



The Ghost in the Attic #2 (The Haunted Library)

By Dori Hillestad Butler

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A brand-new young chapter book series from Edgar Award winner Dori Hillestad Butler!

After successfully solving the mystery of the ghost in the library, Kaz and Claire land the first case for their detective agency—a haunted attic in a neighbor's home! With a little help from Grannie, Kaz and Claire discover that what appeared to be something spooky has a much simpler explanation.

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The Ghost in the Attic #2 (The Haunted Library) By Dori Hillestad Butler Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #34971 in Books
- Published on: 2014-08-14
- Released on: 2014-08-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .28" w x 8.25" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Dori Hillestad Butler's books have appeared on children's choice award lists in 18 different states. *Trading Places with Tank Talbott* won the Maryland Children's Choice Award in 2007. And *The Buddy Files: Case of the Lost Boy* won the 2011 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery. Dori has also been a ghostwriter for the Sweet Valley Twins, Unicorn Club, and Boxcar Children series, and a children's book reviewer for several publications. She's published numerous short stories, plays, and educational materials, and has served as the Iowa Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators' Regional Advisor. She grew up in southern Minnesota and now lives in Coralville, Iowa, with her husband, son, dog, and cat. She visits schools and leads writing workshops all over the country.

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GHOSTLY GLOSSARY

EXPAND

When ghosts make themselves larger

GLOW

What ghosts do so humans can see them

HAUNT

Where ghosts live

PASS THROUGH

When ghosts travel through walls, doors, and other solid objects

SHRINK

When ghosts make themselves smaller

SKIZZY

When ghosts feel sick to their stomachs

SOLIDS

What ghosts call humans, animals, and objects they can't see through

SPEW

What comes out when ghosts throw up

SWIM

When ghosts move freely through the air

WAIL

What ghosts do so humans can hear them

“What’s the matter, Kaz?” Claire asked as she shook the dice in her hand. “You look so sad.”

Kaz was sad. He and Claire were playing a dice game in the craft room. Claire rolled the dice for both of them. Kaz couldn’t help noticing that Claire always seemed to roll better for herself than she did for him.

But that wasn’t why Kaz was sad. He was sad because it had been three weeks since he’d lost his haunt. And three weeks since he’d seen his mom, his dad, his brother Little John, or his dog, Cosmo.

It had been even longer than that since he’d seen his brother Finn, or his grandparents.

Mom and Dad always said that maybe one day Finn, Grandmom, and Grandpop would find their way back to their old haunt. But Kaz knew that would never happen now.

Their haunt was gone. And his entire family was gone, too. The wind had carried Kaz over fields . . . houses . . . trees . . . and into Claire’s library. Kaz had no idea what had happened to the rest of his family. Or if he’d ever see them again.

“Are you thinking about your family?” Claire asked.

“Sort of,” Kaz admitted.

Claire was a solid, but she wasn’t like other solids. She could see ghosts when they weren’t glowing. And she could hear ghosts when they weren’t wailing.

Kaz was a ghost, but he wasn’t like other ghosts. He couldn’t glow. He couldn’t wail. And he didn’t like to pass through solid objects.

“Don’t worry, Kaz,” Claire said. “We’ll find your family. That’s why we started our detective agency, remember?”

Beckett snickered. He was the other ghost who lived at the library. Beckett spent most of his time in his secret room behind the bookcase in the craft room. But sometimes he came out to read library books.

“What?” Claire narrowed her eyes at Beckett. “What are you laughing at?”

“Nothing,” Beckett said, turning a page in a book. “If you want to call yourselves detectives, it isn’t any of my business. But you’ve only solved one case, and it wasn’t even a hard one.”

“It was, too!” Claire argued.

Kaz had to agree. He had thought he and Claire would never figure out who, or what, was haunting the library.

“If you say so,” Beckett said. “But let me ask you this: Who’s going to hire a kid and a ghost to solve a mystery?”

“People who have ghosts in their houses,” Claire said, like it was obvious.

Beckett snickered again.

“We won’t laugh at them like grown-up detectives would,” Claire said. “We’ll go to their houses and find their ghosts. And even if those ghosts don’t want to talk to me, they’ll talk to Kaz. Because he’s a ghost like they are.”

“How is Kaz going to go anywhere?” Beckett asked. “He can’t go into the Outside. He’ll blow away.”

Kaz hadn’t thought about that.

But Claire shrugged like it was no big deal. “We’ll figure something out.”

“How will those solids—” Beckett began.

“Don’t call us solids,” Claire interrupted. Kaz knew Claire didn’t like that word.

But that didn’t stop Beckett. “How will those solids”—he put extra emphasis on the word “solids” just to annoy Claire—“find out about your detective agency? Will you put an ad in the newspaper? Will you hang a sign on the door? What about your parents? Do they know about your detective agency?”

Kaz doubted that. Claire’s parents thought she was too young to be a detective.

“What would your parents say if they knew you’d started a detective agency?” Beckett asked. “Maybe I should show myself and tell them.”

“You better not.” Claire leaped to her feet. “Why don’t you go back behind your wall and leave us alone?”

“Claire?” called a voice behind them.

Kaz turned to see Claire’s grandma, Grandma Karen. She was the librarian, and she lived above the library with Claire and Claire’s parents. Grandma Karen also took care of Claire when Claire’s parents were away solving mysteries.

“Who are you talking to, dear?” Grandma Karen asked, patting the pink stripe in her hair.

Users Review

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