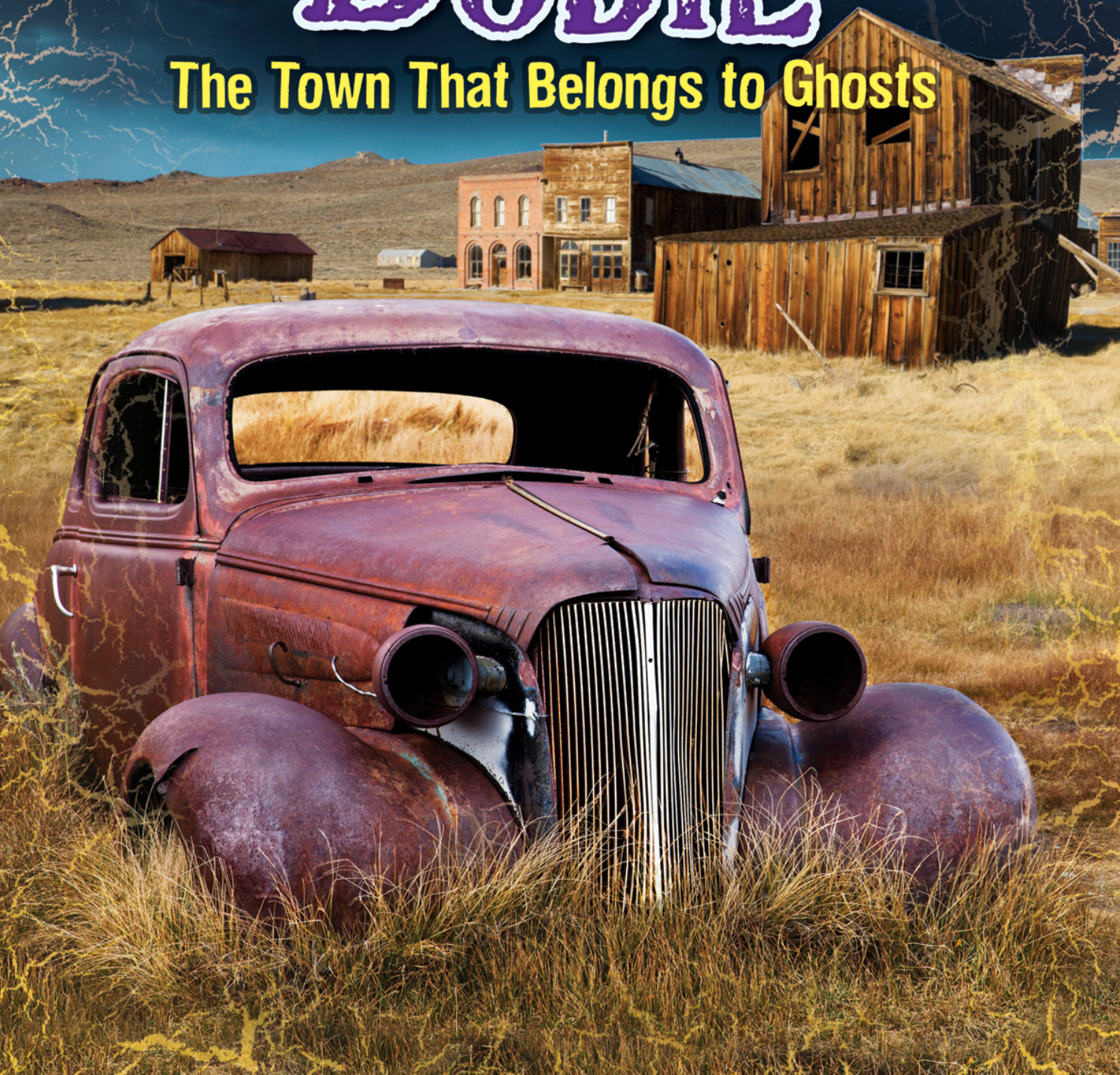


**ABANDONED!**  
Towns Without People

# BODIE

**The Town That Belongs to Ghosts**





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Towns Without People

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**The Town That Belongs to Ghosts**



**by Kevin Blake**

Consultant: Brad Sturdivant  
President, Bodie Foundation  
Bridgeport, California

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# The Town That Vanished

On July 4th, 1880, Bodie, California, was a lively, noisy place. **Citizens** of the town crowded onto Main Street to celebrate the holiday. Among them were **prospectors**, miners, gamblers, and even gunfighters. They were from many different places—from Chicago to China—but they all had something in common. They had come to this dusty, **remote** spot in the mountains to find gold.



Bodie, around 1890



Bodie wouldn't stay crowded for long, however. Within fifty years, the town's Main Street would be filled with a ghostly silence. Today, only five percent of the original buildings are left, and they are slowly crumbling back into the earth. An **eerie** wind blows through their cracked windows. Where did everyone go? What happened to the once-**thriving** town?

### Bodie today



In 1880, Bodie and Los Angeles had nearly the same number of people. Today, almost four million people live in Los Angeles—and only a few people live in Bodie.



# Eureka!

For most of the 1800s, there was no town of Bodie—only empty, rocky land. In 1848, however, something happened that would change life in many parts of California. Gold was discovered. As a result, more than 300,000 people arrived in the area in a flood of activity that became known as the California Gold Rush. One of them was W. S. Bodey, a businessman from New York.



**A man searches for gold in a river during the California Gold Rush.**



In the summer of 1859, Bodey and his four partners hiked over California's Sierra Nevada mountains to look for gold. They searched through the rocks and gravel until . . . **eureka!** Bodey found a few glittering **nuggets**. The men had discovered their **fortune**—or so they thought.

The Sierra Nevada mountains



Gold nugget



The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range that stretches between California and Nevada.



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin Blake lives in Portland, Oregon—not a ghost town!—with his wife, Melissa, and son, Sam. This is his third book for children.



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# BODIE

**The Town That Belongs to Ghosts**

In 1880, citizens of Bodie, California, crowded onto Main Street to celebrate the Fourth of July. Among them were prospectors, miners, gamblers, and even gunfighters. They had all come to this dusty, remote spot in the mountains for one reason—to find gold. Within fifty years, however, the town's Main Street would be abandoned and filled with a ghostly silence. Where did everyone go? What had happened to make them leave? Look inside to find out more about Bodie, including how and why its citizens left their once-bustling town.

**BODIE**  
**The Town That Belongs to Ghosts**

**CLIFF DWELLINGS**  
**A Hidden World**

**ROANOKE ISLAND**  
**The Town That Vanished**

**SALTON SEA RESORT**  
**Death in the Desert**

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