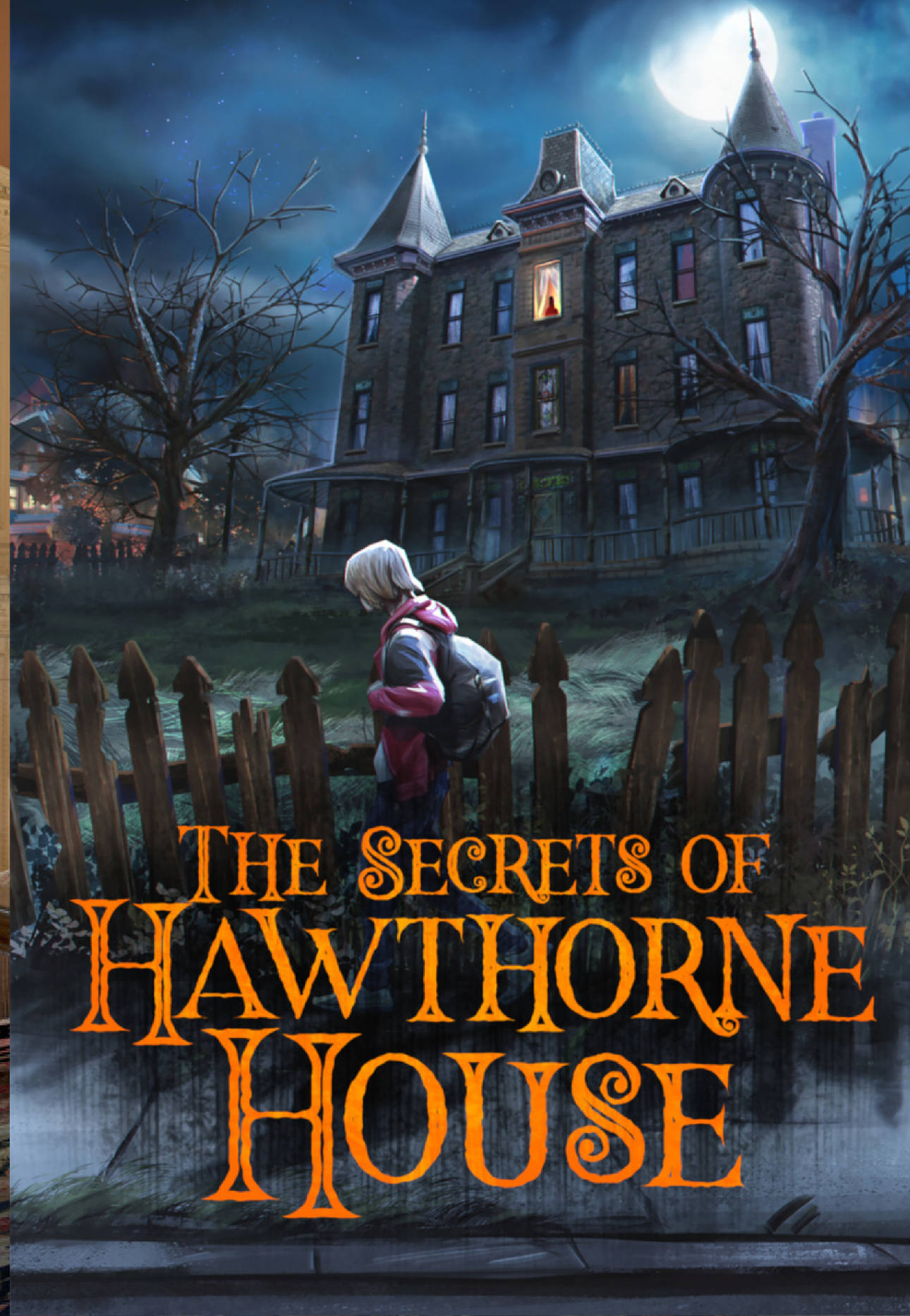


Donald Firesmith



Book Club Resource Guide

The Secrets of Hawthorne House

by Donald Firesmith



A grand, ornate library with a curved bookshelf, a chandelier, and a patterned rug. The room is filled with books and framed pictures, creating a classic and elegant atmosphere.

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING
THE SECRETS OF HAWTHORNE HOUSE
FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK CLUB READ**

From Grief to Wonder: A Journey of Magic and Friendship (page 1 of 2)

Dive into the enchanting world of *The Secrets of Hawthorne House*, a multi-award-winning young adult paranormal fantasy that masterfully addresses themes of grief, fitting in, bullying, financial hardship, and respecting others' beliefs and cultures. And it does so while weaving a spellbinding narrative of adventure, friendship, mystery, and ancient magic.

After the tragic death of his mother, Matt Mitchell's grieving father moves him and his twin sister away from the sea they love to the small Midwest town of Hawthorne, Indiana. As a new out-of-towner at the local high school, Matt's despair and anger grow when he becomes the target of relentless bullying. He is soon warned that Old Lady Hawthorn, the secretive recluse who lives in the dilapidated Victorian mansion next door, is a witch who murdered her husband. But once Matt starts working for her, he discovers she is something altogether different. When the old lady's niece and her three children move into the mansion, Matt's dreary world takes an extraordinary turn.

Matt meets Gerallt, and their unexpected friendship changes Matt's life forever. As they become best friends, Matt discovers a world brimming with secret magic and an ancient Celtic god, challenging everything he thought he knew. Together, the two boys confront the school bullies with a blend of cunning and magical mischief, embark on a thrilling quest for lost treasure, and uncover the profound secrets hidden within Hawthorne House.

WORD COUNT: 99,000

PAGE COUNT: 422

ILLUSTRATIONS: 2

GENRES: Young Adult, Coming of Age, Witches & Wizards, Urban Paranormal

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1726283151

KINDLE ASIN: B07GV2F814

AUDIOBOOK ASIN: TBD

From Grief to Wonder: A Journey of Magic and Friendship (page 2)

Winner of eleven book awards, *The Secrets of Hawthorne House* is more than a story of friendship; it is a journey into a world where magic is real, cultures clash, and a lost treasure waits to be found. This meticulously crafted coming-of-age story balances the real with the fantastical, weaving a rich tapestry from elements of urban fantasy and Celtic mythology.

Critics and readers have praised *The Secrets of Hawthorne House* for its ability to cover complex issues while maintaining a lighthearted and engaging tone that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. With descriptive prose, a multifaceted plot, and memorable characters, this book captivates and delights with wisdom, humor, and heart. The characters' personal battles resonate deeply with readers of all ages.

More than merely a story of two friends, *The Secrets of Hawthorne House* is a journey through grief, the struggle against discrimination, and the discovery of inner strength amidst adversity. Whether you're a young reader or simply young at heart, it delivers an unforgettable adventure that bridges the gap between the ordinary and the extraordinary. With its unique blend of realistic struggles and magical escapades, this novel is a treasure trove of lessons on life, acceptance, and the unbreakable bonds of friendship. Pick up a copy now and join Matt and Gerallt as they uncover the true secrets of the Hawthorne House.

Book Awards



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are designed to delve into the book's deeper themes and character dynamics, providing a platform for engaging and meaningful discussions.

1. How does the theme of grief shape the character's journey throughout the novel?
2. Discuss the significance of the Hawthorne House and its impact on the characters' lives.
3. The book addresses the clash of different cultures. How are these cultural differences portrayed and resolved?
4. What role does bullying play in the story, and how do the characters respond to it?
5. Explore the family dynamics in the book. How do the relationships evolve among the Hawthornes and the Mitchells?
6. How does the author blend elements of urban fantasy and Celtic mythology in the narrative?
7. The novel covers complex issues like discrimination and financial hardship. How are these topics woven into the story without overshadowing the magical elements?
8. Discuss the character of Old Lady Hawthorn. What are your thoughts on her backstory and development?
9. Magic plays a crucial role in the plot. How does the discovery of magic change Matt's perspective on life?
10. Friendship is a central theme. How does Matt's friendship with Gerallt influence his character growth?
11. Analyze the book's portrayal of the 'found family' concept. How does this theme resonate with the characters?
12. What lessons on life, acceptance, and friendship can readers take away from the novel?
13. How does the author use humor and heart to balance the more serious themes in the book?
14. *The Secrets of Hawthorne House* is a coming-of-age story. In what ways do the characters come of age, and what does that mean in the context of the book?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Donald Firesmith is a multi-award-winning author of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, paranormal horror, and modern urban paranormal novels and collections of short stories. Because of his strong background in software/system engineering and science, his science fiction is well-researched, and he relies on numerous science, technology, and military technical advisors to ensure that the non-speculative aspects of his stories are realistic and believable.

Prior to retiring to become a full-time novelist and short story author, Donald Firesmith earned an international reputation as a distinguished engineer, authoring seven system/software engineering books and nearly 300 technical articles and conference papers based on his 40+ years spent developing large, complex software-intensive systems.

He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his wife Becky, and varying numbers of dogs and cats.

<https://donaldfiresmith.com>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1290902.Donald_Firesmith