



# The Howling Ghost

*Christopher Pike*

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## **The Howling Ghost** Christopher Pike

Cindy is playing by the ocean with her younger brother, Neil, when a ghost appears out of nowhere and grabs Neil and takes him away. Cindy tries to tell people what happened, but everyone assumes the boy must have drowned. Cindy is left heartbroken, with no one to help her find her brother. Until Sally reads about what happened in the paper. Sally believes in ghosts -- she knows ghosts are a dime a dozen when it comes to Spooksville. With Adam and Watch, Sally goes to Cindy and promises to help her get her brother back.

But what none of them knows is that this is a nasty old ghost.

It would rather turn them all into ghosts than return Cindy's brother.

## **The Howling Ghost Details**

Date : Published November 1st 1995 by Aladdin Paperbacks

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Author : Christopher Pike

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# From Reader Review The Howling Ghost for online ebook

## Justine says

iThis was actually the first scary book I read when I was like 9 years old. I loved it back then and I still think is a good read for kids.

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## Mark Buxton says

My name is Sally, and I live in the scariest town in the world. Of course, Adam doesn't believe me, but he's learning. I read about a girl losing her little brother out by the old lighthouse, and I told Adam and Watch that we should help find him. The police don't believe her story about a beam of light coming from the lighthouse and a howling ghost grabbing her brother. I know she's telling the truth. I convinced the boys to help me investigate, but I didn't expect Adam to risk his life in shark-infested waters or climbing the abandoned lighthouse. Of course, I was right in the end, and it was my idea that rescued the little boy.

You don't need to read the first book in the series to enjoy this one. I enjoyed this book a bit more, because it focused on one clearly-defined problem. A little boy is missing, and the kids work to solve his mystery. Book one had the kids traveling to an alternate dimension, whereas they use their knowledge and resources to solve the problem in this one. The first book showed Sally's loving feelings for Adam, and she becomes a bit jealous in this book when he shows kindness for Cindy, the sister of the little boy. Once again, Adam doesn't know what to think. The books in this series are easy to read, and they present mystery and adventure for readers. I recommend them for light-hearted mystery lovers.

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## Anna says

The TV episode that is based on this book follows it almost to the letter. So there really wasn't anything in here that I hadn't already experienced. Not sure I like book-Sally all that much, she's vicious to Cindy in this book. It's pretty off-putting. Cindy is another girl who might be competition for a boy (Adam) that she's known for all of two weeks!!! Full on Bitch-Mode people!

On the show Sally makes a lot of remarks about Adam being her future Prom date, but the kids are a few years older than in the books -- and she's a lot less antagonistic of other girls. Also, there's a sassy sweetness to Katie Douglas that I love. I'm starting to think that I prefer the show to the books. One or two more, than I'm done.

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## **Adrian says**

I was reading The Serpent's shadow just now, and I read the word "jetty" and suddenly, I remembered this book. I remembered how scared I was when I read this as a kid and how I loved it and how i reread it lots of times. :D

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## **zapkode says**

{The Howling Ghost} – Watch, Adam and Sally are introduced to a new character in this book. Her name is Cindy and she claims that her brother was taken by a ghost. It's not too far fetched for the three to decide to help her because they believe that is what in deed had happened given the weird things that seem to happen in Spooksville. Like Adam, Cindy and her family had recently moved in to live in the house her father had inherited. That sad thing is she lost her father because he died and now her brother got kidnapped by a ghost. I can't imagine how that could make anyone feel other then dead inside.

The four of them decide that they are going to try and find out what happened to Cindy's brother. They start tracing clues and going places. They look for what makes sense and then they try to put it all together so that they can better understand the gravity of the situation. I don't think anyone could truly understand the gravity of any situation that seems to take place in the town.

I do like how the characters seem to find adventure and mystery. I like how the story is written and how it pulls you in and I am sure anyone that has read them will feel similar. I also like how they are short and fairly quick and easy to read. There are some days where I really want to read but I don't want to be stuck with a book that will take hours to finish. These don't take long at all and are always wrapped up with a nice little bow at the end so that you have closure to the story but there is still room for it to be added to. I think that is part of what makes them very enjoyable to read.

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## **Lourdes Hill says**

i absolutely love it!

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## **Cameron Stolfuss says**

This month I read a book called The Howling Ghost by Christopher Pike. This book is a Mystery book that takes place in a town called Spooks Ville where Sally, Cindy, Adam, and Watch take on hideous monsters and go on huge journeys. In this book Sally, Cindy, Adam, and Watch run into a old lighthouse that has been spooking the town for generations. All four of them venture into the light house to find out what is so weird about it. I rated this book 4/5 stars cause it has tons of excitement and awesome mysteries.

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## **Ann-Marie says**

Re-reading this series as an adult... well not a very mature adult, but still... older than the recommended age. I love this series when I was younger and, having seen some of the Hub's television version, felt the need to reread these books.

The Howling Ghost is one of my all time favourite Spooksville stories. The introduction of Cindy to balance out Sally's character is excellent (I find Sally overbearing at times!). The boy's meeting Cindy was pretty cute ("Or a rose that's been crushed" Adam said, feeling in a poetic mood.) There was enough scary parts to keep me captivated, fighting with Ghosts, jumping off Lighthouses, being trapped in a shipwreck 17m under water. What I really enjoyed about this book was the CLEVERNESS of the plot and how it all ties in together. That they picked up information at the lighthouse, the shipwreck, the library and Watch ties it all together (and Sally takes credit for it!) and there is a cheerful sort of ending to the evil wicked ghost that steals young children.

My other big rant about this series is that the "Science" involved is pretty great. Christopher Pike discusses many things from cryogenics, time travel, evolution, pollution, etc. in a platform for children. In this book, it discusses the process of scuba diving as the two characters take a dive to a ship wreck. It is done in a very real way (what happens if I lose my weight belt when suba diving, well then I'll rush up to the surface of the water and suffocate on my own blood...!!!). Also when they are jumping 20m into the water from the lighthouse, Watch mentions surface tension and how they will die if they just jump. Very very clever, keeping it in the boundaries of reality even though this is a Fantasy sorta story. Adds to the "Tension".

Great book, very good plot, a diverse range of characters. LOVED it! :D

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## **Luis says**

#2 Spooksville.

Segunda entrega de la serie Fantasville, en el nos encontramos a los mismos protagonistas que la novela anterior, y esta vez se unen a la aventura dos hermanos mas (Cindy y Neil)

El libro es entretenido, y los personajes claramente definen sus personalidades, que pase el siguiente señorita Laura.

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## **Bobby Underwood says**

“They don’t write about ghosts in the paper. Not even The Daily Disaster.” — Sally

Yes, the official name of Springville/Spooksville’s newspaper is The Daily Disaster! This is a fun series for the younger kids from the pen of Christopher Pike. The Howling Ghost is the second in the series, picking up on the heels of the charming inaugural entry, The Secret Path. Adam had just moved to Springville in the first book, where he met Sally and Watch. They quickly became his friends. Twelve-year-old Adam wasn’t certain initially what to make of all those wild stories about the town. Springville has been nicknamed Spooksville by the children because of all the weird occurrences, and the way kids just seem to vanish. By

the end of his first big adventure, Adam knows he's not living in a normal place. That tone carries forward into the second entry:

"Adam was amazed at how large the obituary section was for such a small town. In each issue it took up half the paper. Sally was right about one thing: not everyone stayed for long in Spooksville. The cause of death was often listed as simply disappeared."

Just as in the first book, Pike injects enough humor and charm into *The Howling Ghost* to offset any real scares. Though there is a ghost and some danger, it really never gets too dark for the 8-12 year old age group at which it's aimed. In fact, this series from the 1990s may seem innocent after *Harry Potter*, and may appeal more to the 8-10 age range rather than 8-12 that's suggested.

Cindy Makey loses her younger brother Neil to a howling ghost at Spooksville's lighthouse. He is never found, so presumed to be just another kid who disappeared. Sally gets the ball rolling for the trio of friends to investigate, so that Neil doesn't become just another statistic. This proves problematic, however, as Cindy MaKay is very sweet, and takes a shine to Adam — which might be returned. The only caveat to this story is in fact, that dynamic, with the very jealous Sally coming off petulant and snarky, even uncaring once she realizes the possibility of Adam liking Cindy. She was precocious and likable in the first book, but in this one the reader gets irritated with her.

Things take a serious turn when after hooking up with Cindy, who is ecstatic that someone believes her story about a ghost snatching her brother, a visit is made to the deserted lighthouse. Cindy almost falls to her death, but Adam saves her. Scramming out of there when they hear the howling ghost, the kids decide to do some research. This leads to some fun stuff involving the Spooksville librarian, Mr. Spiney. His obsession with kids building strong bones knows no bounds!

What the kids discover at the library about a wrecked ship and a lighthouse keeper and her young son, will become important when they return to the lighthouse, but in what way I can't reveal. There is some action and some derring-do by all involved. Adam even gets his first kiss — albeit on the cheek, which leaves Sally steaming. Before that happens, there is some underwater danger, and some more spookiness at the lighthouse. Will Cindy become a bigger part of the series, sticking around to eat donuts with the trio in the next book, *The Haunted Cave*? I'll have to see. Finding out should be fun in this terrific series for younger kids.

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## **Lisa Houston says**

Just spooky enough for fourth graders that love ghost stories. I'll have to get this series for my classroom. I know kids that'll love this!

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## **D.K. Brantley says**

My first delve into Christopher Pike's world, and it was the second book of a series. Didn't really matter though, because the story stood on its own (while alluding to the first book a few times).

Fun scares, and a strangely sweet ending.

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## **Rizwan says**

Fresh off from escaping from evil-alternate Spooksville, the trio decide that instead of relaxing, they would turn into investigators and rescue a missing kid who may or may not have been kidnapped by some of Spooksville's more supernatural elements.

Why? Sally thinks its because Adam and Watch find the sister cute. She doesn't.

There is a lighthouse, and an interesting familial connection involved too.

Ahhh its been 15 or so odd years since I read these books. But I am surprised at how much I still remember.

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## **Brett Turner says**

Better than the first though there were some things I felt improbable.

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