



The Mystery of Hurtleberry House

C.L. Ragsdale

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The host of a paranormal investigation show? For REBOOT? The worst TV station EVER?!

Not the career move that reporter Irene Waters ever wanted, but with a scandal now on her resume she can't be picky. So teamed with a cameraman who thinks he's seen it all, they are sent to a rumored haunted house called Hurtleberry.

With a name like that who wouldn't be terrified?

Things soon take a turn for the weird, just not the kind of weird they were expecting. But it's interesting, and might even be dangerous.

Still, if they pull it off The Reboot Team might actually get a good story out of it.

If the story doesn't get them first.

The Mystery of Hurtleberry House Details

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From Reader Review The Mystery of Hurtleberry House for online ebook

Susan says

First of all a disclaimer: I am the sister of this author. Now, having said that, let me say this: I enjoyed this book very much. It is very much as the author herself proclaims, "A Scooby-Doo, type mystery." Nefarious elements hide behind the supposedly supernatural to inflict harm on an innocent they wish to swindle. And they would have "got away with it too, if it wasn't for those kids." But in this case the "kids" are a hurting Christian newsperson and her skeptical cameraman. The book is a fun ride, and the author does a good job keeping the rides on the track.

My only real criticism is the over-use of Great-Aunt Minerva, and her "wise old sayings". And of course, since this book spotlights sister vs. sister issues, and I am the author's sister, I cannot help reading too much into the conflict between the sisters. I sincerely hope the author was strictly using her imagination with sisters Jessica and Jennifer and was not probing her own psyche. Nah, it's just a fun book. My advice: Read it, read it, read it! My little sis created a fun place and a fun story where the good guys win and the bad guys wind up in the clink. And sets up a new world where there is more sinister stuff ahead...

C.M. says

Okay, I was surprised to admit I liked this one. I didn't expect much going in, but as short as the book was, there was a lot packed in. The characters were realistic and the humor strong, with a subtle Christian message woven throughout. Though the mystery wasn't hard for me to solve, it kept me gripped to my Kindle until 3:40 in the morning, on a work day! If I wind up reading any of the sequels, I'll make certain I do it on my day off!

Cana Elene (<http://placeofreeds.blogspot.com>) says

So if Nancy Drew was a Christian who grew up to be a news reporter for an obscure network as a debunker of ghosts -- This would be her story.

Irene Waters is a news reporter who is trying to heal after what her last network did to her. Troy Stenson has a bad habit of putting himself into dangerous situations. Together they are teamed up to debunk the story of the ghost of Hurtleberry House.

I love how you think you know who is the villain, but until the last 20 or so pages, you don't know exactly. I think it gives a great beginning to the Reboot Files series. Also there is an underlying mystery that you have to continue the rest of the series to figure out... I really want to know who those strange people are at the end of the book!

You will get to learn some big words (Irene says a lot of them), and you will even get to learn the meaning of hurtleberry (read the book or find a dictionary to find out).

The great thing about this book/novella is that is a quick read, but it is even quicker because you are trying to figure the whole thing out! I highly recommend this to anyone who wants a quick read and loves a good mystery.

D.M. Dutcher says

Well, I liked the idea of it, but the book is much more christian than mystery. Irene is a disgraced reporter from a big news station who is forced to take a job with the tiny Reboot network, being the lead in a "Ghost Hunter" type show. Her first job is checking for ghosts in a rather ugly house owned by twin sisters. Is it really haunted?

The mystery part is rather small, perfunctory, and boring. This isn't a long book by any means, which makes it puzzling why she spends so much time on the interior life of Irene. There's not really any hijinks like in Scooby Doo, or suspense like in Nancy Drew, and it feels a bit too much like she should show more and tell less.

The characters though are interesting. Irene is a rather no-nonsense woman who ironically is cast as a skeptic on the show by the host's producer. She's all right, but I'd like to see some more life to her, and more interaction with Troy, her cameraman. Troy is decent: he makes a good sounding board and feels lively. The interactions between them feel a little too bloodless though: Troy essentially gives up hitting on her after one attempt and treats her like a sister, where some chemistry might show their personalities better. Bob is okay, but a bit annoying when he preaches. Also, who says "Little Miss" to a grown woman in the modern age? The rest are just stock roles.

The writing is all right. A bit bland. Christians I think will like the doctrine, as it feels pretty well handled. I'd like to praise the ending, as it sets up the next book nicely, closes with a nice image, and adds an extra hint of meaning to events that I would have liked to see better integrated with the book. Ebook formatting is all right.

I also really enjoy the idea and premise of the book. Unfortunately at this point it seems much more potential than actual. With more focus on the mystery, and a bit tighter hand on and livelier banter between characters, I think I'd enjoy it more.

Sharon says

This book, about two reporters for a "rag" that features stories on haunting sand "alien" abductions was surprisingly good. We get some interesting characters, a ghost story and a mystery. I could have done without the emphasizes on Christians (meaning only born again Christians) saving others, but it wasn't too over the top and the people did use their religious beliefs to help and care for others. I definitely recommend this book.

Danielle Turko says

Fresh from the controversy at her last station for supposedly having an affair with her boss, Irene goes to

Reboot, thankful to have a job that is still in the media even if she has to report on paranormal activities. She firmly believes there's no such thing as ghosts though, and sets out with the attitude of disproving ghosts. It won't be easy when her cameraman is more interested in reporting the interesting story and not the facts. Their first assignment takes them to a house that is supposedly haunted by a vengeful owner from the past. An afternoon spent interviewing residents however, paints a whole different picture of the house. Nobody in town has ever considered it haunted, and the only sources who do say it is can only back up their claims to a few months before. The 2 sisters who brought the show in seem to be sincere in their belief, but it also looks like someone is staging the whole thing for their benefit. Can Irene catch the ghost, or is the paranormal really at play here?

As someone who loves Scooby Doo I was reminded of the series, but scooby doo does it better in my opinion. There were some obvious plot holes, and the who done it part was not really surprising, although the why was something I didn't see coming. All in all, if it wasn't for the very last chapter leaving some unanswered questions about the Secretary, I wouldn't even be tempted to read any more books in the series. As it stands, if I find another book for free I would read it, but I definitely wouldn't pay for it

Jill says

This was such a fun read. The characters were fun, the writing smooth and easy and the mystery was well kept until the end. Not to reveal anything but the butler didn't do it! :) Read this book!

? Grammy ? says

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This was a short and cozy mystery with Christian influence.

The characters were charming and it definitely had some fun parts.

The fascinating words really piqued my imagination and kept my dictionary app busy.

Lynda Knapp says

Light and easy reading!

I enjoyed this book and the characters. Irene and Troy were realistic, as was Bob. This light and easy mystery can be read in an afternoon. Well done, CL Ragsdale!

Shaeza Haniff says

The Reboot Files #1 is the first book in the Christian Paranormal genre that I have ever read. It is refreshing in its content and follows the trials of a strong, intelligent, sesquipedalian Christian heroine in her first

assignment for a Christian TV show.

While reading this book I was very often reminded of the detective solving skills of that famous young detective we all love so much, Nancy Drew.

This is a whodunit with a comical twist. A real surprise. Definitely looking forward to the rest of the file drawer.

This book will be a favorite among both Christian and non Christian youth as there much to be gained from this story. As a parent of a sixteen year old, I would feel very comfortable having her read this one.

Nola Arganbright says

Paranormal or something else

A Christian based mystery. A very compelling plot. The characters back stories are of major interest to this and future books of the series.

Carree Lee says

The book kept my interest. In my view the book was reminiscent of A Scooby Doo Mystery sans Shaggy, and Scooby. I think the book and series could be successful if the author would promote the book to the appropriate market.

The main character reminded of a combination of Thelma and Daphne. I think the author may have tried too hard to make this a christian mystery book, with some of the references and thoughts the character had about God and the Bible.

Bonny Millard says

Fun Reading

This story involves Irene and Troy, anchorage and cameraman. Old Bob completes the triangle of discovery. Fun with a few typos.

Ashley Dawn says

I completely enjoyed this book. Irene has had some trouble in her past career. She was a Christian reporter that no one believed and now is working for a 'paranormal' show on Reboot, trying to prove/disprove ghost. Her current assignment is Hurtleberry House. Partner and cameraman Troy is one of the first to actually ask her what happened instead of assuming the worst and is quickly gaining her respect. The old house is odd but doesn't quite ring true as a haunted house....that is until they learn of something sinister going on under its

roof!

I love Irene! She is a quirky character with a propensity for long words and a shaken faith in God. Still, she is a strong believer and stands true in her beliefs. Troy is not a believer but I love his character too. He has his own way of thinking things through. The two sisters were interesting and entertaining, but my favorite character was the grounds keeper Bob. He was just perfectly written!

I rate this a 5/5. I can't wait to read the rest in this series :)

Thank you to the author for the review copy of this book. I received this book in exchange for an honest review and the opinions stated above are 100% mine.

Susan Barton says

Irene Waters is trying to recover after being fired from her former job. She's devastated after being wrongly accused of engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a top executive, and has now moved on to a newer and much less glamorous position as the host of a low-budget ghost adventure show. As a devout Christian, Irene's position is to function as the show's resident skeptic. Irene and cameraman, Troy, are dispatched to their first paranormal investigation. Will Irene become a paranormal believer, or will she be able to get to the bottom of what's really going on at the Hurtleberry House?

I enjoyed this book. It had a reasonable amount of suspense to keep me reading along. It's definitely heavy on religion and Biblical scripture (it's a Christian Mystery after all), so readers may either love or hate this depending upon their own beliefs.

Since this is the first book in the Reboot Series, and it's currently free, I think it's an excellent way for readers to decide if they're willing to read the entire series. It's short – just 116 pages and things move along at a nicely brisk pace. The writing is charming and engaging. Recommended!

5 of 5 Stars, Susan Barton, <http://ebookreviewgal.com>
