

The background of the cover is a dark, atmospheric cave. Stalactites hang from the ceiling. In the foreground, a human skeleton lies on the sandy floor. Several black bats are in flight throughout the scene. A banner with the text 'Cold Whispers' is at the top, accompanied by a skull. The title 'The HORROR in the CAVE' is prominently displayed in the center. The author's name 'by Sonia W. Black' is at the bottom right.

Cold Whispers

The HORROR in the CAVE

by Sonia W. Black

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The HORROR in the CAVE

by Sonia W. Black

illustrated by Kristin Kest

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The Island in the Lake

It was a hot August night at Piney Hill boys' camp. Most of the campers had gone to sleep, but lights shone brightly inside Maple, Red Oak, and Willow, the cabins for campers aged 12 to 14. Tonight was the ghostly scavenger hunt. Matt, Charlie, Russell, and Ethan, bunkmates in Maple cabin, were full of excitement about this activity that was bound to be *the* highlight of the summer. They waited anxiously for the announcement to start the hunt.

"I bet it's going to be awesome!" said Matt, on his top bunk, playing a video game.

On the bunk underneath, Charlie looked up from his comic book. "Yep! You know it," he exclaimed. "I can't wait!"

"I think—this scavenger hunt—is going—to be—a blast!" huffed Russell between pushups.

“Uh . . . for sure,” Ethan murmured, biting his nails. He stood by the window, staring out at the pitch-black night. Ethan loved camp, but he hated the dark.

Ethan and the other boys looked up as the loudspeaker in the cabin made a crackling sound. “Here comes the announcement,” said Matt.

The camp director’s voice boomed through. “Listen up,” said Mr. Wallace. “All campers in Maple, Red Oak, and Willow, promptly report to your counselors at lakeside.”





The campers quickly dashed from their cabins and gathered by the lake with their counselors. Ramon, who was the head counselor as well as the counselor for Maple, directed the group to sit in a circle. He stood in the center and gave instructions.

“All right, guys,” he said, “in a few minutes, we will row over to Bat Island for the scavenger hunt. Let’s go over some important matters first. As you know, we have three teams here. The boys in each cabin make up a team. The other counselors and I have hidden nine items on the island for you to find. The

team that finds the most items wins. And the winning team gets the awesome prize of a sleepover on Bat Island!"

"YAY!" the campers cheered.

Ethan raised his hand. "I have a question, Ramon. Someone said the island is haunted. Is it really?"

"Well," replied Ramon, "we know the island is **inhabited** by *hundreds* of bats. That's why it's called *Bat* Island."

"And there's a **legend** that tells of a huge bat cave on the island. But no one has ever found it," added Tarik, Team Willow's counselor.

"And some people," added Bruce, the counselor for Red Oak, "say *really* strange things have been known to happen on the island at night."

"What—what—kinds of things?" Ethan asked.

In a low voice, Bruce replied, "They say werewolves, zombies, and vampires roam around in the dark looking for human **prey**. So," he added in a whisper, "the scavenger hunt should be really spooky fun." Then he cackled loudly.

"You're up for some *spooky* fun, right guys?" Ramon asked, winking.

The campers laughed nervously. *They're just kidding*, Ethan thought, trying to feel brave.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sonia W. Black is a longtime editor and writer of children's books in a wide range of formats, including picture books, chapter books, and young adult novels. She's written beginning readers such as *Hanging Out with Mom*, *Plenty of Penguins*, and *Mommy's Bed*. For an older, third-grade audience, her titles include the biography *Mae Jemison*, and the science-based nonfiction book *Animal Mysteries*. Sonia resides in the Garden State, New Jersey, with her two loveable pups, Coco and Lucky.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kristin Kest has been an illustrator for more than 25 years. She has worked with many publishing companies to create more than 30 science and nature titles. Her art has also been featured in kids' magazines, botanical calendars, and other printed works. Kristin's current project, a fantasy graphic novel called *Lost in Dreams*, will soon be released by New Worlds Comics. Kristin also likes to play the piano, and lives with her partner and three cats in a 250-year-old log house in the Pennsylvania woods.

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Cold Whispers

The **HORROR** in the **CAVE**

Ethan had an uneasy feeling. . . . Would a sleepover on a dark deserted island be fun or just plain scary? He got his answer when he awoke in the middle of the night to the sound of fluttering wings outside his tent—wings that would lead Ethan and his friends to a terrifying encounter in a hidden cave!

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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