



At the Old Haunted House

Helen Ketteman

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At the old haunted house

In a room with no sun

Lived a warty green witch

And her wee witchy one.

There are all kinds of creatures in the house: a big Ma monster and her wee monsters two, a scrawny black cat and her wee kittens three, a green Pa goblin and his wee goblins four, and more! Count along as the creatures prepare for the Halloween Fright. The text, written in the pattern of the popular poem “Over in the Meadow,” makes reading aloud fun, while the cinematic illustrations set the scene for an unforgettable romp through the old haunted house. Trick or treat!

At the Old Haunted House Details

Date : Published August 12th 2014 (first published January 1st 2014)

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Author : Helen Ketteman

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From Reader Review At the Old Haunted House for online ebook

Clover Blaire says

Short Book Summaries for Busy People

Initial Impression: This book is so beautifully illustrated that children are sure to be mesmerized.

Pictures: Absolutely phenomenal. Vibrant. Colorful.

Characters: A cast of Halloween outcasts all live in and on the grounds of the spookiest mansion in the neighborhood.

Plot: Spooky frights and their children all prepare for a Halloween feast.

One Line Summary: Two mortals are in for the time of their lives, come Halloween night.

Stewart says

I'm not sure it's totally fair for adults to review children's books so I'm going to attempt to see the book as my children see it. There's probably some sort of recipe to making a picture book that will be beloved by my chitlins but whatever that recipe is, 'At the old haunted house' seems to have hit it. This book is a huge hit with my kids. I won it in as a galley review copy from either Goodreads or LibraryThing.

It's a beautifully illustrated hardcover book which clearly had a lot of time and effort put in its production. When I read books to my kids I generally like them to be 1) short, and 2) rhyming. Don't ask me why exactly I like them to rhyme... perhaps it feels more like a game when I read the book to them.

I really think this is a great children's book. I can't rate a 5-stars simply because it doesn't stand up to my long-time favorites, however, if your kids like ghosts and mummies and other spooky halloween stuff, they'll love this book!

Carrie Guinn says

Good book. The old haunted house was scary but fun.

My granddaughter loved it. She is 3 and loves Halloween. She liked the yummy dinner and the dancing monsters. But most of all, she liked the house.

Sara says

At the Old Haunted House is a fun Halloween Retelling of the classic children's song Over in the Meadow. This version sings very well and the pictures are engaging and fun without being scary. My music students love to sing along.

I recommend this book to readers 3-8.

Review copy provided by Amazon Vine

Dawn says

Beautiful illustrations. Cute story with counting and rhyming.

Amanda says

Cute counting book that incorporated a Halloween theme.

Tricia Schneider says

This is a cute book! My kids love the rhymes.

AMY says

This is a rhyming and counting story set to the tune of Three Little Fishes. It is not too scary for little ones to read. Cute illustrations. Lots of fun. It would buy for ES. Recommended for Gr. K-3

Jessica (Spooky KidLit & We Who Walk Here, Walk Alone) says

At the Old Haunted House is a charming Halloween-themed counting book with some truly spectacular art. Nate Wragg's illustrations are gorgeous — I read this book on my Kindle, but I'm considering buying the hardcover just for his paintings. With vibrant colors and dynamic compositions, Wragg keeps the eye moving and keeps little ones' minds occupied. There are plenty of details to point out and discuss, but there aren't so many that it gets confusing or overwhelms the children following along.

The words, however, don't always flow quite as smoothly. The rhythm gets awkward in a few spots, and I think it would take longer to get comfortable reading this book aloud than some others that have more predictable meters. The story creates a wonderful sense of excitement, though, and the wordplay and repetition are a lot of fun. This is a terrific book to add to your collection, so I wouldn't let the occasional rhythmic awkwardness put you off, but it is something to consider when preparing a storytime.

With such a wide variety of spooky characters — vampires, ghosts, mummies, black cats, and more — there are endless opportunities for fun voices and sound effects. Kids can join in, too: the call and response between the parents and children on each page can make *At the Old Haunted House* a highly interactive storytime read.

On a side note, I appreciate the fact that there are mothers and fathers mentioned among the haunted house dwellers in the book. It shows men (well, male goblins) teaching children domestic chores like dusting. It may seem trivial, but subtle details that show that housework isn't gendered matter in teaching kids about gender equality.

At the Old Haunted House is a wonderful book to use year-round and a must-have for Halloween storytimes. It's a great counting book and a fun way to show kids that spooky things can be silly instead of scary. With an engaging story and mesmerizing artwork, it's sure to become a Halloween favorite.

Denise says

Love, love, love this book!!
rhyming is best!!

Brian Tracey says

Great book

My 5 year old loves this book no matter what time of the year it is . The illustrations are cute not scary the words and rhythm of the book flows well while reading it. We change are voices for all the characters. I suppose if your child likes Hotel Transylvanian they will !ove this book also.

Sandy says

This is a counting book (1-10) that also rhymes. I got tired of the book about 3/4 of the way through it, the rhyming part got old for me. Each two-page spread features a mother or a father creature with its corresponding number of little ones. The pa goblin with his wee goblins, ma werewolf and her wolfies and papa vampire with his vamps, these are just a few of the Halloween characters you will find on these pages. I loved all the adjectives in the writing, describing the illustrations, these words spark your imagination as you look at the illustrations and I think they will also boost up a child's vocabulary. Words like warty, whirred, hollow, scratch, yowled are just a few of these great words. I can see why children like this novel, its a fun read and the illustrations are amazing. Colorful, cheerful illustrations light up each page and bring the text to life.

Kathryn says

Cute, Halloween-y take on the classic children's song "Over in the Meadow"

Here we have various spooky creatures and their spooky children doing various spooky things in an old haunted house. The new verses work well (on the whole, a few phrases stumble a bit to fit the melody) and would probably be fun for any preschoolers around Halloween time and could be independent of the illustrations if need be. The illustrations are kind of fun-cute-scary, and include monsters, bats and big spiders, so maybe not appropriate for the most sensitive in the audience.

Diane says

Adorable young child's counting book with wonderful art work & a fun rhyme. Thanks first reads giveaway for the opportunity to share with my boys.

Jennifer says

if you have Amazon Prime and a tablet please get this book to read to your children this Halloween. it's super cute and helps with counting.
