



Popularity: ★★★★★



Dying to meet you (Apr 2009)

Review: EBSCONovelist

Author: [Klise, Kate](#)

Illustrator: Klise, M. Sarah - ill.

Ages 9-12Fiction

Series: [43 Old Cemetery Road, 1](#)

Description: In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author I. B. Grumpy gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place **to** write for the summer.

Genre: Epistolary novels; Paranormal **fiction**

Themes: Moving **to** a haunted house

Storyline: Plot-driven

Pace: Fast-paced

Tone: Funny; Offbeat

Writing Style: Wordplay-filled; Attention-grabbing; Witty

Min/Max Grade level:4 - 6

Lexile: 730 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 4.9, AR Pts: 2

Persistent link to this record (Permalink):

Reviews

[More About This Book](#)

School Library Journal:

Gr 4–6— When former best-selling children's author I.B. Grumpley moves into a Victorian mansion in Ghastly, IL, to write the latest installment in his "Ghost Tamer" series, he is hindered by more than just his overwhelming case of writer's block. He is dismayed to find the mansion already occupied by an 11-year-old boy named Seymour Hope, his cat, and Olive C. Spence, a ghost living in the cupola who is unhappy because she never managed to publish her books in her lifetime. Similar to the Klises' other offerings, the story is successfully told through letters, newspaper clippings, drawings, and related devices. Although Grumpley has written ghost tales, he himself is a nonbeliever, and Olive and Seymour attempt to convince him. They then collaborate on a book about their own experiences, including the possibility of the demolition of the mansion, a ghost who falls in love with the occupant of her house, and Seymour's parents and their lack of responsibility for his care. This first title in a new series will appeal to readers, especially reluctant ones, as it moves quickly and leaves its audience eager for book two, which is announced in this ghastly and fun tale.—Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA --Michele Shaw (Reviewed May 1, 2009) (School Library Journal, vol 55, issue 5, p112)

Publishers Weekly:

This fresh, funny launch of the 43 Old Cemetery Road series introduces an eccentric cast with pun-tastic names. I.B. Grumpley, a cranky children's book author with writer's block, rents a dilapidated Victorian mansion (from realtor Anita Sale) in the town of Ghastly in hopes of writing an addition to his Ghost Tamers series (publisher: Paige Turner). He discovers that the owners have left their son Seymour behind while—in one of several ironic twists—they tour Europe debunking the existence of ghosts. Seymour does indeed “see more” than others: he has befriended Olive C. Spence, a feisty ghost who has vowed to haunt the house until she accomplishes what she couldn't in life—publish a book. As in the “Regarding the...” series, written by these sibling collaborators, the story unfolds through characters' correspondence (“The man is impossible ! I should've dropped THREE chandeliers on his head,” Olive writes Seymour about Grumpley) as well as other documents, including illustrated pages from the local tabloid. Despite a slightly sappy denouement, the story is light enough for more tentative readers, with many humorous details to reward those who look closer. Ages 8–12. (Apr.) --Staff (Reviewed April 13, 2009) (Publishers Weekly, vol 256, issue 15, p49)

Kirkus:

Plenty of fun lurks in this ghost-story comedy when a dried-up, unsociable writer, I.B. Grumply, rents an old house already occupied by Seymour Hope, an abandoned boy, and his best friend, Olive, an active and bossy lady ghost. All told through letters, newspaper articles and other documents, the story also stars M. Sarah Klise's whimsical line drawings, which add substance to the plot. Readers learn that Mr. Grumply's writer's block has continued until he's penniless; he'll have to open up and make friends with his new roommates if he wants to produce that next bestseller. Kate Klise fleshes out the plot with back stories on the house, Seymour's catastrophic, absent parents and Olive's haunting of the house. Suspense intrudes when Seymour's parents reappear and decide to demolish it. Everywhere they look, readers will find comedy, even in the headers on the letters and character names. Of course it's all going to come out magnificently in the end, thereby setting up the next book in the planned series. A quirky, comedic romp. (Fiction . 8-14) (Kirkus Reviews, March 1 , 2009)

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Paranormal fiction

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Authors

Ghosts

Haunted houses

Hope, Seymour (Fictitious character)

Writer's block

Writing

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