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Thirteen Chairs



Synopsis

When a boy finds himself drawn into an empty house one cold night, he enters a room in which twelve unusual-looking people sit around a table. And the thirteenth chair is pulled out for him. One by one, each of those assembled tells their own ghost story: tales of doom and death; of ghostly creatures and malevolent spirits; of revenge and reward. It is only at the end of the night that the boy starts to understand what story he must tell . . .

Book Information

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[Spine-Chilling Horror](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—In this spine-tingling short-story collection, a young man named Jack finds himself part of a most unusual storytelling circle. When Jack opens a door to find 12 strangers sitting around a table, a lit candle in front of each of them, his natural curiosity gets the best of him and he joins the group, which is presided over by the proper Mr. Osterly, it becomes clear to Jack that whoever they are, the strangers have gathered to exchange tales. The set-up may remind adult readers of Neil Gaiman's short story "October in the Chair"—published in *Fragile Things* (William Morrow, 2006)—but the execution is wholly unique. Over the course of the evening, each person at the table tells a frightening story, and Jack comes to a gradual realization about his new acquaintances that will strike terror into readers' hearts. The breadth and scope of various stories is impressive—readers are treated to traditional jump tales, malevolent cats, folk tales, and

vengeful ghost stories; new spine-chillers are revealed with each turn of the page. VERDICT Fans of chills and things that go bump in the night will want to read this uniformly excellent work--with the lights on.--Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Thirteen chills I'll never forget."--R.L. Stine*"Fans of chills and things that go bump in the night will want to read this uniformly excellent work--with the lights on."--School Library Journal, starred review"An enjoyable collection of ghost stories, perfect for reading by flashlight."--Kirkus Reviews"These tangled yarns will continue to ensnare readers' thoughts even after the final page is turned."--Horn Book Review

Interesting presentation for a small collection of short stories. I enjoyed the variety of the well written stories. Fun read. My small points of contention are that from the get go, I figured out that the new arrival, taking the 13th chair, was probably dead or "getting there" somehow.....My second small point of disagreement is - when each person has presented their story, they blow off their candle and sit back in the shadows.....to what end? From what I assumed, it was hinted that this was not their first time doing this story telling ritual.....so.....potential for expansion here? Or at least explanation??? Are these other story tellers potetial recurrent characters, although I assume they also were dead.....or did I just miss something in my understanding of the final conclusion..... In the end, I remained curious about the whole ritual of the group storytelling..... Perhaps some other continuation could have taken off from that very meeting of those 12/13 people.....What happens next???? I would have gladly read further into the possible ending. I found the book well written, intriguing, and fun to read. Would definitely recommend it.

This book is so cool. At the end something happens and you just don't expect it. There are thirteen people, who each tell there own story, and each and every one of them are just so amazing. The last to are the best.

I loved this book because it holds the reader in suspense until the very end. The ghost stories told by each person were all interesting and unique! This book reminds me of an old classic movie from 1945 entitled "Dark of Night" that is one of my personal favorites!

Each story is deftly told by a speaker --but it's not until a ways through the reader

starts to understand that there is a method to the madness, son to speak. Don't analyze. Don't try to figure it out. Just read quietly and enjoy. Then, yes, begin again to see what you could not possibly have known back when you started.

I have many scary books, but this one goes story after story! Really spine chilling! Don't read before you go to sleep, it will haunt them!

It was an okay read...not really scary and some of the stories were predictable, no real suspense or thrills. Of course, you don't really know who the boy is or why he's there. Unfortunately, don't hold your breath waiting for the answer. I'm glad I didn't spend a lot for this book. I wouldn't have been happy if I had.

Lovely book and nice execution. Well laid out with enough story and voice to keep me turning pages. Well done!

I enjoyed the premise of stories within a story. The author leaves much to your imagination. The stories were entertaining but predictable and not as scary as I had hoped. Overall, an entertaining book but forgettable.

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