



## The Secret Grave: A Hauntings Novel

*Lois Ruby*

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### **The Secret Grave: A Hauntings Novel** Lois Ruby

Nightshade can be deadly. Hannah and Scooter's sprawling, ramshackle house is named for the lethal plant that grows in the dark woods behind it. Hannah knows she's not supposed to explore the forest or nearby Moonlight Lake. But she's feeling lonely and desperate for an adventure. And there Hannah meets Cady, a mysterious girl who promises everything Hannah's been missing. Only Cady has a secret: Cady wants Hannah all to herself. Soon Cady is copying Hannah's style so they can be more alike. She lies to Hannah's friends, insults Scooter, and begs Hannah to break her parents' rules and sneak out for a midnight swim. Hannah wants to believe Cady's just a little insecure. But when she discovers a cemetery beyond the lake with an eerily familiar headstone, she must decide whether to trust her new friend or dig for answers that may lead her to a watery grave . . .

### **The Secret Grave: A Hauntings Novel Details**

Date : Published June 27th 2017 by Scholastic Paperbacks

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Author : Lois Ruby

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## From Reader Review The Secret Grave: A Hauntings Novel for online ebook

### Adrienne Rosal says

Can't resist a good spooky story!!

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### Melissa says

A little predictable, but a great read for kids

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### Melissa says

Not bad.

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### Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Hannah and her large, bustling family like living in an old mansion, Nightshade, that had been briefly inhabited by ancestors, even if it makes the summers away from town seem longer and more humid. When Hannah is out in the woods, she meets the mysterious Cady, who wants to be her friend. Cady gets out and about a little, but generally wants to meet Hannah in the woods. She is also not fond of anyone who comes between her and Hannah, and starts to dress like her in an unsettling way. Hannah is even more unnerved when Cady sets off her brother Scooter's life threatening asthma on purpose, and when spooky occurrences take place back at the house. The death of one of the owners years ago seems to have led to many unresolved issues as well as a couple of threatening ghosts. When her friends return from their vacations, will they be able to help Hannah solve the mystery before life at Nightshade becomes truly dangerous?

Strengths: What this lacked in creepy moments at the beginning of the book, it made up for in friend and family drama. Scooter's sever asthma was interesting, and not something I've seen in middle grade literature, although I have many students with asthma. The older sister's desire to go to college and leave her family behind was also a nice touch. This did get creepy later on, and it was fairly apparent to me what Cady's issues were, but she was odd enough that I wasn't entirely certain.

Weaknesses: The Irish grandmother seemed odd, and as far as I can tell, there were no Studebakers manufactured in 1984. (Said grandmother is described as driving one she purchased off eBay.)

What I really think: I need to read the descriptions on Edelweiss more closely. My students are not fond of paperbacks, and they don't hold up. Luckily, this is available from Follett in a prebound copy. Will purchase a copy.

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### Amber says

Thank you to the #kidlitexchange network for the free review copy of the book - all opinions are my own.

This was a fun ghost story that I think will appeal to upper elementary/lower middle grade readers. And by "fun" I don't mean the story was cute and jovial, but rather that it was an engaging read that keeps the reader on their toes. There's a sense of adventure to the story because of Hannah's exploring around her house and yard. And Cady is a very demanding character (is she a ghost or a real girl?) who gets more demanding as the story progresses. This uncertainty of her "status", and the mystery surrounding Nightshade (the house) will keep readers turning the pages.

Personally, this story didn't have me in its clutches as tightly as other ghost stories have. For that reason, it wouldn't be the first suggestion I'd make when asked for a ghost story. That being said, this book is definitely going to appeal to a certain audience, and it's worth adding to the list of titles to keep in mind for recommendations.

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### **Susan Chambers says**

Better than I thought. Decent for elementary ghost enthusiasts.

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### **Chelsea says**

I love the book. I love the creepy vibes and it is the best read for Halloween. It is one of my favorite books of the year.

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### **Melanie Dulaney says**

My 4th and 5th grade library patrons, especially the girls, are going to love this ghost story! While not as chilling as Mary Downing Hahn's works, readers will be just as drawn in to Hannah's story of a house called Nightshade, a new friend in the woods, and a haunted attic as they are to *Wait Til Helen Comes*, etc. The characters of Hannah, Cady, and Scooter are particularly well-developed and I look forward to promoting this well-written tale with my students. The only criticism from this librarian is that the cover illustration and even the title seem to emphasize the grave(s) more than the ghosts that are really the most important aspect of this book. (Review of digital ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline)

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### **Jacqueline says**

Lois Ruby does it again! A full-bodied metaphys-tery that keeps you on your toes but includes Mrs. Ruby's ever-winking reassurance and humor. Each of her novels is a gift to us, and a gift to her family since a significant character is always named for one of Lois' significant loved ones.

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### **Bengy says**

It was pretty okay. The book did say it was for younger readers and I'm 16. Did enjoy it though and love the relationship between Hannah and Scooter. Good twist.

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### **Sharie says**

If you like Dan Poblocki or Mary Downing Hahn...

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### **Kate says**

Thanks to the @kidlitexchange network for the review copy of this book - all opinions are my own.

This Hauntings Novel is a great option for young readers (recommended for 4th-6th grade, but I think could go up to 8th grade depending on the child) who are interested in novels that are a little spooky! Hannah is the middle child in her family and sometimes feels rather left out, not only by her family, but her friends. One day, a girl her age appears in the forest and there is something quite peculiar about her, and she becomes rather obsessed with Hannah.

The beginning of the book was rather slow in my opinion, as it took me a couple days to get through the first two chapters or so. This also could be because of the language that it is written in (pre-teen Hannah), so I think for kids, they will enjoy it from the beginning! After the first couple chapters, the story really took off and it only took me about 3 hours to finish the rest of the book! The characters are well developed and I could really visualize Hannah, her siblings, and Cady interacting with one another!

If you need recommendations for your child, or students, that are interested in mysteries, horror, or related topics, check this one out! I am looking forward to reading the rest of The Hauntings Novels as well.

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### **Teresa says**

Great ghost story with a surprising twist.

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### **Miss Verell says**

#### **A fun creepy little book**

Exactly what you expect from a short creepy story. Lost of atmosphere and rather well detailed characters.

Especially fun for a rainy or chilly day.

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