



Took: A Ghost Story

Mary Downing Hahn

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“Folks say Old Auntie takes a girl and keeps her fifty years—then lets her go and takes another one.”
Thirteen-year-old Daniel Anderson doesn’t believe Brody Mason’s crazy stories about the ghost witch who lives up on Brewster’s Hill with Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog. He figures Brody’s probably just trying to scare him since he’s the new kid . . . a “stuck-up snot” from Connecticut. But Daniel’s seven-year-old sister Erica has become more and more withdrawn, talking to her lookalike doll. When she disappears into the woods one day, he knows something is terribly wrong. Did the witch strike? Has Erica been “took”?

Took: A Ghost Story Details

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Author : Mary Downing Hahn

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From Reader Review Took: A Ghost Story for online ebook

Cheryl says

Creepy, scary and a page turner. Mary Downing Hahn is a master of the ghost story for children and older readers such as myself who enjoy a little spine tingling without a lot of violence and horror. The rural atmosphere, hostility of the locals towards Daniel's family and a creeping sense of doom make this ghost story all the more sinister. Daniel, the young protagonist, is a true hero in this book. He not only finds himself in a fight against a witch/ghost like character and her creature from Southern folklore, Bloody Bones, but also his parents' apathy. The reason I gave the book just 4 stars is due to my frustration with Daniel's parents. The adult in me made me want to shake them out of their pathetic slide into incompetence. I also thought that the image of the small West Virginia town didn't initially fare very well in Hahn's portrayal of the school's teachers and some of the townspeople as backward and unfriendly. Ultimately Took is a frighteningly fun read and another creepy success.

Angela says

Skeerd!

I am not a reader of ghost stories, but I am TRYING to hit one of my gaps. This was very well crafted and I will recommend MDH will all the sincerity I can muster for someone as SKEERD as I am. Quality is not what deterred me. Creepy content? That'll do it!

For my fellow readers who find dolls unnerving...beware! The doll in this book is possessed by an evil witch who lures young girls into the woods to be enslaved for 50 years, only to return them unaged and psychologically damaged.

Woven into this ghost story is the usual MG content: new school, new friends, bullying, fitting in, struggling parents, and kindness.

Recommended for young readers looking for a scary story. Best for ages 11-14.

Boundless Book Reviews says

As a reviewer I can say I love to read. I've always loved to read. One of my favorite things about school when I was younger was getting to go to the book fairs. I loved them. Now as a parent I am hoping to pass this joy of reading to my children. Actually, that's how I came across this book. I went with my son to his book fair at his school. While he was browsing books, I couldn't help myself and picked up this one. It has a cover that just grabbed me. So along with getting him some books I also got me one.

This is a pretty good young adult book. It follows Daniel and his sister Erica as they move to West Virginia into an old farm house. Once there stories begin about an old witch named Old Auntie. As the house begins to affect the family, Erica becomes rather withdrawn, only speaking to her doll. Soon enough Erica disappears and Daniel must believe the tales surrounding him and find the courage to help his sister.

Im a reviewer and enjoy all kinds of books. Yes, I even enjoy young adult books meant for people half my age ;) and with that being said this was an awesome young adult book. It was written well and I loved the characters and the story. It kept me reading and I was able to finish it in one sitting. The story wasn't really a ghost story in my opinion, but it told a creepy story surrounded by folklore. It was really good and gave me chills at times. It was like a fairy tale gone wrong.

I definitely plan on reading more from this author. I even have some lined up. :)...Stormi

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Stephanie Weatherly says

I read this to one of my language arts blocks this year. I liked the mystery/creepy factor that this book brought. A story of a young girl who gets "taken" after moving to a new city. Great read!

Dan Poblocki says

Amazing. Less a ghost story and more like a fairy tale, the scariest kind, with a villain I'd never wish to meet in a dark wood.

Amy says

E ARC from Edelweiss

so grateful to other goodreads users for adding this book so I found out about it! Mary Downing Hahn is one of my favorite authors, so a new book from her is super-exciting for me. It's also hard for me to talk about her books without melting into a puddle of gooey fangirl-dom. The best compliment that I can give this book - well, a couple - first, the story has the same feel (and same level of creepiness) as an urban legend like Bloody Mary. Just like the story of Bloody Mary had me terrified to go into the bathroom alone at night, this story will have kids terrified to go near the woods for fear of running into Bloody Bones. Second - this is the kind of book that will stick with kids for years. Kids who read it now will surely remember it in 20 years as that scary book with the witch, the razorback hog monster, and the creepy doll. Books that lodge themselves in your brain like that are really special, and the books that stuck with me from childhood are still some of my favorites.

I will be recommending this left and right once it comes out and I get it in my library!! Mary Downing Hahn, I love you forever and hope you write a zillion more ghost stories.

Edward Lorn says

Review by Autumn (my ten-year-old daughter). She would also like to thank everyone who liked her review of *Doctor Who: The Drossten Curse*.

Actual rating: 4.5 stars.

In August my dad was sent a free review copy of a ghost story. I really like how the book transitions from Daniel's point of view (which is 1st person past tense) to 3rd person in some chapters. Daniel is a seventh-grade boy from Fairfield, Connecticut, who moves to Woodville, West Virginia. When he started school, everyone made fun of him and his sister. Erika is a little girl who is in second grade, and loves her doll that her mom got her, and she hates the big woods she lives around. The parents are very positive about the move at first, but as time goes by, they get sad, and angry with each other, and themselves.

The book begins with Daniel and his family driving to the house on the farm. When they first get to school, all the kids make fun of them. After that things got worse for the family. The parents got really bad jobs and weren't paid much, they start getting angry at each other and about the move. They have to eat frozen meals for dinner every night after Daniel complains about the meat being tough. Poor Erika starts having long conversations with her doll, when finally she is Took...

I really like this book. It is very well written, the plot is great, and the author develops the characters quickly. I would rate Took four and a half stars out of five. If you like ghostly or creepy stories, I think you would really enjoy this book.

Breanna says

I feel like I went down the rabbit hole with this book.

Took was advertised at my daughter's school during her bookfair. The librarians played a video for the kids and gave a spooky summary of the books. They got the kids all hyped up about it. So naturally my second grader went straight for this book at the book fair and I purchased it for her.

We got a few chapters in and my daughter didn't want to read it anymore. It was too scary she said. My daughter usually likes stuff on the creepier side. But with it being read at night and involving a creepy doll, my daughter just had enough.

I decided to continue the book myself because I was actually enjoying it. It was a fast pace story with a great setting and great detail. Things just kept getting more and more creepy as the book went on, and by the last 10 chapters I had to keep going until I finished.

Even though this book was made for kids I was still sufficiently freaked out as an adult. And don't get me wrong, I love mystery, thriller, and suspenseful books.

I'm not sure why this was at a 2nd graders book fair.. I would say this is more for 4th-7th graders. But anyway I kept an open mind, and understood that this was meant for younger people, and I loved it!

Laura Harrison says

Another great Mary Downing Hahn book. Exciting, creepy scary-I loved it!!!

Carol Royce Owen says

Just in time for Hallowe'en Mary Downing Hahn has delivered another spooky ghost story that will make you wish you kept the lights on.

When Daniel Anderson's family moves to a decrepit home in a small town in West Virginia, after living a pretty posh life in Connecticut, he's sure that the stories about Old Auntie and Bloody Jack being told to him and his sister by all of the other students are just meant to scare him. But when his seven year old sister goes missing, and a girl who went disappearing 50 years ago is found, everyone, even adults, fear it's the work of Old Auntie, and refuse to go back into the woods. But seeing how her sister's disappearance is destroying his parents, Daniel becomes determined to do something to get her back, even if it might lead him face to face with the worst horror imaginable.

Eleni says

I like this book because it is very scary and it talks about how this little boy got taken away from someone and his family didn't notice till his sister had came in his room one day and found a letter saying "I'll be back in awhile" with a sad face but it gets really interesting cause they're trying to find who took the little boy. I would recommend this book to everyone who likes to read scary and mysterious books.

Dana says

This book was amazing. Mary Downing Hahn is a master at literature. This book is about Erica "Ai-ri-Cah" and her brother Daniel. His dad loses his job and they move to a podunk town in Virginia. Nobody likes them in the town and they have trouble meeting friends. To scare Daniel and Erica, the town kids tell a "folk story" of Auntie. An eccentric witchy old woman that stands on a hill, and her mutant hog skeleton, Bloody Bones. Everyone warns the kids to stay out of the woods, but sometimes the woods lure you in and you can't escape.

This was one of the best books that I have read in awhile. I suggest everyone give Mary Downing Hahn a try. Reintroduce yourself to her literature.

Rachel Rooney says

Creepy, but not gruesome, little story about a family who move into an abandoned rundown house in rural West Virginia. The previous owners moved away almost fifty years ago after their young daughter disappeared.

Ally B. says

As the wind knocks against your house, you wonder, is this really the wind? Then you look outside and meet the horrifying truth. The story *Took* by Mary Downing Hahn is a bone chilling story leaving you hungry for more. I finished the book in two sittings because the book always left you curious of what will happen next. Daniel and his parents and little sister Erica move out of their beautiful home to a run down, impossible fixer upper due to financial issues. The Anderson's are unlike all of the other children. The town they live in is small and deserted. The children scare Daniel and Erica with the story of Old Auntie. I could tell Daniel was half believing what they were saying, but he did not want to scare Erica. He is a good brother in that way. Old Auntie and her razorback hog, Bloody Bones, take a child every fifty years to serve them. And now all of the children, especially Brody Mason, are saying Erica is going to be "took". This is because the last girl "took" lived in their new house. The children there all have bad grammar so instead of saying "taken", they say "took". Daniel realizes that these odd stories the kids are describing might not be as fictional as they seem.

With Erica acting weird, Mom and Dad fighting, and Daniel noticing suspicious activity, this move might not have been the best idea. Read this story to see how the story unfolds and how much Daniel truly loves his sister. A reader who would enjoy this book would be somebody who enjoys mysteries and scary stories.

Eli M says

This is the story of Daniel and Erica, after they move from Connecticut to a rural community in an old house in the woods. Folks in the town tell the story of Old Auntie, an ancient spell caster who takes girls and wipes their memories, before keeping them for 50 years as her slave. Daniel doesn't believe these stories at first, at least not until he and his sister were separated in the woods, only for her not to be found later. Was she taken by Old Auntie? Will Daniel be able to find his sister again?

I enjoyed this book thoroughly, although it was a bit slow at first. I recommend this book for anyone who likes suspenseful stories with big twists.
