



2020

Wait Till Helen Comes

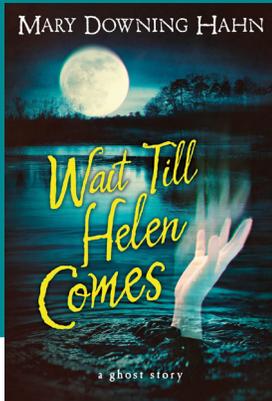
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Book Review

Wait Till Helen Comes

Author

Mary Downing Hahn

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

192

Year

2008

ISBN

9780547028644

Publisher

Sandpiper

Molly and Michael have a new stepsister, Heather, who does everything she can to make their lives miserable and drive a wedge between her father and their mother. When the family moves to a converted church, Heather becomes fascinated by a hidden grave that has her initials on the stone. As she pulls farther away from the family, Molly begins to realize that she is in real danger from a mysterious ghost named Helen. Then, Helen tries to drown Heather in the pond. When Molly rescues and revives her, the girls find shelter in an old cottage, where they discover the bones of Helen's parents. Among the wreckage, Heather confesses that she accidentally started the fire that killed her mother, leading the girls into a new relationship as sisters.

This book expresses real challenges told from Molly's very authentic perspective. With less than exemplary parenting, Molly is left to care for Heather and she is blamed for her flaws. Molly is a good example of a teen doing her best to figure things out on her own, as she resolves Heather's problems by uncovering her festering guilt. Molly encourages Heather to bring the truth out into the open and forgives her with understanding that may not be completely deserved. Molly sets a brave example as she learns to see past Heather's misbehavior and her own fear. It is satisfying that at least one person in the family has grown-up potential. This book is recommended for those with fearless paranormal cravings, especially those who are struggling with a new blended family situation.

*Contains mild violence.