

1: The House of Dies Drear

The House of Dies Drear (Dies Drear Chronicles Book 1) and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

The House of Dies Drear Author: It has a century-old legend -- two fugitive slaves had been killed by bounty hunters after leaving its passageways, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a station on the Underground Railroad, had been murdered there, The ghosts of the tree were said to walk its rooms Thomas was sure it did, but his obsession that the house give up its secrets led him in, t through the terror of entrapment in its labyrinth of tunnels and to an awesome confrontation with Pluto, the mysterious and formidable "devil" who jealously guarded the house. But what kind of danger, and why, and what did it have to do with running slaves and the ordeals of a hundred years ago? Thomas searches, and in searching finds not only the answer to these secrets from the past, but a deeper sense of his own connection to that past. Growing up on a small farm near Yellow Springs, Ohio, in the s, Virginia Hamilton was lovingly embraced by the sights, sounds and smells of rural America, and by a big extended family of cousins, uncles, and aunts. And what stories they told! He had also had plenty of company in this resolve: Fully 50, slaves passed through Ohio or settled there during ante-bellum times, aided on the Underground Railroad by Shawnee Indians and white abolitionists. The aging homes where the escaped slaves hid became catacombed with secret passages and hiding spaces. Young Virginia, named for her grandfathers home state, was one of these children listening at her mother and fathers knee. And out of that, maybe 40 of them were African-American books. She was born into a big farm family, the daughter of Kenneth James and Etta Belle Perry Hamilton; for company, she had two older brothers and two older sisters, hogs, chickens and other farm animals, and endless numbers of relatives who lived on surrounding farms outside the college town of Yellow Springs, Ohio. She describes her family as "rural people with not a lot of money"; her father was both a farmer and a dining hall service manager at nearby Antioch College. But, she says, her childhood was a tremendously happy one. Hamilton received a full scholarship to Antioch College and after three years transferred to Ohio State University and went on to New York and the New School for Social Research where she continued her study of writing. Unlike others of her age who are so often confused about vocation, Hamilton was always set on being a writer; "I started writing as a kid; it was always something I was going to do. The couple began a life together in the big city, writing as much as they could, making a living at whatever they could. During those early years, Hamilton relates, she worked at such varied jobs as cost accountant for an engineering firm, nightclub singer, and museum receptionist. Virginia and Arnold have two children, a daughter Leigh, and a son, Jaime Levi. In Virginia published her first book. Zeely, and shortly thereafter, she and her family moved back to Yellow Springs. Zeely is the story of a young girl in rural America who fantasizes that a tall majestic young woman in her town is an African queen, only to find out that she actually is. As a result, Zeely attracted considerable attention. This was, after all, the era of racial strife across the country, mixed with a rising credo of "black is beautiful. Not satisfied to rest on her laurels. Hamilton quickly turned out her next book, The House of Dies Drear, in It was rich with the historical research that would underline many of her subsequent works. And it harked back to the stories of liberation Hamilton grew up with in Yellow Springs, located just 60 miles north of the Ohio River; the legendary boundary between "slave" states and free. Published just a little over a century after abolition, the book delighted young readers, much as those old stories and secret passages had delighted the young author. Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush delved into the supernatural, introducing a ghost to usher the books characters into the past. In , Hamilton published an entirely different kind of book, The People Could Fly, a beautifully illustrated collection of true narrative and fantasy dating from slave times and encompassing tales ranging from "Bruh Rabbit" to a fantastical story of a slave who helps others escape by teaching them to rise into the air and fly away from their hot drudgery in the cotton fields Hamilton subsequently published two more books in this same genre: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom. The latter retold the stories of such historical figures as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglas, as well as their lesser known contemporaries like Henry Box Brown, a slave who enclosed himself in a crate

and mailed himself to freedom; and "Jackson," a slave who escaped north dressed as a maid. And people went for it strongly. In , Hamilton published *Jagarundi*, a picture book for young children, which offered a new slant on her liberation theme. An animal tale, *Jagarundi* was the tale of several little-known animals - among them a jagarundi or wild cat, a coati or type of raccoon, a kit fox, brush dog and capuchin monkey - all of which "discuss" among themselves the pros and cons of emigrating north from their home in the Central American rain forest, where their habitat is threatened by man, to an uncertain future in the southwestern United States. Hamilton calls her concern with the rain forest and other environmental troubles her "green theme": I grew up in this area where land and the importance of saving it is so very important. Young teenagers are particularly apt to enjoy *Plain City* , a book in which Hamilton takes up the issues of homelessness and racial prejudice. Buhlaire, who wants more than anything to know who she is, has always believed her father died in the Vietnam war. But one day, an adult points out that the timing of her birth makes this impossible; her father may still be alive. This revelation sends Buhlaire on a journey of discovery -- a journey that only begins when she finds her father living sadly and sordidly beneath a highway bridge, a homeless, mentally ill vagrant. En route, Buhlaire makes peace with her nightclub singer-mother who is never home, her aunts and uncles who hover but rarely connect and a strange boy in school who shadows her every move. She was restless, she was hunting something, she was always out on the landscape, and I wanted to put her in nature. We take our position then, rightly, as participants alongside the victim. We become emotionally involved in his problem; we suffer; and we triumph, as the victim triumphs, in the solution of liberation.

2: The Mystery of Drear House by Virginia Hamilton

The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton is a children's mystery novel, with sinister goings-on in a reputedly haunted house. It was published by Macmillan in with illustrations by Eros Keith.

Thomas Small is saddened to leave his hometown for the new house in Ohio, but he is excited about the history that surrounds the new house. The house Thomas and his family are to live in was once an important stop on the infamous Underground Railroad before the Civil War. However, the house is rumored to be haunted, a fact that seems to be illustrated the first night the family sleeps there and wakes to find odd triangles wedged into the door frames of the bedrooms. Now Thomas has a mystery to solve and only a short period of time in which to do it. The House of Dies Drear is a haunted house story that is not only filled with suspense, but with a history that will keep the reader fascinated long after the final sentence. Thomas Small and his family are leaving their home in North Carolina to live in a new house in Ohio. Small, is a history professor who has always been fascinated by the Underground Railroad that smuggled slaves to the North and Canada before the Civil War. The house the Small family is to live in in Ohio was once an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Thomas is just as excited as his father to explore the many hidden tunnels that are suspected to run under and through the house. Thomas and his family arrive at the house of Dies Drear and discover it to be somewhat frightening in the way it sits nestled against an imposing cliff. Thomas immediately begins to explore the house and discovers a tunnel that opens with a push of a button under the front porch steps. Thomas explores the tunnel, but becomes frightened when he loses his light and begins to hear a strange breathing sound in the dark. Thomas screams for help and is shocked when a wall suddenly opens, exposing the kitchen of his new home and his family settling down to dinner. The first night in the new house Thomas vows to remain awake so that he might see the ghosts of Dies Drear and two slaves that are rumored to haunt the house. Thomas settles in the parlor, but quickly falls into a deep sleep, waking late in the morning with only a short time to prepare for church. Someone or something came into the house in the middle of the night and left three triangles wedged into the frames of the three bedrooms where the Small family slept. The Small family goes to church and discovers a wariness in the community not only toward them, but toward the caretaker of the house, Mr. Thomas expects the community to welcome them and come to the house to visit, but they do not. Instead, the Small family goes for a drive through their new town and stops at the college for lunch. When they return home, they discover that someone has broken into the house and destroyed the kitchen. Small marches off to accuse Mr. Pluto of the vandalism, but discovers that Mr. Pluto has been protecting the property for years against the Darrow family, a local family who are convinced that Dies Drear left behind a great treasure and it should belong to the Darrows. Small and Thomas plot with Mr. Pluto and his son, Mayhew, to scare away the Darrows. They lay in wait in theatrical makeup and frighten the Darrows, wounding their pride, and convincing them to leave Mr. Pluto agrees to allow Mr. Small to catalogue the impressive treasure collection Dies Drear left behind after his death. This section contains words approx.

3: The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton

The house held secrets, Thomas knew, even before he first saw it looming gray and massive on its ledge of rock. It had a century-old legend -- two fugitive slaves had been killed by bounty hunters after leaving its passageways, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a.

Synopsis[edit] The setting of the story is Ohio in Thomas Small, a year-old African American boy, moves with his family into a house that was once part of the Underground Railroad. Small, tells Thomas that the caretaker of the house is Mr. Pluto. People think he is the devil because Mr. Pluto rides an old buggy driven by two horses and because Pluto is the Roman name for Hades. They meet a malicious family next to them, the Darrows. Summary[edit] Thomas Small is a year-old boy, moving with his family from North Carolina to Ohio. His father is a history professor who has leased the historic home of the abolitionist Dies Drear. The house has been mostly empty for years, and is riddled with hidden passageways that were used to hide escaping slaves on the Underground Railroad. An elderly caretaker named Mr. Pluto lives in a cave on the property, which he has converted into a home. There are rumors that the house is haunted by the ghosts of two escaped slaves who were captured and killed, and by the ghost of Dies Drear himself. Upon arriving, the Smalls find that Mr. Pluto has already arranged their furniture for them. Thomas gets lost inside it and hears strange sounds as he scrambles to find a way out. Finally he hears his mother talking and pounds on a passage wall, which opens up into the house. His father warns him not to go exploring the passages, as they might cave in. Thomas explores outside the house near dark, and accidentally strays across the cave Mr. Pluto has converted into his house. Pluto terrifies Thomas and catches him, unusually strong and fast for such an old man, and chases him back to the house. Thomas keeps calling Pluto a devil. Pluto eventually apologizes after he realizes Thomas is not one of the local children, who he says often sneak around his home to torment him. He delivers an ominous warning about haunting in the area before he leaves. Thomas is certain that Pluto is hiding something. Thomas decides to sleep on the couch rather than in his new bed room, so that he can see if anyone approaches the door. During the night, someone sneaks into the home through a secret passage and hides a small metal triangles in the door frame of each of the 3 bedrooms. The Smalls find them in the morning, unsure what they mean, though they determine they form an incomplete square with a greek cross inside when put together. When the Smalls attend the local black church, they are met with a cool reception by the small-town families. Mac Darrow, his father, and his three elder brothers are present and particularly cold. Pluto attends and Pesty sits with him, as Pesty is one of the only people Mr. Pluto is friendly with. During the sermon, Mr. Pluto behaves oddly and even kneels on the floor despite the protests of one of the Darrows. Thomas is saddened by the unfriendliness of the local people, contrasting it with how guests often visited his family after church in North Carolina. The family goes to lunch at Mr. Small find a fourth triangle in Mr. They arrive home to find that the kitchen has been wrecked. Someone has made a mess of the food all over the floor, the counter, the sink, and the furniture. The dishes are all broken. Small, furious, suspects Mr. Pluto and takes Thomas with him when he goes to confront the caretaker. Pluto flees into the cave. While looking for him, Thomas and his father find another secret passage that leads deeper into the cave. Here they find Pesty and Mr. Pluto in a cavern full of historic artwork, tapestries, glasswork, ledgers, and carvings. The cavern is a constant, dry temperature that has preserved the pieces. Pluto is sitting at an old and fine desk, and begins to confess he is sorry for trying to trick the Smalls and only did it because he was afraid. While talking to Mr. Pluto, they are confronted by a man who looks just like him. Thomas attacks him in desperation, and he reveals he is actually Mr. Pluto has protected the secret for years, but when he started to get sick he worried that the Darrows would notice and take advantage of his weakness. The Pluto that chased Thomas before was actually Mayhew in disguise, explaining his strength and odd behavior at the house. Pluto inside once, but has helped him keep the secret instead of telling the Darrows. Pluto and Mayhew feared that the Smalls would be like the Darrows and pose a threat to the historic artifacts in the cavern, but they now see that Mr. Small has a great appreciation for history and can be trusted with the secret. Small explains what happened in the house. Darrow would not have done it, so it had to be the three older brothers. Mayhew returns with the Smalls and

helps them clean up their kitchen. Together they hatch a plan to scare the Darrows away for good by pretending to be the ghosts of Dies Drear and the escaped slaves. The next day, they set a trap for the Darrows by telling them Mr. Pluto had to be sent to the hospital and will be back in 24 hours. The original plan is to send Mr. Pluto agrees to see a doctor later, but only if he is allowed a part in scaring the Darrow boys. Pluto also explains the triangles the Darrows hid to scare the Smalls, which are part of a navigation method that was used to guide escaped slaves to places of safety along the Underground Railroad. The men prepare, and lay out in the forest to wait. When the Darrows arrive at Mr. Small, Thomas, and Mayhew menace them while dressed as ghosts, and Pesty has used glowing paint to make one of Mr. The Darrows flee in terror, though there is no doubt they will realize it was all fake later. Their pride is sufficiently hurt. After the Darrows are driven off, Mr. Small takes to helping Mr. Pluto catalogue the artifacts in the cavern. They agree to keep the secret, at least until that is done and it is ready to show to the historical society. Thomas looks forward to starting school and making friends, possibly including young Mac Darrow.

4: The House of Dies Drear Questions

The house held secrets, Thomas knew, even before he first saw it looming gray and massive on its ledge of rock. It had a century-old legend -- two fugitive slaves had been killed by bounty hunters after leaving its passageways, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a station on the Underground Railroad, had been murdered there.

Chapter 4 Research time! Write a two or three paragraph description of what the Underground Railroad actually was. How did it actually work? Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Using crayons or colored pencils draw our first image of Mr. Pluto as Thomas saw him in the woods on p. Chapter 7 Create a detailed pencil sketch of Mr. Pluto according to the description on pages Chapter 9 What is the hypotenuse of a triangle? Draw a triangle and label the hypotenuse. Chapter 10 Research time! What does this song have to do with this book? Chapter 11 Draw what a skeleton key looks like p. At the bottom of p. Chapter 13 Chapter 14 What are stalactites and stalagmites? Create a pencil sketch of the cavern with them in it p. Chapter 16 So, what was the plan to get rid of the Darrows? Chapter 17 Describe what the crosses were used for as part of the Underground Railroad. What was a conductor? What was a freeman? Chapter 18 Using dark colored paper and light colored crayons or colored pencils, draw what Mayhew looked like as he lay in waiting for the Darrows to scare them p.

5: The House of Dies Drear (Audiobook) by Virginia Hamilton | www.enganchecubano.com

The House of Dies Drear is a young adult novel by American author Virginia www.enganchecubano.com Drear was first published , and is a ghost story (maybe!) and a mystery (definitely!), told mostly from the point of view of Thomas Small, a thirteen-year-old boy.

6: The House of Dies Drear () - Black Horror Movies

The House of Dies Drear 1h 56min | Crime, Drama, Fantasy | TV Movie A young black man and his family move into a home in rural Ohio, and discover that during the Civil War it was used by a Dutch immigrant to smuggle runaway slaves to freedom.

7: The House of Dies Drear Summary and Analysis (like SparkNotes) | Free Book Notes

The House of Dies Drear begins with a dream. Thomas Small is in a pine forest running from a scary man with a white beard. When he wakes up he realizes he's in a car with his parents and his toddler twin brothers, Billy and Buster.

8: The House of Dies Drear | Multnomah County Library

The House of Dies Drear is set in the s in a small Ohio town. More than one hundred years earlier, the town was a stopping point for enslaved people travel-.

9: The House of Dies Drear Summary & Study Guide

One hundred years ago, Dies Drear and two runaway slaves hiding in his house, an important station on the Underground Railroad, were murdered. Legend has it that the ghost of Mr. Drear still haunts the lonely old house.

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