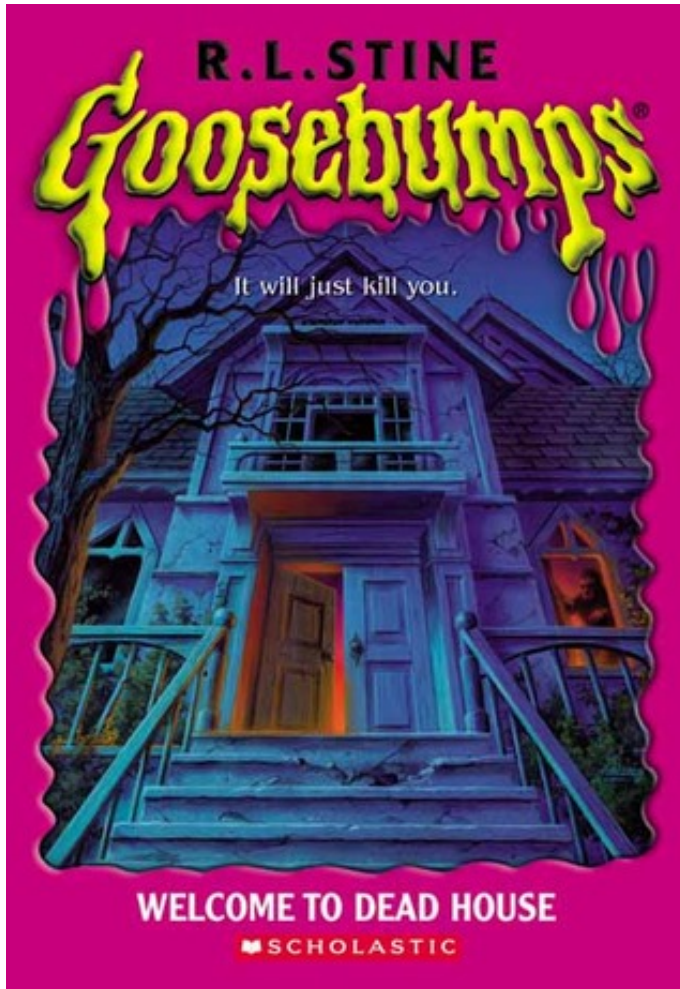


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**R.L. Stine**

**Welcome to Dead House (Goosebumps #1)**



Title: Welcome to Dead House  
(Goosebumps #1)

Author: R.L. Stine

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## Description

Amanda and Josh Benson move into a new house in Dark Falls, where the residents are all zombies who have died while living in the same house and are preparing to make the Benson family one of them, as they need blood to survive.

## Insightful reviews

Daniella: One of the better installments in Stine's series, I think. It was actually pretty gruesome; first Amanda's dream, and then all the talk about skin falling off and skulls cracking open and bones disintegrating. Yum. It doesn't really go into great detail, but I still sat here with an "ew" look on my face as I was reading, so I imagine it should be gross and scary enough for the book's target audience. Also, for once it wasn't completely predictable. When Petey started going crazy, and with all the whispering sounds and moving curtains and mysterious appearing-then-disappearing children, I thought it would have something to do with ghosts, not the living dead. However, it's pretty obvious from the start that something is up with Mr. Dawes and all those weird ass kids, but then again, it *is* a kids' book. Maybe most kids won't notice, or something, I don't know. Also, I thought the ending was a nice touch, and really leaves you wondering.

Becky: So, my friend [Stepheny](#) put it out there that she wanted to read these this summer and was all...



I raised my hand. Because when I was a kid, I LOVED these books. They came out around the time I turned 10, and I was that kid who read anything and everything I could. I was the girl who WANTED reading homework. I looked forward to the Scholastic Book Fair all year long. I did the summer reading program and read circles around my classmates. By the time these books were being published, I was already reading the gamut, from Beverly Cleary to Stephen King and Dean Koontz to Little Women. If it was printed, I'd try to read that shit.

But I love horror and always have. (I remember watching Tales from the Crypt while my mom got ready to to go work at her 3rd shift security job - and I couldn't have been older than 7. Pet

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Semetary came out around the same time, and that shit traumatized me. The cat. And Zelda. \*shudder\* That freaks me out to this day!) So these books, along with the Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark, were great. They were my bus-ride-to-school reads. A little aside here: My bus driver loved listening to the radio on her route, and she loved hip-hop and R&B. So I have strange associations between 90s hip-hop music and middle-grade horror stories. I can't hear the song "My Lovin'" by En Vogue without picturing this:



It's stuck in my brain for life.

Anyway, so I read a lot of these books as a kid, and they were fun, light, nominally scary stories that were easily accessible. You never really feel like anything truly bad is going to happen because they were aimed at people of my age group (at the time) and nothing bad happens to kids. It's against the rules! It was the horror I wanted to read, but without the trauma of actual horror. It didn't keep me up at night, like Child's Play did. That fucking DOLL. Ruined dolls for me forever.

Reading this now, it's even more clear that these are innocent books geared towards kids who like to be scared but don't want to risk too much. There's an out built in to every story. This one was the house that they conveniently didn't sell yet before moving to the Mystery Uncle's estate house. So you know right then that there's little risk to the family - they can always just pick up and go home.

These books don't really hold up to much scrutiny though. I mean, for one, if a mysterious uncle left me a house that is 4 hours away, in a town I'd never heard of, I think I'd need to do a little bit more research than a single, hectic, sullen-tween-dragging walk-through. I'd need to investigate the schools and the neighborhood at a minimum, because they are supposed to actually LIVE there after they move. But right there, things would fall apart. Because there'd be nothing to investigate. There are no neighbors, and there are no teachers or students - not even a creepy lunch lady!

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But OK, they do the walk-through and decide to move, because the house is paid for and they wouldn't have a mortgage anymore and dad would totally be able to dedicate his time to writing full time. Right on. Except... Why not sell the house you just got gifted, and use that money to pay off your own house, so you don't have to uproot your whole family and move to the corner of Nowhere and Nothing? Well, I mean, of course, besides the fact that there wouldn't be much of a story if they did that.

Anyway, so they pick up and move, and then things get all weird. There's ghostly footsteps and whispers in the house, and it's cold, and dreary, and "drafty". The kids, Amanda and Josh meet some weird neighborhood kids who play softball and promptly go home for lunch at 11:30am every day, and who all seem to have lived in the house that the main characters now live in. And then the dog goes missing.

Now this dog is very undoglike. I mean, it barks and runs, but if I didn't know better, I'd think that this dog was supposed to be human. They talk to it and treat it like human, which is understandable, because I talk to my cats like they are little furry humans... but my cats still act like cats - even when I anthropomorphize their behavior in my head. But this dog.. I think he thought he was human, too. It was just... not doggy enough to be real, and it was distracting and kind of obnoxious. This dog was like a precocious 4 year old child.

But anyway, Petey the dog goes missing, and the whole world collapses... and then this story takes a hard left turn from Campy Good Time Rd onto What The Hell Is Going On Blvd. The last quarter of this book RACES along, and compared to the previous 75%, which was a bit draggy and repetitive and slow, it just feels like the end is supposed to show up so suddenly that we overlook any of the stuff that it actually consists of.

The explanation for the town weirdness is literally one half of a line of dialogue. That's not counting the current reason for the family being there, which is repeated over and over... but how it all started is of the blink-and-you'll-miss-it variety.

The timeline gets incredibly wonky at the end. One minute it's "after midnight" and the kids leave the house to walk to the cemetery to find the missing dog, because they're sure it will be there. Then, after they've searched for their dog, found him, and also discovered some disturbing things in the graveyard, they run home, where they are ambushed by all the neighborhood kids. It's mentioned then that it's 2 AM, and that their parents should be home from their party (convenient) by now but they aren't and WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY? Then the only other adult in the story shows up and tells the kids that they have to get out of there now, that it's dangerous, and he'll take them to their parents... so they hop in his car, and race back to the cemetery.... At which point apparently it's now daylight. Not dawn's-early-light, but full on daylight... in the course of less than an hour.

It's a strange little story, and like I said, it doesn't really hold up well under scrutiny, but for what it is, and its intended audience, it's not the worst thing I've ever read. It's quick, and light reading, so it's good for an in-between-books filler read.

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Anne: I read this because I promised my 11 year old that I would read it with him. He hates to read anything that isn't a comic book, or at the very least, in graphic novel format. Since he loves all things creepy, I thought that this would be a great way to finally get the kid to read something with actual chapters!

I think this is probably as close to perfect as it gets for a reluctant reader like my son. The chapter are short (two or three pages at the most), and yet packed with super-creepy stuff. Nothing too graphic or gory, but still scary enough to keep a kid like mine interested. I think this book is a great introduction into the horror/paranormal genre for older children.

I think this would probably be suitable for ages 10 and up.

Dana: This ebook quite introduced me again to my childhood. I had continually enjoyed Goosebumps books, yet somehow had by no means heard or learn this one. I used to be no longer disappointed! even though this ebook is advertised in the direction of more youthful individuals, I discovered myself getting a bit worried or even anxious for the characters at times. After reading, which I controlled to do in approximately afternoons, it simply made me are looking to learn all the Goosebumps books as soon as again.

Tiana: Honestly, you cannot say a lot approximately R.L. Stine books. they're meant for children, so in fact they don't seem to be going to be written in any respect well. So, giving that I am now not a child, I could not deliver myself to offer any of the Goosebumps books greater than 2 stars at my present age, yet I do take into account loving those books as a child... and that's why I selected to choose them up again! This is the 1st e-book within the Goosebumps series, so it certainly holds a different position in my heart! This ebook obtained me into those books while I used to be a child... and those books have been what acquired me so seriously into reading! Basically, this is often a few relatives that strikes to a brand new town. every thing turns out normal, yet their puppy is performing more unusual than normal. Then Amanda and Josh begin to see humans within the house, and their mom and dad don't think them. Finally, they become aware of that the full city is dead... and so they all died whereas dwelling of their house! The ghosts kidnap their mom and dad to begin the ritual to kill them, yet Amanda and Josh sabotage the whole lot simply in time to save lots of them.

Nikki: So it's like this. 12 yr previous Amanda and her eleven 12 months previous little brother Josh aren't too delighted approximately being uprooted from the home they've lived of their whole lifestyles simply because a few lifeless Uncle Charlie (that not anyone even knew anyway) left their Dad a home in his will. yet right here they're in darkish Falls anyway, simply because really, there's in simple terms a lot whining and complaining a child can do. So like I said, now we're at this creepy outdated apartment coated in coloration timber (along with the remainder of the neighborhood) and little brother Josh comes to a decision that he'd particularly remain open air with Petey, the family's puppy terrier, who for a few cause can't stand to be round someone within the complete neighborhood. Petey runs away, Josh follows, kin freaks out, all of them finally end up within the cemetery. A foreshadow of items to come? Let's locate out. a couple of days pass, the relations will get settled in, Amanda's been seeing young children upstairs yet we could everybody speak her into believing that she's simply seeing things. Josh has been having nightmares and doesn't are looking to discuss it. There are whispers and billowy curtains even if the home windows are closed. It's all beautiful freaky.

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seems darkish Falls is a ghost/zhombie-esque village that received destroyed after the freak "yellow-gas" incident a number of years ago. town doesn't ceremonial dinner on brains though, so no concerns there. simply clean blood as soon as a year."I used to reside on your house."

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