



Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World

From Puffin

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What is real and what is imaginary? Do evil creatures lurk in the shadows? Do demons attack the helpless? Are there such things as invisible men? For generations, storytellers have given substance to our worst fears. In *Ask the Bones*, master storytellers Arielle North Olson and Howard Schwartz retell a varied selection of the world's most frightening folktales. Be warned-these stories could scare you to death!

Illustrated by David Linn.

"These twenty-two stories provide a wide variety of supernatural happenings that won't disappoint the young horror acolyte." (*The Horn Book*, starred review)

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Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World From Puffin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #218800 in Books
- Brand: Puffin
- Model: FBA-|296734
- Published on: 2002-08-26
- Released on: 2002-08-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.80" h x .50" w x 5.10" l, .30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Readers looking to be scared (but not too scared) will find chills aplenty in this collection of 22 smoothly told folktales from many cultures. The volume opens with several stories in which protagonists (almost always male) witness supernatural horrors—a Japanese student's drawings of cats save him from a ravaging goblin rat; a Charleston boy's employer is meted out gruesome but just deserts after imprisoning a mermaid in a bottle. The tone darkens as the volume progresses, with the innocent as well as the guilty coming to grisly ends. Picture book author Olson (*Hurry Home, Grandma!*) and folklorist Schwartz (*Next Year in Jerusalem*) don't exploit the blood and gore of the horror genre; their stories usually end just before the carnage begins, leaving readers with a thrill of horribly delicious anticipation. Rather than striving to impart the different flavors of their original sources, the authors favor a deceptively casual voice throughout, one that would lend itself to a storytelling session around a campfire or after lights out. Final artwork not seen by PW. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-A collection of 22 stories, 6 from the United States, and others from Russia, Persia, Mexico, Germany, Iceland, England, Uzbekistan, and Spain, among other places. The retellings are spare, with little description, explanation, or enhancement to the "bare bones" of the tales. Although the selections do not read aloud well, there is the potential for storytellers to create more tellable versions by embellishing upon them with their own style. The strength of this book is in the tales included. Many are hard to find in print, especially for this age group. Source notes appear at the end. The black-and-white charcoal drawings scattered throughout do little to add to the mood of the text. This title will not have the appeal of Alvin Schwartz's "Scary Stories" books (HarperCollins). However, if your scary-story readers have exhausted your current titles, you may want to consider this one.

Molly S. Kinney, Office of Public Library Services, Atlanta, GA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr 5⁺-9. This varied collection of scary tales includes 22 stories from around the world, ranging from ghost stories to tales about witches and voodoo spells. In most of the selections good triumphs over evil. The title piece tells of young Yusef's outwitting his evil employer who has left his workers to starve to death atop a mountain. Other tales feature merchants, servants, travelers, pirates, and even a young boy studying for his bar mitzvah. More haunting than the stories themselves are David Linn's bone-chilling black-and-white illustrations, which will stay with the reader long after the book is closed. Excellent for reading aloud, this collection will satisfy even jaded genre fans. Sources are included. *Helen Rosenberg*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stuart Ross:

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have

time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They need to answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World to read.

Virginia Swain:

This book untitled Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this e-book from your list.

Victor Green:

This Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World is great e-book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World in your hand like getting the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no guide that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that will?

Rose Taylor:

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