

Cold Whispers



The DOOMED AMUSEMENT PARK

by Michael Teitelbaum

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by Michael Teitelbaum

illustrated by Ron Bucalo

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Contents

CHAPTER 1

The Fun House. 4

CHAPTER 2

Back to the Fun House! . . . 10

CHAPTER 3

A Real Thrill? 18

CHAPTER 4

The Truth, At Last. 24

WHAT DO YOU THINK? 30

GLOSSARY 31

ABOUT THE AUTHOR 32

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR. 32





The Fun House

Leo Colsen walked slowly down a long, dark hallway. Cobwebs dangled from the ceiling and stuck to his face. A huge rat scurried past him, and Leo jumped. Then he pressed his back against the wall and slowly continued walking.

“Okay, this is just the haunted fun house in an amusement park,” Leo said out loud, trying to relax. “It’s just for fun.”

Suddenly a soft voice called out to Leo.

“Help me,” said the voice. “Help me escape.”

The voice echoed down the hall. Leo looked around but saw no one.

“Help me escape,” the quiet, moaning voice said.

“Who are you?” Leo asked.

The voice continued, “Starling Highway . . . past Old Mill Road . . . turn onto Walnut Lane.”

Leo realized that the voice was giving him directions. But to where?

“This is nuts!” said Leo when the voice finally stopped.

Suddenly a swarm of bats flew right at him. He turned to the right and dashed down a narrow hallway. That's when he smelled the smoke. Ahead, a wall of flames rose from the floor. Leo skidded to a stop. Looking back over his shoulder, he saw a second wall of flames behind him, moving toward him.

"Oh no, I'm trapped!" Leo cried. "I'm trapped—please somebody help me!"





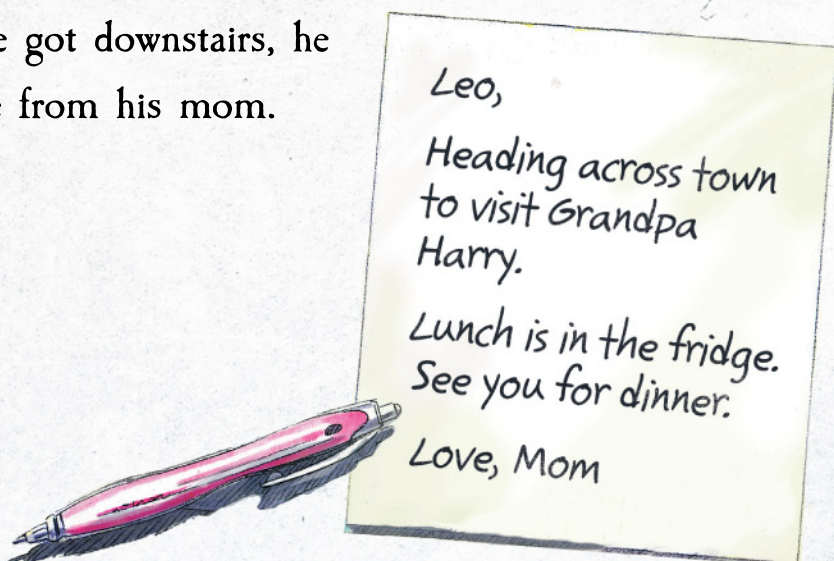
Leo's eyes popped wide open. He **bolted** upright in bed, sweat dripping down his forehead. The twelve-year-old boy had never had a dream that scary in his whole life.

"Oh, man, it was just a dream," he mumbled. "But it felt so real."

Leo wanted to find the amusement park he had seen in his dream. He had to see that fun house for himself.

Then he remembered the pleading voice giving him directions and asking for help. He grabbed a pen and paper and quickly wrote down the directions before he forgot them.

When he got downstairs, he found a note from his mom.



A few minutes later, Leo had a map in hand and was pedaling his bike, following the directions he had written down from his dream. At the outskirts of town, he turned onto a bumpy dirt road called Walnut Lane. But when he arrived at the end of the road, he saw nothing but a bunch of bushes.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Teitelbaum is the author of more than 150 children's books, including young adult and middle-grade novels, tie-in novelizations, and picture books. His most recent books are *The Very Hungry Zombie: A Parody* and its sequel *The Very Thirsty Vampire: A Parody*, both created with illustrator Jon Apple. Michael and his wife, Sheleigah, live with two talkative cats in a farmhouse (as yet unhaunted) in upstate New York.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ron Bucalo's work appears in a variety of publications, from *Guitar Magazine* and *Agent & Manager* to *Ellery Queen*. A New York-based illustrator, he has contributed corporate concept work for clients including Ford/SFX, MTV, Nabisco, and Nielsen Media, and completed projects for Children's Television Workshop, Mattel, and the Disney Company. He regrets missing out on painting nose art on World War II bombers.

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The DOOMED AMUSEMENT PARK

Trapped in an amusement park fun house, a fire raging, and no way out . . . Leo told himself it was just a scary dream and that was all! But was it? Or was it a warning of something to come? Leo was about to learn that sometimes, dreams are born out of real, live nightmares!

Beware the Pharaoh's Tomb!

Curse of the Haunted House

The Doomed Amusement Park

The Ghost at The Grand Inn

The Horror in the Cave

Night of the Gravedigger

The Secret of the Tragic Theater

Terror at the Ghost Town Mine

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