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The Underground Ghosts #10: A Super Special (The Haunted Library)



Synopsis

Edgar Award Winner Dori Hillestad Butler gives us the tenthâ ”and final!â ”title in her not-too-scary chapter book mystery series, The Haunted Library, in the form of a super special!It’s almost Halloween, and Kaz and Claire are off to Seattle to visit Claire’s cousins. They explore the local library...and find a ghost living there! The ghost’s family has been missing, so Kaz and Claire decide to investigate. When they discover ghostly activity in the city’s subterranean passages, they put their detective skills to work. Kaz and Claire are on the case!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0540 (What’s this?)

Series: The Haunted Library (Book 10)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap (August 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0515157112

ISBN-13: 978-0515157116

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #27,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 inÂ Books > Children’s Books >

Holidays & Celebrations > Halloween #129 inÂ Books > Children’s Books > Science Fiction &

Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #224 inÂ Books > Children’s Books > Mysteries & Detectives

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Dori Hillestad Butler’s books have appeared on children’s choice award lists in 18 different states. Trading Places with Tank Talbott won the Maryland Children’s Choice Award in 2007, and The Buddy Files: Case of the Lost Boy won the 2011 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery. Dori has also been a ghostwriter for the Sweet Valley Twins, Unicorn Club, and Boxcar Children series, and a children’s book reviewer for several publications. She’s published numerous short stories, plays, and educational materials, and has served as the Iowa Society of Â Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators’ Regional Advisor. She grew up in southern Minnesota and now lives in Seattle with her husband, son, dog, and cat. She visits schools and leads writing workshops all over the country.

Chapter 1: A VISIT TO SEATTLE

Look, Kaz! Little John gazed out Claire's window. We're up above the clouds! Kaz didn't want to look. He, Little John, and Claire were on an airplane. Claire had flown on an airplane before, but this was a new experience for the ghosts. Kaz wasn't sure he liked it. I wonder what it would feel like to pass through a cloud, Little John said, edging closer to the window. Kaz pulled him back. We're not going to find out, he said. Claire smiled at Kaz and Little John as they floated above her. She couldn't talk to them because there were too many people around. Those people couldn't see or hear ghosts like she could, so they would wonder who she was talking to. Claire and her ghost friends were on their way to Seattle. Claire's parents were at a convention for detectives, and Grandma Karen was at a convention for librarians. So they had arranged for Claire to spend the week with her aunt Beth and cousin Maddie. Back before she met Kaz and Little John, Claire used to live in Seattle. She saw Aunt Beth and Maddie all the time then because they took care of her whenever her parents were away. But Claire's family had moved to Iowa last year to be closer to Grandma Karen. This was Claire's first trip back to Seattle. And her first trip without her parents. Claire couldn't imagine a better time to visit Aunt Beth and Maddie because Halloween was this Friday. Maddie was on the teen advisory board at the Seattle Public Library, and they had planned an overnight Halloween party at the library. There would be ghost stories, crafts, and games. Claire could hardly wait. Remember, Little John. You said you'd be on your best behavior if you got to come to Seattle with Claire and me, Kaz said. I am on my best behavior, Little John replied. No glowing. No wailing. And no scaring solid people, Kaz said. No passing through airplane windows, either! I was just looking out the window, Little John said. I wasn't going to pass through it. Relax, Kaz. We're on vacation! How was Kaz supposed to relax when he had to worry about his little brother? Honestly, Kaz was surprised Mom and Pops let him and Little John go all the way to Seattle. Especially after everything that had happened to their family. A year ago, Kaz and Little John lived with their big brother, Finn, their parents, their grandparents, and their dog, Cosmo, in an old abandoned schoolhouse. Everything was fine until Finn accidentally passed through the schoolhouse wall, and the wind blew him away. Grandmom and Grandpop tried to rescue Finn, but they blew away, too. A few months after that, the schoolhouse was torn down and the rest of the ghosts blew away. Kaz didn't think he'd ever see his family again. The wind blew Kaz to a small-town library. That was where he met Claire. Claire lived above the library with her parents and her grandma. Kaz and Claire had formed a detective agency, C & K Ghost Detectives, to

solve ghostly mysteries and find Kazâ™s family. It took a while, but they found everyoneâ™ Kazâ™s whole family. â Now what if someone got lost again? What if Kaz or Little John got lost in Seattle? â âœThis airplane is kind of like a water bottle for solid people,â • Little John said as a flight attendant moved through the aisle and collected trash. â âœHow do you figure that?â • Kaz asked. â âœIf solid people want to go somewhere, they travel inside an airplane,â • Little John said. âœIf we want to go somewhere, we travel in there.â • He pointed at the empty water bottle on the tray table in front of Claire. â Kaz couldnâ™t argue with that. â A voice came over the loudspeaker: âœIn preparation for landing, please make sure your seat backs and tray tables are in their full upright and locked positions.â • â âœWe better go back inside Claireâ™s water bottle,â • Kaz said to his brother. â âœAw. Do we have to?â • Little John asked. â âœYes,â • Kaz replied. The ghosts shrank downâ .â . downâ .â . downâ .â . and passed through the side of the bottle. â Claire held her water bottle between her knees while she lifted her tray table and clipped it into the back of the seat in front of her. â âœHey!â • Little John called to Claire. âœWe want to see out the window.â • â âœSpeak for yourself,â • Kaz moaned. Looking out the window made him feel skizzy. â But Claire raised her water bottle to the window, anyway. â âœThanks, Claire,â • Little John said. âœIf you donâ™t want to see, Kaz, close your eyes.â • â So Kaz closed his eyes. He didnâ™t open them until the plane was safely on the ground. â ***** â Since Claire was traveling without an adult, a flight attendant walked her through the busy airport. Kaz and Little John remained inside the bottle. â âœThere she is! Thereâ™s Claire!â • A teenage girl with bright red hair waved eagerly. The lady beside her waved, too. â Claire grinned. âœThatâ™s my cousin and my aunt,â • she told the flight attendant. Rolling her suitcase behind her, she ran to the red-haired teenager and lady, and threw an arm around each of them. âœHi, Maddie! Hi, Aunt Beth!â • â âœOh, itâ™s so good to see you again, honey,â • Aunt Beth said, hugging her back. She glanced at the flight attendant. âœThanks for looking out for my niece.â • â âœMy pleasure,â • the flight attendant replied. She waved goodbye and hurried away. â âœHow was the flight?â • Aunt Beth asked Claire as they headed for the parking garage. â âœGood,â • Claire replied. â They took an elevator down to the second floor of the parking garage and walked over to a blue car. Maddie put Claireâ™s suitcase in the trunk. She started to open the front door, but then got into the backseat instead. âœI donâ™t get to see Claire very often, so Iâ™m going to sit in back with her,â • she told her mom. â âœIâ™m sure Claire would like that,â • Aunt Beth said. â Claire nodded. She held her water bottle on her lap while she buckled her seatbelt. â Aunt Beth started the car and drove out of the parking garage. â âœHey, Mom,â • Maddie said, leaning forward in her seat. âœCan I have the week off from homeschool to

hang out with Claire?â • Â â œNo,â • Aunt Beth said. She sounded surprised that Maddie would even ask. â œClaire probably has work from her school that she has to do while sheâ™s here.â • Â â œI do,â • Claire said. Â â œGood. If you spend your mornings on schoolwork, you can have the afternoons to do whatever youâ™d like. What would you like to do while youâ™re here, Claire?â • Aunt Beth smiled at Claire in the rearview mirror. Â Claire shrugged. â œI donâ™t know. Mostly just hang out with you guys. And go to the Halloween party at the library. Iâ™m looking forward to that!â • Â â œUnfortunately, there may not be a Halloween party,â • Maddie said glumly. Â â œWhat?â • Claire asked. â œWhy not?â • Â â œSome weird stuff has been happening at the library,â • Maddie said. â œKids arenâ™t signing up for the party because they think the libraryâ™s haunted. Remember before you moved, you told people you could see ghosts? I know I didnâ™t believe you then, butÂ .Â . were you telling the truth?â • Â â œMaddie,â • Aunt Beth laughed. â œYouâ™re fourteen years old. You know thereâ™s no such thing as ghosts.â • Â Little John clucked his tongue. â œThereÂ .Â . isÂ .Â . tooÂ .Â . suchÂ .Â . thingÂ .Â . asÂ .Â . ghostsÂ .Â . ,â • he wailed inside the bottle. Â â œLittle John!â • Kaz scolded. He clapped his hand over his brotherâ™s mouth. Â Maddie drew in her breath. â œWhat was that?â • She peered at Claireâ™s water bottle. She heard Little John, but she couldnâ™t see him. Â Even Aunt Beth turned to look. â œThat was a funny voice, Claire,â • she said. Â â œNo wailing! Remember?â • Kaz said to his brother. Â Little John lowered his eyes. â œSorry. But I donâ™t like it when people say thereâ™s no such thing as ghosts.â • Â Aunt Beth turned her attention back to the road. Â Maddie elbowed Claire. â œWhat was that?â • she asked again. Â Claire glanced down at her ghost friends. Â â œShould I wail some more?â • Little John asked Kaz. Â â œNo!â • Kaz said. Â Claire leaned toward her cousin. â œCan I tell you a secret?â • she whispered. Â â œOf course.â • Maddie looked at Claire curiously. Â â œI was telling the truth when I said I could see ghosts,â • Claire whispered. â œIn fact, I brought two ghost friends with me. Theyâ™re in here.â • She picked up her water bottle. â œThatâ™s what you heard just now.â • Â â œTheyâ™re in there?â • Maddieâ™s eyes opened wide. â œThey must be awfully small,â • she said in a low voice. Â â œThey can shrink and expand,â • Claire whispered. Â â œI wish I could see them,â • Maddie whispered back. Â â œWhat are you girls whispering about back there?â • Aunt Beth asked. Â â œNothing,â • Maddie said loudly. â œBetter not tell my mom,â • she whispered to Claire. â œSheâ™ll never believe you.â • Â Claire nodded. â œMost people donâ™t,â • she said softly. â œIâ™m used to it.â • Â So tell me whatâ™s been happening at the library,â • Claire said later when she and Maddie were setting up a cot next to Maddieâ™s bed. Kaz and Little John hovered above them. â œYou said kids werenâ™t signing up for the Halloween

party because they think the libraryâ€™s haunted.â€• â€• â€œIt is haunted,â€• Maddie said. She handed Claire two pillows. â€• â€œHow do you know?â€• Claire asked.â€•

Chapter 2: MEET LITTLE JOHN

â€• So tell me whatâ€™s been happening at the library,â€• Claire said later when she and Maddie were setting up a cot next to Maddieâ€™s bed. Kaz and Little John hovered above them. â€œYou said kids werenâ€™t signing up for the Halloween party because they think the libraryâ€™s haunted.â€• â€• â€œIt is haunted,â€• Maddie said. She handed Claire two pillows. â€• â€œHow do you know?â€• Claire asked. She plopped down on the cot and grabbed her notebook and pen. â€œHave you seen a ghost in the library?â€• â€• â€œNo, but Iâ€™ve heard it,â€• Maddie said. â€œSo have a bunch of other people. It lives inside the dumbwaiter.â€• â€• â€œWhatâ€™s a dumbwaiter?â€• Little John asked Kaz. â€• Kaz shrugged. â€• â€œWhatâ€™s a dumbwaiter?â€• Claire asked Maddie. â€• â€œItâ€™s like an elevator for books instead of people,â€• Maddie replied. â€œThereâ€™s a little compartment, and librarians put books in there and send them to people who want them on other floors in the library.â€• â€• â€œHmm, okay,â€• Claire said. She wrote Seattle Public Library Ghost in big letters in her notebook. Below that, she wrote lives in the dumbwaiter. â€œSo, is that where you hear the ghost? Inside the dumbwaiter?â€• â€• â€œYes,â€• Maddie said. â€• â€œWhat does it say?â€• Claire asked. â€• â€œIt doesnâ€™t say anything,â€• Maddie replied. â€œIt just cries and cries and cries. Itâ€™s a very sad ghost.â€• She sat down on her own bed across from Claire. â€• â€œWhat makes her so sure itâ€™s a ghost?â€• Kaz asked. So many of the cases C & K Ghost Detectives had solved ended up not being ghosts. â€• Claire wrote sad ghost and cries a lot. â€œHow do you know itâ€™s a ghost?â€• she asked. â€• â€œWhat else could it be?â€• Maddie asked. â€œPeople always think a real kid got stuck in the dumbwaiterâ€• â€• â€œGhost kids are real kids!â€• Little John blurted. â€• â€œShh!â€• Kaz said. He couldnâ€™t hear Maddie over Little John. â€• â€œSo they get a librarian to come open it up, but thereâ€™s never anyone in there,â€• Maddie went on. â€œThe crying gets louder, though, when the dumbwaiter is open. Plus, there are all these other weird things that keep happening at the library. Elevators and escalators stop working for no reason. Doors open and close all by themselves. Itâ€™s got to be a ghost, donâ€™t you think?â€• â€• â€œMaybe,â€• Claire said. She wrote down everything her cousin said. â€• â€œIf you can see and talk to the ghost, maybe you can find out why itâ€™s so sad,â€• Maddie said. â€œIf we fix whateverâ€™s wrong, maybe itâ€™ll go away. Then kids will sign up for the Halloween party, and we wonâ€™t have to cancel it.â€• â€• â€œIâ€™ll do my best,â€• Claire said, closing her notebook. â€• â€œGood. Weâ€™ll go to the library tomorrow. As soon as Mom says weâ€™ve done enough schoolwork,â€• Maddie said. She picked up Claireâ€™s water bottle and tried to see inside. â€œI canâ€™t believe your ghost friends can really fit in there.â€• â€• â€œOh, theyâ€™re not in there right

now,â • Claire said. Â â œTheyâ™re not?â • Maddie said. â œWhere are they?â • Â
â œWeâ™reÂ .Â . overÂ .Â . hereÂ .Â .Â . ,â • Little John wailed. â œBehind youÂ .Â .â •
He started to glow. Â Maddie turned. She opened her mouth, but no words came out. Â
â œMaddie, meet Little John,â • Claire said, gesturing toward him. Â â œHiÂ .Â .Â . ,â • Little John
wailed. He waved at Maddie. Â Maddie grinned. â œHey, I can see ghosts now, too! Just like
you.â • Â â œYou can only see him because heâ™s glowing,â • Claire said. â œThatâ™s what
ghosts do when they want us to see them. My other ghost friend, Kaz, canâ™t glow.â • Â
â œDonâ™t remind me,â • Kaz moaned. It was the only ghost skill he hadnâ™t learned yet. Â
â œBut heâ™s here, too,â • Claire said. â œKaz, say hello to Maddie.â • Â â œHelloÂ .Â .Â . ,â •
Kaz wailed. He tried to glow. He closed his eyes and clenched his fists and told his body to glow.
But as usual, nothing happened. Â â œHi,â • Maddie said. Â Little John stopped glowing. Â
Maddie blinked. â œHey, whereâ™d that ghost go?â • she asked. Â â œHeâ™s still there,â •
Claire said. â œIt takes a lot of energy for ghosts to glow, so heâ™s not glowing anymore.â • Â
â œYou mean heâ™s tired?â • Maddie asked. Â â œSort of,â • Claire replied, stifling a yawn.
â œGhosts donâ™t sleep. But they run out of energy if they use their ghost skills a lot.â • Â
â œSpeaking of sleep,â • Maddie said. â œYou look like you could use some.â • Â â œI am tired,â •
Claire admitted. â œItâ™s two hours later in Iowa than it is here.â • Â â œOh, thatâ™s right,â •
Maddie said, leaping up from her bed. â œYou should go to sleep. I think Iâ™ll go watch TV with
my mom. See you in the morning.â • Â â œSee you in the morning,â • Claire said, snuggling down
under her covers. Â ***** Â â œWow,â • Little John said from inside Claireâ™s water
bottle. â œHave you ever seen such tall buildings before, Kaz?â • Â It was Tuesday afternoon, and
Claire and Maddie were on a city bus headed for the library. Â â œNo,â • Kaz replied. â œBut
weâ™ve never been in such a big city before.â • Seattle was way bigger than their town in Iowa. Â
The bus made a wide turn into an underground passageway. It continued through a narrow
concrete tunnel, which eventually led to a large underground platform. A sign on the wall said
WESTLAKE CENTER. Â â œAre we getting off here?â • Claire asked Maddie as the bus slowed to
a stop. A bunch of people around them stood up. Â â œNo. Next stop,â • Maddie replied. Â The
bus lurched forward, picking up speed as it moved into another tunnel. Just then, two ghostly
figures, a man and a woman, passed through the front of the bus. Â â œWho are they?â • Kaz
asked as the other ghosts sailed over Claireâ™s head. Â Claire turned all the way around in her
seat and stared. Â Little John passed through Claireâ™s water bottle. â œHello?â • he called to
the other ghosts. Â â œGet back in here, Little John,â • Kaz ordered. â œClaire and Maddie are
getting off at the next stop.â • Â Little John exp-a-a-a-a-anded to full size and followed the other

ghosts. "LITTLE JOHN!" Kaz yelled. He passed through the bottle and hurried after his brother. The bus stopped at another underground platform. The girls stood up and started making their way down the aisle. Claire glanced nervously over her shoulder as the other ghosts passed through the back of the bus. "No! Come back, ghosts!" Little John cried, hovering in place. "Hurry, Little John," Kaz said. "We have to get back in the bottle." Claire was already at the front of the bus. "Go on, girls," the bus driver said. "I've got a schedule to keep." Maddie gave Claire a nudge, and the girls stepped off the bus, leaving Kaz and Little John behind. Not knowing what to do, Kaz grabbed Little John's suspenders and pulled him up through the top of the bus just before it sped away. "Oh, good. Now we can find those other ghosts," Little John said, looking all around. "But the other ghosts were gone." "We need to find Claire," Kaz said. He scanned the platform. He didn't see Claire anywhere in the crowd. Fortunately, he heard her: "Kaz? Where are you, Kaz?" "Where are you, Claire?" Kaz called back. "Over here. By the wall," Claire replied. Kaz grabbed Little John's hand and followed Claire's voice. "There they are!" Little John pointed at two girls who were leaning against the wall. Kaz and Little John dived down and passed through the side of Claire's water bottle. "Oh, good!" Claire said. She hugged her bottle as though she were hugging the ghosts. "I take it your ghost friends are back?" Maddie said. "Yes," Claire said. "But even though they were safe inside Claire's water bottle, Kaz's heart went Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! You can't go swimming off like that, Little John," he cried. "I just wanted to meet those other ghosts," Little John said. "We have to stick with Claire," Kaz said. "We don't want to get lost in Seattle." "You're not being very fun, Kaz," Little John grumbled. "And you're not being very careful," Kaz said. "What were Mom and Pops thinking when they said Little John could come to Seattle with him and Claire? Little John was an accident waiting to happen. " " " " "

Ah, what a super special this is! Author Dori Hillestad Butler has provided an appealing, fun, and satisfying finale to her charming series on a girl and her ghost friend who solve mysteries in haunted libraries. In time for Halloween! This time, the haunted library is in downtown Seattle "the odd-shaped glass-and-steel structure designed by Rem Koolhaas that opened in 2004. Young Claire is visiting Seattle from her home in Iowa - bringing two ghost friends in her handy water bottle when she finds out that the library had to cancel its Halloween Party because of some strange, ghostly happenings. She and her ghost friend, Kaz, along with her teenaged cousin Maddie, set out to solve the mystery. Are there really other ghosts who are causing these disruptions? Or are some

adults trying to fool the kids? Those who love Seattle will find many familiar settings, including the famous Underground Tour, and find out some fun facts along the way. Highly recommended for transitional readers • aged 6 to 8 years. And really it's not too scary.

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