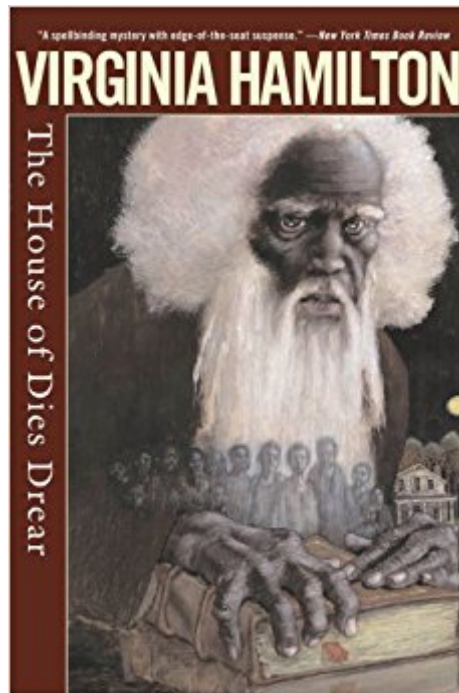




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The House Of Dies Drear



Synopsis

The house held secrets, Thomas knew, even before he first saw it looming gray and massive on its ledge of rock. It had a century-old legend -- two fugitive slaves had been killed by bounty hunters after leaving its passageways, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a station on the Underground Railroad, had been murdered there. The ghosts of the three were said to walk its rooms....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A huge, old house with secret tunnels, a cantankerous caretaker, and buried treasure is a dream-come-true for 13-year-old Thomas. The fact that it's reputedly haunted only adds to its appeal! As soon as his family moves in, Thomas senses something strange about the Civil War era house, which used to be a critical stop on the Underground Railroad. With the help of his father, he learns about the abolitionists and escaping slaves who kept the Underground Railroad running. While on his own, he explores the hidden passageways in and under the house, piecing clues together in an increasingly dangerous quest for the truth about the past. Newbery medalist Virginia Hamilton creates a heart-pounding adventure with this absorbing classic for older readers. (Ages 9 to 12) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "A hundred years ago, Dies Drear and two slaves he was hiding in his house, an Underground Railroad station in Ohio, had been murdered. The house, huge and isolated, was fascinating, Thomas thought, but he wasn't sure he was glad Papa had bought

it--funny things kept happening, frightening things... The secret of the house is revealed in an exciting final sequence that maintains beautifully the mysterious and dramatic story of a black family caught in an atmosphere of fear and danger. Written with distinction, an imaginative and imposing book."

This award winning book was not exactly my cup of tea. I liked re setting around a house along the Underground Railroad. The caves added fear and mystery, but the plot was not satisfying.

It's been a while since I've finished a book in 24 hours, but Virginia Hamilton's *The House of Dies Drear* moves quickly, almost every chapter ending with a cliffhanger of some kind that pushes forward to its satisfying conclusion. It's effectively a story about father-son relationships, smartly wrapped within a ghost story, as 13-year-old Thomas Small and his professor father learn the truth about the mysterious old Civil War era house the Small family moves into, outside Columbus, OH, and its connections to the Underground Railroad. Hamilton develops an engaging cast of characters, especially Mr. Pluto, the sinister caretaker of the house, and does a great job of weaving important bits about slavery and the Civil Rights era for context, without making it the focus of the story. For kids, it's a perfect complement to Christopher Paul Curtis' *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*. Highly recommended!

Great read for young adults. A lot of young adult books are very engaging for older readers, as well. This was truly aimed at the young male reader, which is fine. It has a lot of history to teach while not being 'teachy'. It had an interesting plot that was built on the mystery of run away slaves who were killed on the property while escaping through the Underground Railroad. I'm donating the book to the school library where I'm sure it will find its target audience many times over.

Exactly what we needed for school

12yedr old granddaughter read this for summer she gave it a 3-3.5 rating

It's been a long time since I've read *The House of Dies Drear*, but I am again teaching seventh-grade literature, and the book is one of our "outside" selections. I enjoy the book because Virginia Hamilton does such a good job of giving us a glimpse of those who made history, those who love that history and work to preserve it, and those who only want to exploit it. While I understand

that the House of Dies Drear is fictitious, I wonder (each time I read the story) how many true stories contributed to its creation. Besides all of that, my seventh-graders loved the book. There is a wonderful balance of history and drama!

Love this book as a kid and now I get to pass it to my children they loved it!

I read this book in the third grade, and now my children are reading it for the summer. I loved this book! It taught me how to use my imagination. My children are able to picture the scene because of the vivid descriptions by Virginia Hamilton. Great book for all ages.

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