



The Boggart

By Susan Cooper

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A Boggart tries to find his way home in this twenty-fifth anniversary edition of Newbery winner Susan Cooper's classic tale of magic and mischief.

When Emily and Jess Volnik's family inherits a remote, crumbling Scottish castle, they also inherit the Boggart that lives there—an invisible, mischievous spirit who's been playing tricks on residents of Castle Keep for generations. Then the Boggart is trapped in a rolltop desk and inadvertently shipped to the Volniks' home in Toronto, where nothing will ever be the same—for the Volniks or the Boggart.

In a world that doesn't believe in magic, the Boggart's pranks wreak havoc. And even the newfound joys of peanut butter and pizza and fudge sauce eventually wear thin for the Boggart. He wants to go home—but his only hope lies in a risky and daring blend of modern technology and ancient magic.

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The Boggart By Susan Cooper Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Newbery Medalist Cooper (*The Grey King*) spins a tale both haunting and comic, in which a Scottish spirit inadvertently moved to Canada pines for his ancestral manse. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-- The Volnik family inherits a rundown old castle on an island off Scotland and visits their new property. After returning home, 12-year-old Emily and 10-year-old Jessup notice strange things happening. Their detective work eventually discloses the cause--a mischievous boggart has accidentally become trapped in a piece of furniture the family shipped home to Canada. Unfortunately, no adults believe them. The children claim innocence on Halloween night as pieces of furniture fly through the air and a bucket of water soaks their mother. Eventually, the boggart's pranks begin to cause serious problems; he becomes intrigued with the power of electricity, and causes a traffic accident that lands Emily in the hospital. Finally, he learns to communicate with the children by computer, causing the message-- "I want to go to my own country"--to appear in Gaelic on Jessup's screen. When he gets trapped in a black hole in a computer space-adventure game, the youngsters devise a daring, risky, and ultimately successful plan to help the boggart return home. The novel is fleshed out with numerous, vividly realized secondary characters, including various actors at the Chervil Playhouse, where Mr. Volnik is artistic director, as well as the novel's true villain, Dr. Stigmore, a psychiatrist and a parapsychology scholar who insists that Emily is a troubled adolescent in need of hospitalization. The intelligently thought-out clash between the ancient folkloric creature and modern science guarantees a wide audience. A lively story, compelling from first page to last, and a good bet for a read-aloud. --Ellen Fader, Westport Public Library, CT

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Review

"The Boggart is a fascinating character, sly, ingenious, and endearing...What is most admirable is Susan Cooper's seamless fusion of the newest technology and one of the oldest forms of wild magic." (*The Horn Book*, starred review)

"[T]old with Cooper's usual imagination and grace; the Boogart is entrancing--a magically witty mix of fey spirit, comfort-loving cat, old man set in his ways, and child taking gleeful delight in his own mischief--of which there is plenty, all splendidly comical." (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review)

"The intelligently thought-out clash between the ancient folkloric creature and modern science guarantees a wide audience. A lively story, compelling from first page to last, and a good bet for a read-aloud." (*School Library Journal*, starred review)

"Ms. Cooper's grasp of reality is as firm as her hold on the surreal...as long as writers with Susan Cooper's skill continue to publish, magic is always available." (*The New York Times Book Review*)

"[T]his boisterous romp draws upon the same powerful pre-Christian magic at the heart of Cooper's well-known *Dark Is Rising* sequence. " (*Publishers Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Frazier:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book The Boggart it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Gerald Rountree:

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Alma Miranda:

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