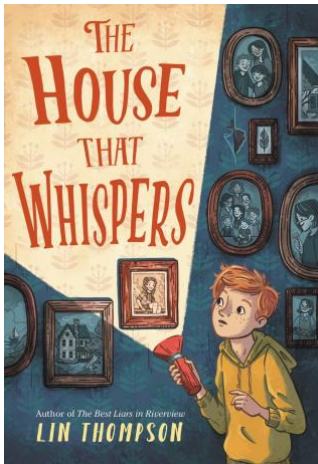


## Book Resume: The House That Whispers



***The House That Whispers* by Lin Thompson**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023

ISBN: 9780316277112 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 8-12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4-7 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

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**From the author of *The Best Liars in Riverview* comes a subtle exploration of gender identity, family, and the personal ghosts that haunt us all, perfect for fans of Kyle Lukoff and Ashley Herring Blake.**

Eleven-year-old Simon and his siblings, Talia and Rose, are staying the week at Nanaleen’s century-old house. This time, though, it’s not their usual summer vacation trip. In fact, everything’s different. It’s fall, not summer. Mom and Dad are staying behind to have a “talk.” And Nanaleen’s house smells weird, plus she keeps forgetting things. And these aren’t the only things getting under Simon’s skin: He’s the only one who knows that his name is Simon, and that *he* and *him* pronouns are starting to feel right. But he’s not ready to add to the changes that are already in motion in his family.

To make matters worse, Simon keeps hearing a scratching in the walls, and shadows are beginning to build in the corners. He can’t shake the feeling that something is deeply wrong...and he’s determined to get to the bottom of it—which means launching a ghost hunt, with or without his sisters’ help. When Simon discovers the hidden story of his great-aunt Brie, he realizes that Brie’s life might hold answers to some of his worries. Is Brie’s ghost haunting the old O’Hagan house? And will Simon’s search for ghosts turn up more secrets than he ever expected?

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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“Thompson (*The Best Liars in Riverview*) punctuates a gentle story of bonding with genuinely scary moments and lovely descriptions of gender euphoria.... Reminiscent of Kyle Lukoff’s *Too Bright to See*, it’s an intriguing, warmhearted exploration of beauty and change.” —Publishers Weekly

“Readers exploring their own gender identities will find a friend in Simon, who knows who he is but is adamant that it’s nobody else’s business and that if/when you come out, it is something you choose, not something you owe anyone. Highly recommended for fans of Kyle Lukoff.” —Booklist

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“Thompson’s sophomore novel is a blend of mystery, light horror, and a coming-of-age tale.... Recommended for purchase where there is high demand for stories focused on identity for younger readers.” —School Library Journal

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2024 CCBC Children’s Choices List
- New York Public Library Best of 2023

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [The House That Whispers Book Club Guide](#)
- [Lin Thompson Presents THE HOUSE THAT WHISPERS](#)
- [BookPage - What Simon says—and doesn’t say](#)
- [YA Books Central - Author Chat With Lin Thompson \(THE HOUSE THAT WHISPERS\)](#)
- [Out with Dan LGBTQ+ Authors and Allies Podcast](#)
- [Geeks Out Interview with Lin Thompson](#)
- [South Florida Gay News Interview with Lin Thompson](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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As a librarian, I strongly support the freedom to read. I believe books are crucial in helping kids understand the world around them and themselves. Growing up without access to language to describe my trans identity—growing up without access to books about trans characters—didn’t stop me from being trans. It just left me isolated, and it taught me to be secretive about parts of my life. Encouraging kids to read widely, including reading books about LGBTQ+ characters, can open lines of communication and build trust between kids and their caregivers as kids learn to navigate their world.

In some ways, *The House That Whispers* is a book about parents avoiding uncomfortable conversations with their children. They avoid those conversations out of a desire to protect their children from stress, not realizing that their silence is causing much more stress and slowly breaking their children’s trust in them. I think adults sometimes underestimate how aware kids are about what’s going on around them—but kids are often very aware, and they’re curious, and books are one of the safest, most accessible ways for them to explore and understand both the people around them and themselves.

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the

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appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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