to *A Haunted House* by Virginia Woolf for a spooky Halloween tale, you may be disappointed. A ghost story it is, but not the kind that will make you scared to turn out the lights at night. Woolf writes a beautiful tale of a “treasure” that continues on even after death: love. Woolf begins with our introduction of the “ghostly couple.” “Whatever hour you woke there was a door shutting. From room to room they went, hand in hand, lifting here, opening there, making sure-a ghostly couple.” This “ghostly couple” is searching for something, going from room to room in an effort to find it.

Woolf does not disappoint in her incredibly use of detail. “The wind roars up the avenue. Trees stoop and bend this way and that. Moonbeams splash and spill wildly in the rain. But the beam of the lamp falls straight from the window. The candle burns still and still. Wandering through the house, opening the windows, whispering not to wake us, the ghostly couple seek their joy.” But seek their joy in what? What is it that this “ghostly couple” seeks, searches for? “The treasure buried; the room...the pulse stopped short. Oh, was that the buried treasure?” Woolf details love, the pulse that is created in the house by these invisible spirits. This couple has discovered love, made memories and moments together. Their very presence in the “haunted house” keeps love alive, ironically, like the pulse beats of a heart.

Woolf further writes “Here we slept. Kisses without number.” The search continues, the living owners of the house unafraid of these uninvited guests. Upstairs, in the drawing room, out in the garden. The “ghostly couple” discovers this love in memories past, finding this “treasure” in the moments they made when they spent together. “Safe, safe, safe, the heart of the house beats proudly.” The house is the treasure chest, each room being probed for the treasure, and delivering the remembrance of love, the love this “ghostly couple” created during their lifetime. The “house” in this story is symbolic of the heart, the organ most associated with love.

Virginia Woolf illustrates the theme of love, using the “ghostly couple” to symbolize eternity. Love is the feeling, the belief, the emotion that will outlive man, surviving in memories, in moments, a treasure that enriches us more than anything material. Love is the condition that after death, man longs to find, to rediscover. While we are alive, we need to make the most of this feeling, this treasure that is ours to search for and hold onto until we die.

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

What I really liked about this one is how Woolf used time. We get to see a whole life story, a whole romance, in a short amount of pages. Mostly because we are seeing the ghosts of what has been in the present moment, rather than the present day of their relationship.

The descriptions were truly beautiful. Even the writing style felt ghostly. I felt like this one could even have been shorter than it was though, because the repetition got a bit much.

It was a nice enough short story, but nothing too ground breaking.

Read for university.

Kenny says

Nearer they come, cease at the doorway. The wind falls, the rain slides silver down the glass. Our eyes darken, we hear no steps beside us; we see no lady spread her ghostly cloak. His hands shield the lantern. "Look," he breathes. "Sound asleep. Love upon their lips."

Virginia Woolf's "**A Haunted House**" is a lovely story about a ghost couple and a living couple occupying the same dwelling. This is as playful and lighthearted a story as Woolf has ever written.

This is another beautiful piece of writing by my beloved Virginia Woolf.

Ilse says

Death was between us but the house vibrantly beats like a happily pulsating heart for the hidden treasure, the traces of sun beamed love left behind, in the trees, the apples, on the glass, *the trees spinning darkness for a wandering beam of sun.*

Transcending the boundaries of life and death, love opens doors in the mind making itself palpable, in sleeping, in *kisses without number*, during the years and the seasons. The living and the dead wandering the house, a ghostly couple and a living one, hearing and observing each other, listening to the music of *love upon their lips* singing in multiple voices while the radiance of tender love glows on in the present.

No need to further marvel at the iridescence and luminosity of Woolf's quicksilver, lyrical and gossamer prose. This heart-warming, genre-playing and tender short story can be read on line here, a virtual treasure box of short stories.

Cherish the treasure. *The light in the heart.*

Baktash says

