



Being Dead

Vivian Vande Velde

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From the hilarious to the horrific, master storyteller Vivian Vande Velde explores the world of the dead--and the undead--in this surprisingly moving collection of unnerving tales.

Being Dead Details

Date : Published September 1st 2003 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published September 1st 2001)

ISBN : 9780152049126

Author : Vivian Vande Velde

Format : Paperback 203 pages

Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Ghosts, Supernatural

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Melissa says

Melissa Wickelhaus

Short Stories

Being Dead by Vivian Cande Velde contains seven short stories about death, ghosts, cemeteries, and other such dark things. One story follows Brenda, a teen who moves to country with her family and is haunted by the dripping wet, bloody ghost of a young girl riding a bicycle. After a few days of being tormented by the ghost, Brenda realizes that her involvement with the young girl is much more serious than she thought. Another story tells of a man who never treated his wife right, and when she dies he claims that if only she could come back for one night, he would dance with her until she was happy. Then the ghost of his wife comes back and she dances with him out of the house and to her grave; he never turned up. None of the stories are overly scary, but should appeal to most horror fans.

Dexter says

Rarely do I enjoy every story in an anthology, but every story in Being Dead entertained me in one way or another. Some stories were terrifying, some touching, and some hilarious. My favorite is probably the short and simple story "The Gost."

SECOND time reading it:

Oh my gosh I love all these stories so much. I could remember how all of them were going to end, so I kind of wish I could go back to that state of shock and awe that is so rare when reading a book. But I still got to relive all of those moments, remembering how it felt when I first read it, and rejoicing over the fact that I was able to read them again.

Drop by Drop - So good. So chilling.

Dancing with Marjorie's Ghost - Not my favorite, but still cool.

Shadow Brother - Very disturbing, and also heartbreakin.

The Ghost - LOVE.

For Love of Him - A tragic and strangely touching little story.

October Chill - This is an odd one, which I think could've been explored in depth. Would've made a very cool full length novel.

Being Dead - An awesome way to end the anthology.

Debbie says

Creepy collection of short stories. The first story, "Drop by Drop," was my favorite. Brenda is sullen and unpleasant to be around when her parents decide to move to a new house in a tiny little town. Brenda's mood does not improve when a dripping girl who no one else can see appears in the house.

Not gory, just creepy.

Syanna says

I just finished a scary, mysterious book called *Being Dead* by Vivian Vande Velde. This book tells some scary, short stories. They are all about people finding ghosts in their houses, ghosts talking to people and more. I really like scary or mysterious stories, hopefully you do too if you are thinking about reading this book.

Jodie says

A chilling book of seven short stories, each a little different. The cover is enough to give you nightmares. I'm not a fan of short stories, I am a series girl, but for some reason I picked this one up and so glad I did!

Drop by Drop is a 60 page tale of a young girl and her family moving to the country. Once arriving only Brenda seems to be having visits from something beyond this world. Once she realizes just what, or should I say who it is it'll leave you stunned.

Dancing With Marjorie's Ghost is an eerie story consisting of nine pages. Let's just say husbands will learn from Conrad Sharpe. Treat your wives well!

Shadow Brother this one is 40 pages long. Guilty conscience? Guilt comes back to haunt in this ghost story. *The Ghost* 8 pages. Would you haunt where you died?

For Love of Him Ah! The anniversary of a death means the dead get more powerful! This was a good one! 18 chilling pages. They can suck you in...

October Chill 40 pages long. Emily is dying. John shows up, possibly sensing the weakness? The loss of life? As they grow on each other, in the end, John helps Emily like no other can.

Being Dead Johnny's day was going great until he got killed. Now, he lays dead and is being robbed. He can't allow that to happen. That's for his mother. He must get even! This story is 28 pages.

Melissa Aguirre says

I'd recommend this book to middle school aged children who are wanting to read ghost stories. It is comprised of several short stories that are interesting to read. There's nothing really gruesome in the book and there's no vulgar language. The stories are entertaining and could be creepy to younger readers. I enjoyed the book.

Allison Parker says

This collection of short stories, some scary, some not, investigates that mysterious boundary between life and death. Vivian Vande Velde uses surprise, intrigue, fear, and even a little humor to entertain her readers. The first story, "Drop by Drop," is by far the stand-out: a teen girl, depressed at having to move with her family

into the country, discovers a ghostly visitor upon their arrival. The ghost, a little girl, makes herself known only around water. When she appears, she is also drenched in water, and the teen narrator must figure out why. The ghost is legitimately frightening, and Vande Velde uses this story to probe into literary ideas of perception and unreliable narrators. Following stories are less frightening, but young readers will enjoy the twists Vande Velde employs, tapping into reader's deep desire to be shocked and surprised.

Cait says

Most of the stories in this book are straightforward and well-done ghost stories -- "The Ghost" is obvious but amusing, "Shadow Brother" and "For Love of Him" are creepy as advertised, and "October Chill" and "Being Dead" are touchingly sad. "Dancing with Majorie's Ghost" is silly, and not as interesting as the others.

"Drop by Drop" is *horrifying*. Not terrifying. When you get to the end of the story (or near enough to put the end together) and realize what's happened, it's horrifying, of the put-the-book-down-and-shudder variety. It took me a month or so to tentatively pick up the book and dare the other stories, which are not horrifying. So...well done, I guess?

Jun says

this is like one of the best ghost story books i read. some actully sounds so real that it give me night mares. but it is a good book after all. so if you are not sacred of reading scared things or love to read scary things, you should go pick up one of this book and read it yourself. you can read it to your friends as ghost stories and get them sacred!

Lanie says

A collection of short stories I picked up to start my Halloween tradition of reading scary stories.

Was not impressed. A rather dull, confusing first story that leaves me with no desire to finish the book. :/ I think it's just my intense dislike of short stories coming through, because the actual novels I've read by this author I've liked.

Not this.

I think I'll go try a zombie apocalypse book now.

TheSaint says

Being Dead, another book of creepy short stories by Vivian Vande Velde, will not disappoint the many fans of her horror fiction. Ghosts are the theme of each of these seven stories -- ghosts who may or may not really want to haunt the living. And the living are (mostly) not thrilled to be haunted. This is one of the author's

best efforts.

Abby Cavenaugh says

I enjoyed this book very much. My favorite stories were "Drop by Drop," which had a fantastic teen voice that reminded me of the YA I'm writing, and "October Chill," which was a very cool teenage-girl-in-love-with-a-ghost story. All of the stories were creepy and very well written. I'd recommend to anyone who loves a good ghost story! :)

Vixie says

I really enjoyed this book, but I wish there weren't seven stories. It was very interesting to be able to get to read a different variety of stories, but it would be better if it was less then seven. Overall the book was very intriguing and mysterious, and do recommend if you like to get a little scared.

?randomly Me? says

This book scared the crap out of me but it made me realize the importance of life and opened my eyes to something I never really thought of, be aware that you will cry at some points and be scared at others.

Rebecca McNutt says

Being Dead is a gripping anthology but I found there to be very little originality in it, and the juvenile style didn't seem to fit with the heaviness of the subject matter at all.
