

SHORT READS FOR PEOPLE WITH NO TIME

HOVER

BY SAMANTHA MABRY

HOVER

Twin sisters, Daisy and Rebecca, move into a new house in a new town. After a few months, Daisy begins to see a ghost in her doorway. Though Rebecca can't see the ghost, she starts to notice a change in her sister's behavior. Her sister is becoming distracted and distant. Is there anything Rebecca can do to help her sister? What does the ghost want from Daisy?

Read Hover by Samantha Mabry

Q&A with Samantha Mabry

"Samantha was born four days before the death of John Lennon. She grew up in Dallas, playing bass guitar along to vinyl records in her bedroom after school, writing fan letters to rock stars, doodling song lyrics into notebooks, and reading big, big books.

In college at Southern Methodist University, she majored in English Literature, minored in Spanish, and studied Latin and Classics. After that, she went on to receive a master's degree in English from Boston College.

These days, she teaches at a community college and spends as much time as possible in the west Texas desert.

A FIERCE AND SUBTLE POISON (Algonquin Young Readers, spring 2016) was her first novel. ALL THE WIND IN THE WORLD, a Western, was published in the fall of 2017 and was nominated for the National Book Award for Young Peoples' Literature. TIGERS, NOT DAUGHTERS released in the spring of 2020 and received six starred trade reviews." - biography from the author.



Learn more about Samantha Mabry

WRITE IT DOWN!

Questions

Why do you think only Daisy can see the ghost? How does this relate to the fact that Rebecca and Daisy are twins and share everything?

This story works so well because it takes terrifying encounters with a ghost and makes them as ordinary as doing homework. What parts of this story struck you as particularly horrifying or bizarre? Why?

Rebecca decides to name the ghost Laura. Why does she do this? Later, she stops. What changed?

What would you do if you were in Rebecca's position? Think about what you would do early on in the story and then later when Daisy starts sleepwalking through the neighborhood.

In the story, Daisy says, "I don't think it wants to hurt me. I think it wants my help...Or at least to tell me something important." What do you think the ghosts wants from Daisy? Consider how the story ends.

Both Rebecca and Daisy are searching for answers in two very different ways. At the end of the story they are no closer to solving the mystery of the ghost than they were at the beginning. Why do you think the author wrote the story this way?

This story leaves the reader with more questions than answers. Did you think the structure was effective or were you frustrated by how the story ends? If you were frustrated, how would you change this story?

WRITE IT DOWN!

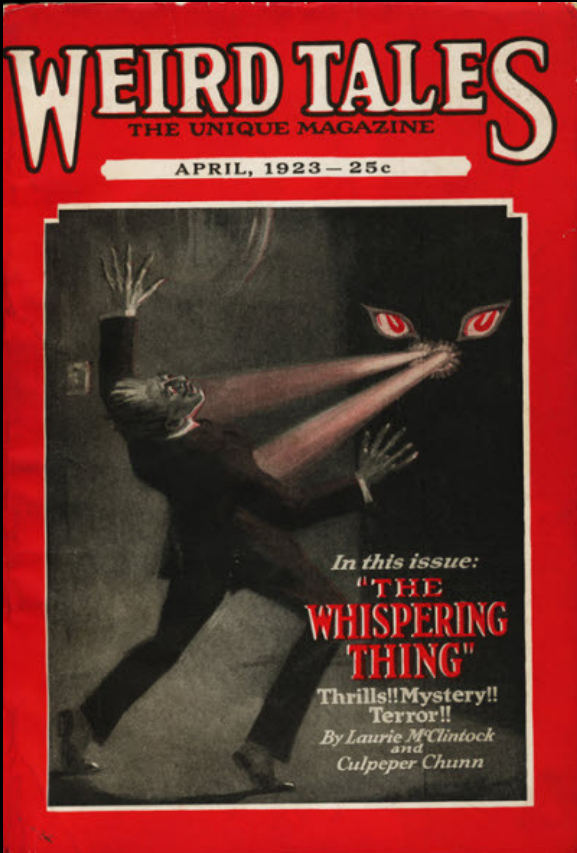
Prompts

Write a short, short horror story (50 words) using this dialogue from "Hover": "Is it here now?"

"Yes."

"Is it close to us?"

"Yes."



Write your own weird tale based off the title "The Whispering Thing".

Alternative: Write a story based off the cover art on the left.

Collaborate with friends to write a horror story. In a shared document or through text, write two sentences at a time, alternating between participants. See how the story unfolds!

For Visual Artists

Sketch, paint, photograph, or digitally illustrate a new cover from your favorite horror film or book.

Sketch, paint, photograph, or digitally illustrate your interpretation of a person being haunted by a ghost.

If you would like to share your writing samples, artwork, or thoughts about this story, please email: ssfyouth@plsinfo.org

MORE READS

Samantha Mabry and Other Authors

Novels

A Fierce and Subtle Poison
by Samantha Mabry

Tigers Not Daughters
by Samantha Mabry
read the first chapter

Rules of Vanishing
by Kate Alice Marshall

Wicked Fox
by Kat Cho

The Girl From the Well
by Rin Chupeco

Daughters Unto Devils
by Amy Lukavics

The Haunting of Hill House
by Shirley Jackson

Carrie
by Stephen King

The Haunted
by Danielle Vega

Anna Dressed in Blood
by Kendare Blake

Graphic Novels

Uzumaki
by Junji Itō

Through the Woods
by Emily Carroll

Fragments of Horror
by Junji Itō

Tokyo Ghoul
by Sui Ishida

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a hallway with a door at the end. Four bright, glowing yellow streaks of light curve through the air, creating a sense of movement and mystery. The text is overlaid in a white, handwritten-style font.

HAVE COMMENTS OR

WANT TO SUGGEST

A SHORT STORY?

EMAIL US!

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