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Spirit Hunters



Synopsis

We Need Diverse Books founder Ellen Oh returns with Spirit Hunters, a high-stakes middle grade mystery series about Harper Raine, the new seventh grader in town who must face down the dangerous ghosts haunting her younger brother. A riveting ghost story and captivating adventure, this tale will have you guessing at every turn! Harper doesn't trust her new home from the moment she steps inside, and the rumors are that the Raine family's new house is haunted. Harper isn't sure she believes those rumors, until her younger brother, Michael, starts acting strangely. The whole atmosphere gives Harper a sense of déjà vu, but she can't remember why. She knows that the memories she's blocking will help make sense of her brother's behavior and the strange and threatening sensations she feels in this house, but will she be able to put the pieces together in time?

Book Information

Series: Spirit Hunters (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Weaving together a ghost story, a complex family drama, a tale of self-discovery - all with a creeping, growing terror lurking in the shadows - Ellen Oh has created a novel that is ever so much more than the sum of its parts. I read this story breathlessly, desperately, in a fever. And then I read it again. And then again. Balancing fear and humor and heartache, Spirit Hunters is a page-turning,

spine tingling delight. I absolutely loved it. (Kelly Barnhill, Newbery Award winning author of *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*) Like all of my favorite ghost stories, *Spirit Hunters* is a pulse-pounding read, filled with nonstop thrills, shocking twists, and-most important-heaps of heart! (Dan Poblocki, author of *The Ghost of Graylock*) Even more impressive than the shiver-factor is the way the author skillfully uses the compelling premise to present a strong, consistent message of not rejecting what you don't understand. (Booklist (starred review)) Oh has crafted a truly chilling middle grade horror novel that will grab readers' imaginations. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) The well-rounded and diverse cast provides interesting cultural touchstones of Korean and Jamaican heritage throughout the novel. Combining Korean-American experience with ancient cultural traditions for a new twist on exorcism, this tale is for beginning horror fans and readers looking for a decent scare. (Kirkus Reviews) This mystery thriller infused with diverse characters and intriguing themes will appeal to horror fans and to reluctant readers who enjoy a good scare. (School Library Journal)

Originally from New York City, Ellen Oh is the founder of We Need Diverse Books and the author of the Prophecy trilogy (*Prophecy*, *Warrior*, and *King*) for young adults. *Spirit Hunters* is her fourth book and her first for middle grade readers. A former adjunct college instructor and lawyer with an insatiable curiosity for ancient Asian history, Ellen lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with her husband and three daughters and has yet to satisfy her quest for a decent bagel. You can visit her online at www.ellenoh.com.

As if Harper Raine doesn't have enough to deal with--moving to Washington, DC from her beloved New York, adjusting to a new life, and worrying about her persistent lack of memory--her little brother Michael is acting weird. He talks about an imaginary friend, Billy, who soon starts to bully him, and suddenly strange things are happening to Harper, too. She feels hands on her back just before falling down the stairs--but no one was there. As memories begin to surface, Harper realizes that something truly creepy is happening in her new house, and she has a special role in setting everything right. Fast-paced, beautifully blending Korean and American folk traditions. Give this to fans of classic ghost stories by Mary Downing Hahn and Betty Ren Wright, and to fans of otherworldly ownvoices stories like Mike Jung's *UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT*.

Harper and her family have moved to Washington DC after she was injured during her stay at a hospital. Harper has no memory of how her injuries happened, but they may be the key to

understanding the family's new house. Harper's little brother has been acting strangely since they moved in, speaking to an imaginary friend and then becoming almost another person. As Harper makes a new friend in the neighborhood, the two of them start researching what happened in the house in the past and discovering that the threatening presence that Harper feels in the house may be a ghost! In fact, Harper may be one of the special people who can sense ghosts in the world, but she has to figure out how to do so safely and who to trust with her secret. Oh is the founder of We Need Diverse Books. She has crafted here a middle grade novel that has Korean-American main characters and uses their culture skillfully as an important part of the story and the solution to their haunting issues. She has also created a book that is pure scary fun. This is not a serious book about diversity and modern society, but instead a romp of delightful scares that make the book real fun to read. The lightness of the book will have young readers loving it. Oh allows the young protagonist and her siblings and friends to be the real heroes of the book, even as the dangers they face grow in size. The pace of the book is key to its success as well, as Oh allows it to pick up pace towards the ending, controlling it just enough but also allowing it to get wild and zany. A great pick for fans of Ghostbusters or scary stories, I look forward to more adventures with these characters. Appropriate for ages 9-12.

A fun and fast read for young people who love ghost stories and folklore. The main character is tough and appealing. And the family dynamic adds realism to the fantasy. I loved this.

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