



Piano Lessons Can Be Murder

R.L. Stine

Download now

Read Online →

Piano Lessons Can Be Murder

R.L. Stine

Piano Lessons Can Be Murder R.L. Stine

Convinced that there is something creepy about his new piano teacher, Jerry soon hears terrifying stories about Dr. Shreek's music school and students who never completed their lesson alive.

Piano Lessons Can Be Murder Details

Date : Published September 1st 2015 by Scholastic Paperbacks (first published January 1st 1993)

ISBN :

Author : R.L. Stine

Format : Kindle Edition 124 pages

Genre : Horror, Childrens, Young Adult, Fiction

 [Download Piano Lessons Can Be Murder ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Piano Lessons Can Be Murder ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Piano Lessons Can Be Murder R.L. Stine

From Reader Review Piano Lessons Can Be Murder for online ebook

David Santos says

I took piano lessons when I was a kid so I can relate to this story. Except I didn't have a piano nor did I have "good hands." My hands are so terrible even mosquitoes wont go near them! I'm not really sure what to think of this book. I enjoyed the final few chapters. As in all Goosebumps books, the action picks up right around chapter 20. Love thee twist near the end. The book was interesting, it wasn't boring. It quickly jumps into the Sci-fi stuff, which makes the book more interesting and gives you a reason to turn the page. Boy, a man obsessed with a kids hands....aren't there people in jail for that sort of thing? Anyways its not too scary for children/youth, but just enough suspense to get you through it.

Fuzaila ~ is on hiatus says

This book wasn't anything memorable. It's basically a rip-off from every other goosebumps books. The plot was cliché and totally predictable. Here,

- The MC and his family moves to an creepy and old house.
- He finds a piano in the attic, and obviously brings it down.
- He hears the piano playing by itself at night. (Every. Piano. Cliche. Ever)
- His parents insists he should learn to play, so they put him under the tutor of a creepy old guy.
- The neighborhood girl and a ghost warns him away from his new teacher and his school.
- The stories turn out to be true.

And the ending? Uh, no one saw that coming! *eye rolls* Like, it was basically any child's guess. (view spoiler) DUH

All in all, I wasn't very impressed with this book, even if it was my second time reading it.

Carmen says

O.O <---- My wide eyes and tiny nose after reading this. I thought it was spooky and good.

Jerome, better known as Jerry, has just moved with his mom and dad and evil cat Bonkers to a new house in a new town. The house is completely empty. Except for a piano in the attic.

Jerry hears the piano being played. At night. He knows it's not his parents - they can't play. And frankly, his cat just isn't that skilled.

When his dad finds him, crouched in the attic, claiming he heard piano music, he offers Jerry piano lessons. Jerry accepts.

Piano lessons might be fun, I thought. If they let me learn to play rock piano, not that drippy, boring classical stuff.

After a few lessons, maybe I could get a synthesizer. Get 2 or 3 different keyboards. Hook them up to a computer.

The I could do some composing. Maybe get a group together.

Yeah. It could be really excellent.

Keep dreaming, kid. Everyone knows kids take music lessons and then get bored and beg to quit (except for Nenia Campbell and her flute-playing. She's just awesome like that).

A man who looks just like Santa Claus without a beard comes to the house to teach Jerry piano lessons. His name is Dr. Shreek. I know. Alarm bells are going off already, aren't they?

First, the good doctor starts acting freaky about the piano:

"Don't you wonder who played this piano before you?" he asked softly. "Don't you wonder whose fingers touched these keys?"

"Well..." I really didn't know what to say.

"What a mystery," he said in a whisper.

Then, he starts obsessing over Jerry's hands.

I started to say something, but he grabbed my hands.

"Let me take a look," he said, raising my hands close to his face. He turned them over and studied both sides. Then he carefully examined my fingers.

"What beautiful hands!" he exclaimed breathlessly. "Excellent hands!"

I stared down at my hands. They didn't look like anything special to me. Just normal hands.

"Excellent hands," Dr. Shreek repeated.

This happens more than once. Eventually the Dr. tells Jerry that he won't come to his house anymore, he's graduated to being able to attend Shreek's school. Telling classmates at school that he's taking lessons at Shreek's makes them literally flee him in terror. Yes, they run away upon hearing this news.

Meanwhile, Jerry is still hearing the ghost playing the piano every night. Eventually, the ghost manifests itself to Jerry in a very scary scene. Really. Well done, Mr. Stine. She screams at him to stay away from her piano.

No one will believe him about the ghost...in fact after his parents determine he hasn't been playing practical jokes on him, they make him see a child psychologist. Of course what's really wrong can't be fixed by a shrunken head...

....

(view spoiler)

...

All in all, a VERY satisfying read. Very spooky. Especially the ghost, I kept picturing her as The Grudge, or Kayako I guess her name is (we just call her The Grudge in my circle). Super-eerie. Especially the one scene that's in the spoiler! *chills Anyway, I really liked it.

Highness Atharva says

I've got to say this was an odd book. A seriously old book, no doubt it was interesting enough, I read it in three hours straight (with a lot of distractions). The story is good, the piano setting and the beginning and how the story progresses is also good. But something is very funny and weird and odd in the book. I mean its got a somewhat haunted school, a haunted piano which is associated with a warning ghost, mechanical horrifying teachers and robots, selfish parents, troublesome cats and hands that type on their own. And its surprising how these characters connect together and form a sophisticated and a reasonable plot. There could be improvements of course. I didn't like the mechanism, the hand musicians, the large robots, the entire musical school was a disaster but just on the other side the piano ghost and the cat was awesome. Its not a surprise that parents do not believe that their child saw something paranormal. (ALWAYS HAPPENS IN GOOSEBUMPS BOOK SERIES) This time try introduce thee kid to a doctor. The ghost that our protagonist sees is trying to help him but he doesn't understand this and keeps freaking out. 30% of the book involves Jerry waking up, visiting the piano room and freaking out and then trying to explain his parents what he saw. It was good to involve a secondary character from the school (Girl who plays violin, though she doesn't play a major role). Overall it was a nice and quick read. It could be much better if the setting of the musical school and mechanism weren't involved and if the inventor had a strong back story. I reviewed two Goosebumps today so I'm gonna see my day off. But I'll be reading 25% of the next. This series is really interesting.

Plot

Jerry and his parents have just moved into a new house. Jerry starts out the book by forming clumps of dust into mouse-shapes and then crying that there are mice in the new house, which scares his parents. While exploring the new house, Jerry finds an old piano in the attic. Later that night, Jerry hears piano music playing from the ceiling, but when he goes to investigate, there is no one playing. The next night, he hears the music again, goes to investigate, and discovers nothing. Eventually, Jerry sees a ghost of a woman playing the piano, which has been moved down into the family room. She looks up at him and then her face melts off, revealing a bare skull. He screams hysterically for his parents.

Picking up on Jerry's interest in the piano, Jerry's parents enroll him in private lessons taught by Dr. Shreek. Dr. Shreek is a friendly, Santa Claus-looking old man. Dr. Shreek dwells on Jerry's hands, constantly telling him how wonderful they are. Eventually, Jerry gets invited to take private lessons at Dr. Shreek's private school at the edge of town. When Jerry tells Kim, the Asian girl whose locker is next to his, about his lessons, she freaks out and runs away. Jerry is dropped off at the large, scary looking music school for his lesson. He immediately goes inside and sees a monster in the hall, except, it is a robotic floor sweeper that looks like a monster. Dr. Shreek tells Jerry that the maintenance man, Mr. Toggle, is a wiz at robotics.

Dr. Shreek then leads Jerry down the long, winding corridors to the private rehearsal room. Jerry hears piano music coming from every room in the building. As he walks down the halls, he can see the instructors hunched over the pianos, guiding unseen students. After his lesson, Jerry gets lost in the building again and Mr. Toggle comes to his rescue and leads him back to the entrance. He also promises to show Jerry his "private workroom", the next time he visits.

Jerry returns home and continues to hear the ghost playing her music. Eventually, he goes down to confront

her again, and she raises her arms and reveals bloody stumps where her hands used to be. Jerry screams so hard that he passes out and when he wakes up, his parents tell him they're taking him to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist tells Jerry that he is imagining the ghost, but that he is not "crazy." Jerry is outside shoveling snow when he runs into Kim again. He tries to tell her about the ghost he saw, but she also thinks he is crazy. He asks why she freaked out and she tells him that she heard a lot of spooky stories about the school and that's why she ran away, because she heard some stories. Jerry decides that he does not want to take lessons again.

But his parents tell him that since they've already paid for his last lesson, he can go in and tell Dr. Shreek in person that he is quitting. Jerry is dropped off at the school and wastes no time in telling Dr. Shreek that he is quitting his lessons. Dr. Shreek goes berserk and insists that he needs Jerry's hands, grabbing his wrists to force him to stay. Jerry escapes his grasp and scrambles through the school building until he reaches the auditorium, where there is a crushing cacophony of piano-playing. Jerry runs inside and sees row after row of black pianos, each with a head-nodding instructor, and each piano being played by human hands, but only human hands. Dr. Shreek dives through the air and tackles Jerry, grabbing onto his ankles.

Mr. Toggle bursts into the room and saves Jerry, by turning off Dr. Shreek with a remote. It turns out Dr. Shreek was a robot. Jerry asks Mr. Toggle to turn off the pianos and he does that as well. Jerry thanks him for saving his life. But as he turns to leave, Mr. Toggle stops him. Mr. Toggle is the one who needs Jerry's hands, he explains. Mr. Toggle is apparently a brilliant "robotician," but he can't make human hands correctly. So he uses human specimens and using computer technology, makes the severed hands play beautiful music all the time.

Jerry tries to escape the auditorium, but he runs right into the ghost girl from his house. She screams at Jerry, telling him that she tried to warn him, to scare him away from taking lessons from the school. The ghost holds up her bloody stumps and then conjures up all of the ghostly spirits from the disembodied hands playing at the pianos in the auditorium. A swarm of ghosts attached to their human hands attack Mr. Toggle in front of Jerry, carrying the robotician off into the forest behind the school, never to be seen again...

Months later, Jerry decides to give up on the piano ambition and signs up for the baseball team, after going to a new school and making new friends. He is not only a good batter and runner, but also a good field man. He ends the story with him saying that his friends say he has "great hands."

Krissy says

****Rated by my daughter****

Alex findingmontauk1 says

3.5 but rounding up to 4 stars because this would have definitely freaked me out reading this as a kid! Full review to come

Xander says

Spooky... Good..only if you are a kid.

Fear Street books are way better than goosebumps...

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

I'm not sure how R.L. Stine came up with so many ideas for Fear street and his goosebump series. He definitely has a vast imagination, filled with either creative plots from something that makes sense - or something like this, taking the mundane to make it bizarre. The writing is catered to young children, but even then the italics get irritating. Some of the chapters end on the false cliffhangers, but not as badly as some of the other goosebumps. The story was a little silly, even if the robotics were convenient. Not enough is explained so this one comes off emptier than it should. I did chuckle at Bonkers the cat; reminded me of my own mean cat, Malz, who randomly attacks unsuspecting people.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Αν και ε?ναι ?να βιβλ?ο που δεν ξεκιν?ς να το διαβ?ζεις ?χοντας πολ? υψηλ?ς προσδοκ?ες, καταλ?γεις να ενθουσιαστε?ς, ?χι για την πρωτοτυπ?α του, αλλ? για τον τρ?πο που χειρ?ζεται ο συγγραφ?ας ?να τ?σο -θεωρητικ?- κοιν?τυπο υλικ?, χτ?ζοντας ατμ?σφαιρα που σου προκαλε? ανατριχ?λα και σου κ?βει την αν?σα, ακον?ζοντας τα πιο ακρα?α σου ?νστικτα.

Fox says

To make up for the cool Goosebumps book Be Careful What You Wish For... we now get the atrocious Piano Lessons Can Be Murder.

What a mess of a book.

I guess this was banking off the idea that most children have taken piano lessons at some point in their lives and disliked it? But the protagonist doesn't even dislike the piano lessons. He just thinks his piano is haunted. Then there's the weird piano teacher, robots, a monster that isn't a monster... it's such a mess. Even the ghost isn't all that compelling.

So yeah. There's something ~*spooky*~ about human hands playing pianos by themselves. Even though the robots themselves have hands. I don't know.

Why did I read this.

David Garrido e Cunha says

When I was a pre-teen and started reading Goosebumps I enjoyed them very much. I started reading the books featured on the Tv Show, and then I got to read this one. Well, it is amazing and made me really love R. L. Stine and truly appreciate him as a writer.

This book has it all, a haunted house, a ghost, a piano who plays by itself, a strange music school, a mad scientist and lots of terror. In truth, this is the best book I ever read in the goosebump series.

I usually am very critical about Goosebumps, on the lack of originality, absurd twists in the ending and stupid morals (but again, Goosebumps are mostly for kids). However, I find this book to be very well written, possessing a good and interesting plot, doesn't have the usual absurd twists, and is really really scary. It deserves this five stars, and R. L. Stine deserves my congratulations for writing this.

Kerri says

What's not to love about a Goosebumps book about a crazy piano teacher who replaces kids' hands with robot hands so they never make mistakes? I keep this on my studio bookshelf just for fun. Oops...guess that was a spoiler, huh? Sorry I spoiled it for all of you planning to run out and read it.

Justin Tate says

I wasn't a huge fan of this one as a kid, but loved re-reading it now! One of the best titles for sure and a thrilling plot to match.

Darcy McLaughlin says

Jerry or Jerome or Jer or whatever people call him in this book is a 12 year old asshole who's just moved to a new town. I call him that because he is a total dick to his parents. He thinks he is hilarious, and plays all sorts of pranks and jokes on his parents. These great "jokes" include falling down a lot, and scaring his dad to make him drop a full kettle on his foot. What a swell kid.

Jerry is busy exploring his new house, having dreams of making the extra bedrooms into a "Nintendo room" and a state of the art gym. As he climbs up to the creepy old attic, he finds something mysterious hidden under a big blanket. If you're excited that we're about to Let's Get Invisible again, I have some disappointing news. Under the blanket is a nice piano. Joy! They decide the previous owners just left it for them, and are going to bring it downstairs.

Late at night, Jerry can't sleep. He starts to hear piano music coming from upstairs. Of course he decides to go up into the attic and investigate, but there's nobody in there. Spooky! The old haunted piano gag. His parents find him up in the attic and he claims he heard the piano playing but they think he's pulling one of his "classic" jokes. Then Jerry's dad decides to get him some piano lessons, which sets up fantasies of playing "rock piano" and synthesizers because Jerry is a massive nerd.

Jerry has a piano lesson with a creepy guy named Dr. Shreek, who apparently looks like Santa Claus. He doesn't really teach him much the first time around, and just obsesses about how wonderful Jerry's hands are. This continues throughout the book and comes off as extremely uncomfortable. Anyhow, Jerry gets one lesson and not much else happens. We are then treated to about half a dozen incidences of Jerry hearing the piano play itself at night, only for him to get caught up by his parents. They don't believe his BS because he's always pulling stupid shit on them.

Finally Jerry manages to see a ghost woman playing the piano one night. The ghost tries to scare him, and says it's her piano. This is probably when I would stop using the piano. Jerry of course wakes up his parents and they think he might need some professional help. At school Jerry meets a girl named Kim who happens to live across the street from him. She can play violin, and when Jerry mentions he's going to Dr. Shreek's music school she freaks out and runs away. Odd.

Back at his lessons, Jerry starts to get a little weirded out by Dr. Shreek and his hand obsession. Dr. Shreek explains that he wants Jerry to come take lessons at his school, instead of at Jerry's house. This can't go badly at all. Jerry arrives at the creepy school one day, and gets scared by a monster in the hallway. Oh wait it's just a robot floor sweeper invented by the genius janitor Mr. Toggle (yes that is his name). Jerry has his lesson, feeling silly that a little floor sweeper scared him so much. He meets the illustrious MR. TOGGLE, who shows him his crazy workshop with inventions like the self blowing saxophone. While talking about Dr. Shreek's school, Mr. Toggle drops the mother of all foreshadowings (which I won't spoil here) for Jerry, and astute (i.e. not 10 year old) readers will know how this one ends. In the end Jerry decides Mr. Toggle is a pretty cool dude, and heads home.

He tells his new friend Kim about the school, and she says there are all sorts of scary stories about it. Monsters living in the basement, kids going missing. The whole creepy shebang. Jerry thinks there's a perfectly reasonable explanation for everything, and that is there's a genius scientist janitor who creates monster floor sweepers. Nothing odd about that. That night the ghost returns to the piano, and Jerry goes to investigate (yet again). The ghost tells him the stories about the school are true, and she shows him her amputated hands. Scary! Jerry passes out in fear, and his parents find him on the floor screaming. They decide it's time to see a psychologist. Maybe Jerry can get some nice little pills to make everything all better.

At the psychologist the doctor tells Jerry he is basically delusional because he's stressed out about his new house. Jerry decides he wants to quit piano lessons because the place is creepy as all hell. His mom says that's fine, but he has to go to his last lesson because damn it, they already paid for the thing.

This is where the story flips into a new dimension. Jerry decides to tell Dr. Shreek he plans on quitting piano. This causes him to flip his shit, and try to attack Jerry so he can get his hands on those sweet pre-pubescent hands. He chases Jerry down the hall, and he enters the auditorium. In the concert hall is row upon row of pianos, all playing music. The music is of course being played by disembodied hands, floating in the air somehow. While Dr. Shreek is trying to murder Jerry, Mr. Toggle shows up to save the day. He pushes a button on the wall and Dr. Shreek deactivates. Yes, he was a robot.

Jerry is incredibly thankful, and figures out that all of the piano playing hands are robots too. Mr. Toggle explains that even though he's a genius, he can't figure out how to make nice looking hands so he just cuts them off of people and programs them to play piano. He explains that Jerry is the next in line to join the piano party. Suddenly the scary ghost from Jerry's house appears and attacks Mr. Toggle. All of the hands come to life and give Mr. Toggle a serious beatdown. Jerry rushes out of there and hopefully calls the police or something.

The family sells the piano and picks up a big screen TV. Jerry decides to play baseball because he's got pretty good hands....get it? LOL

Random Thoughts: Wowee wow. This story is all over the place. Half of it is boring as hell because we get about 4-5 scenes of Jerry walking in on a the haunted piano. The last bit is next level crazy, as we go from a typical ghost story to mad scientist murderer story. Who saw that one coming? The ghost explains she was trying to scare Jerry away from going to the school by haunting his house. She was a victim of the school's hand cutting off policy, and thus wanted to save him. I don't know why she didn't just explain everything like she does at the end of the book instead of trying to scare the piss out of Jerry the whole time but hey, who am I to judge a haunting?

Jerry is probably one of the most unlikable protagonists so far. He's a huge dick to his parents, and he reminds me of the "funny" kid in your school who really wasn't funny so much as he was an obnoxious asshole. He uses the phrase "they looked like they dropped their teeth!" several times in reference to his parents' shocked faces. He's lucky his parents didn't drop his ass in boarding school.

Kate Grimm says

More like Piano Lessons can be BORING. #burn
