



## The Bake Shop Ghost

*Jacqueline K. Ogburn, Marjorie A. Priceman (Illustrator)*

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Cora Lee Merriweather baked the best pies and cakes for miles—fluffy meringue pies, flaky strudels, layer cakes, sheet cakes, and cakes with frosting finer than Irish lace. But now Cora Lee haunts the shop she used to own.

When new bakers arrive to take over her empty bake shop, Cora Lee scares them away, each and every one. Then Annie Washington comes to town . . .

Jacqueline K. Ogburn and Marjorie Priceman combine their talents to give us an enchanting baker's battle in this story about how to unlock the secrets of the perfect recipe and a lonely heart.

## **The Bake Shop Ghost Details**

Date : Published July 25th 2005 by HMH Books for Young Readers

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Author : Jacqueline K. Ogburn , Marjorie A. Priceman (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review The Bake Shop Ghost for online ebook**

### **Barb Middleton says**

Cora Lee Merriweather runs the best bake shop in town, but no one notices her, just her delicious cakes. When she dies others try to buy the shop but she gets angry and scares them away. When Annie Washington buys the shop she confronts the ghost trying to figure out why she is haunting the place. Annie tries to bake a cake that will please Cora Lee but none of her recipes seem to be good enough for her. When Annie runs out of recipes she comes up with a surprising solution to the problem. See how Annie's act of kindness transforms Cora Lee from a unhappy ghost with a "lemon-pucker" mouth to a ghost with a big smile. Sometimes it is the small things that make the biggest difference.

The book incorporates smells, sounds, and colorful descriptions. While reading the book aloud, I changed my voice with the different characters who bought Ms. Merriweather's shop. Annie changes in the story as she learns to respect the ghost's opinion. The two slowly become friends which allows Annie to figure out how to help the ghost.

The author, Jacqueline Ogburn, said she came up with the story after listening to Charlie Daniels song, The Devil Went Down to Georgia, and that she used a common folktale motif of a ghost or spirit dueling with a mortal.

Marjorie Priceman's illustrations in watercolor are detailed and reminiscent of Ludwig Bemelmens pictures in his Madeline series. The setting is somewhere in Europe and the buildings reminded me of France. She captures the energy of the grumpy ghost driving people out of her shop.

Other books like this are: Fergus and the Night-Demon : an Irish Ghost Story, by Jim Murphy ; illustrated by John Manders and The Perfect Pumpkin Pie, by Denys Cazet.

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### **Candice says**

This was incredibly cute, and I love that you even get a cake recipe at the end.

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### **Jen says**

My review is incomplete until I have made and tasted the Ghost-Pleasing Chocolate Cake recipe at the end of the story. I predict I will be quite satisfied.

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### **pati says**

Yum.

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### **Susan says**

A cute story, with two spirited protagonists, which add a bonus as both are women and one is not white. The pictures are interesting but bright and engaging. I enjoyed this one more as it went along than I thought I would at the start.

Overall, a good read.

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### **Clarissa says**

A ghost story in which a young baker tries to find a cake that will satisfy the ghost of the woman who used to own the pastry shop. There is a delicious looking recipe for chocolate cake in the back of the book.

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### **Valencia says**

Cute story! I liked it a lot.

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### **Meg McGregor says**

I really loved the story!

The idea of a ghost hanging around the Bake Shop is fun and entertaining! I also liked how Annie discovered the one cake that would both fill up Cora Lee, (the Bake Shop Ghost) and cause tears to trickle down her cheeks!

The only reason I didn't give it four stars is because I didn't care for the illustrations at all. But I am sure that others will enjoy them!

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### **Laura Rumohr says**

I chose this book because one of my student's actually recommended it to me :)

Summary-

The Bake Shop Ghost is a fabulous picture book for elementary students. Cora Lee Merriweather was a well-known baker in her town. When she died the whole town mourned her death because they were afraid they would never taste such delicious cakes and pastries ever again! After her death a variety of wonderful chefs and bakers tried to bring the old bakery back, but after just a day each baker left and sold the bakery because they were visited by a ghost...the ghost of Cora Lee. When she would visit, she would turn the kitchen upside down and cover the bakers with powdered sugar and egg. But one day, a hard-working and creative baker,

Annie Washington came to the shop. She was determined to stand up to Cora Lee. Annie thought outside of the box and figured out different ways to work with Cora Lee, you'll have to read to see if her bakery ever became a success!

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### **Brina says**

My eight year loves this book about Cora Lee Mayweather the baker. Last year she even wrote a comprehensive book report on this. We discussed the book and the cakes and spend endless amount of time going over which desserts are our favorites.

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### **Misbah says**

When the towns best baker dies, everyone mourns the loss of the delicious cakes she used to make. Since she had no family her bakery is sold. Each basket who tried to bake their is chased out by her ghost because none of them are as good as her. Until one day a young pastry chef moves in and starts cleaning up. She ignores the ghost until the haunting gets destructive. Then she asks the dead baker what it will take for her to leave her alone. The basket says that if the pastry bakes her a cake that will make her cry then she will leave her alone. Months pass but she isn't able to produce a cake good enough to make the ghost cry. Then one day she gets an idea for a cake while reading up on the deceased baker. When the baker sees the cake she starts crying. The cake is a Happy birthday cake, which the baker never got while she was alive because she grew up an orphan and no-one ever thought to bake a birthday cake for a baker. The party chef asks the bakers ghost to stay on and help her continue baking cakes.

A very sweet story. Well-written with unique illustrations.

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### **Julia says**

My nearly 4-year-old son picked out this book at the library today because he's fascinated by ghosts. On page 1, he spotted the Devil hiding under a table ("Is that a cow, Mama?" he asked me. Oh, dear!). A few pages in, there was a death and funeral. Perhaps I should pre-read these children's books.

Fortunately, my son was more intrigued by the intricate illustrations, the ghost character, and the deliciously detailed descriptions of every cake and pastry you could imagine.

The surprise ending was a real treat, and an excellent life lesson for people of all ages. I'll continue to trust my son's taste in literature.

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### **Sally says**

Delightful story!

Heard it on NPR as a read-aloud, delightful.

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**Stephanie says**

We have read this at least 6 times since bringing it home from the library on Tuesday. Ryan really likes it, though I think he's more interested in hearing all the different kinds of cakes and pastries than he is the story of how Annie finally bakes a cake that satisfies Cora Lee.

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**Emily Scheinman says**

Love the illustrations

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