



## The Old Willis Place

By Mary Downing Hahn

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Diana and her little brother Georgie have been living in the woods behind the old Willis place, a decaying Victorian mansion, for what already seems like forever. They aren't allowed to leave the property or show themselves to anyone. But when a new caretaker comes to live there with his young daughter, Lissa, Diana is tempted to break the mysterious rules they live by and reveal herself so she can finally have a friend. Somehow, Diana must get Lissa's help if she and Georgie ever hope to release themselves from the secret that has bound them to the old Willis place for so long.

Mary Downing Hahn has written a chilling ghost story in the tradition of her most successful spine-tingling novels. The intriguing characters, frightening secrets, and plot twists will delight her many fans.

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## **The Old Willis Place** By Mary Downing Hahn Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5-8—Diana and her younger brother, Georgie, have been living on the grounds of the old Willis place for oh, so long. They've seen caretakers come and go, but the new one seems different. Mr. Morrison has a daughter, Lissa, who seems to be about Diana's age. Both girls are lonely and long for a friend but Georgie reminds Diana that it's "against the rules" to have friends; that they must remain out of sight. But Lissa remains intriguing to the children. She not only has a bicycle, but she also has many books and a stuffed animal that reminds Georgie of one he once had. They share even more; Lissa, too, has suffered a huge loss. Masterfully constructed, the story shows readers the same events from the perspectives of both girls; Diana narrates, and Lissa writes in her diary. The combination builds tension, raises questions, and allows characters—and the mysteries that surround them—to unfold gradually. The story is taut, spooky, and fast-paced with amazingly credible, memorable characters. More than just a ghost story, this riveting novel is a mystery and a story of friendship and of redemption. After this tale, readers are not likely to think of ghosts in the same way.—*Maria B. Salvadore, formerly at Washington DC Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-7. Hahn is a master at stretching the suspense, and that's what she does here. Diana and her little brother, Georgie, watch as the caretaker and his daughter move into a trailer near the decaying Willis mansion. The children have seen caretakers come and go, but Diana, who has no friends, is tempted by the sight of a girl her own age. Hahn unfurls the story slowly, but because of the subtitle, readers will know there's a ghost. They'll assume it's wicked Miss Willis, who died in the house, but soon they'll start wondering about Diana and Georgie, too. Where are their parents? What are these arcane rules they seem to live by? To Hahn's credit, children won't be entirely sure of the answers until the very end. Some of the action is told through Lissa's diary. Most of the time this works, but it's too bad the climax is revealed this way as the device puts a barrier between readers and the action. Kids will love this anyway: it's just the right mix of chilling and thrilling. *Ilene Cooper*

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Review

"Hahn is a master at . . . suspense. . . . Kids will love this; it's just the right mix of chilling and thrilling."

—*Booklist*

"The young characters . . . are sympathetic and believable. . . . Spooky, but with an underlying sweetness."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Hahn's sure hand at haunting is evident . . . creepy and enjoyable . . . it'll need no ghostly assistance to fly off the shelves"

—*The Bulletin*

\* "Masterfully constructed . . . taut, spooky, and fast-paced with amazingly credible, memorable characters . . . riveting . . . a story of friendship and redemption"

—*School Library Journal, starred review*

"A mystery intertwined with a ghost story . . . a delicate message of guilt, forgiveness, loyalty, and friendship

. . . a satisfying ending."

—VOYA

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Corrine Switzer:**

What do you think about book? It is just for students as they are still students or this for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great and important the book *The Old Willis Place*. All type of book are you able to see on many options. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

#### **Larry Davis:**

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#### **Patricia Cockrell:**

*The Old Willis Place* can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *The Old Willis Place* however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can draw you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Patricia Baker:**

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *The Old Willis Place* can be the solution, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

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