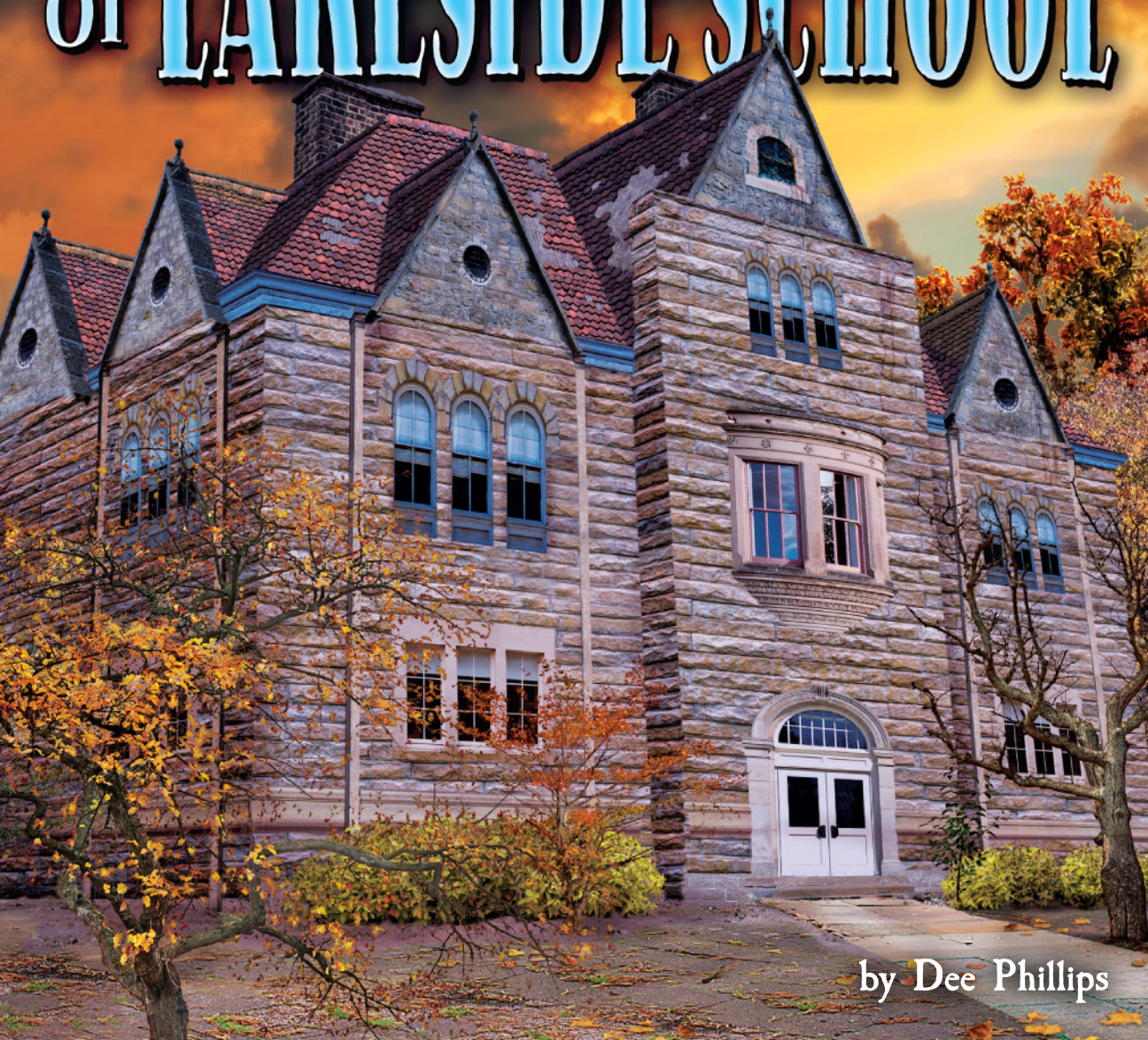


Cold Whispers II 

# The GHOSTLY SECRET of LAKESIDE SCHOOL



by Dee Phillips

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# The GHOSTLY SECRET of LAKESIDE SCHOOL

by Dee Phillips

illustrated by Amit Tayal

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# The Voice



It was Maddie's second week at her new school, and she was hanging out with her new friends, Christa and Evie. As the three girls ate lunch in the cafeteria, Christa and Evie were telling Maddie all about Lakeside Middle School.

"Mr. Martin is nice," said Christa, scooping mac and cheese into her mouth. "But he gives out more homework than any other teacher."

"Mrs. Joseph is . . .," Evie chimed in. She looked over her shoulder to make sure she wasn't being overheard. "She's so strict. Can you believe she's been teaching here for 30 years?"



Maddie smiled at her two new friends. Her family had moved to the small town of Lakeside just weeks before, and she'd been really nervous about going to a new school. But she was beginning to feel more comfortable.

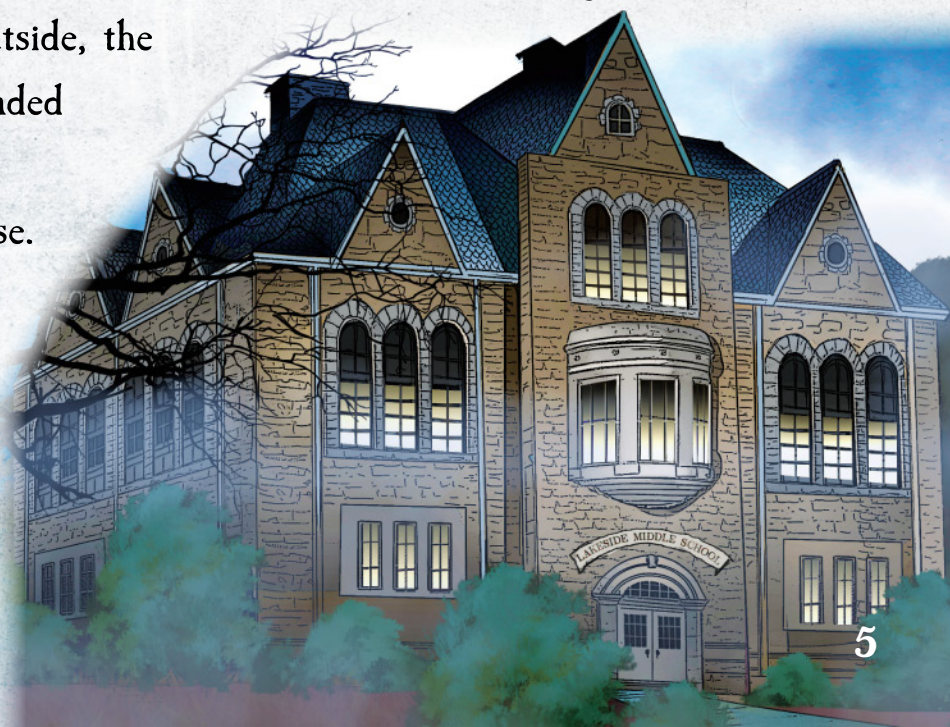
Maddie looked around at the school's weathered brick walls. "So how old is this place?" she asked her friends.

"Oh. It's ancient," said Evie, making a face. "It's at least one hundred years old."

Maddie's last school was very **modern**. The corridors were painted in bright colors, and the classrooms had enormous windows that let in lots of light. Lakeside couldn't be more different. The building had four floors and windows that made the classrooms feel dark and **claustrophobic**. The long corridors and steep stairways were narrow and gloomy.

From the outside, the school reminded

Maddie of a haunted house.





Despite the school's spooky appearance, Lakeside had a brand-new indoor swimming pool. It also had a music room with a beautiful grand piano. Swimming and playing the piano were Maddie's two favorite things in the world.

Maddie was just about to ask her friends a question about Lakeside's swimming team when Christa motioned for Maddie to lean closer.

"Have you heard about the weird stuff that goes on here?" asked Christa in a hushed voice.

Evie stopped eating and carefully watched to see Maddie's reaction.

"People say they hear footsteps behind them in the hallways," whispered Christa. "But when they turn around, no one's there."

"And," said Evie, "sometimes, people hear other strange things, like . . ."

"What kinds of strange things?" Maddie interrupted.

But before Evie could answer, a loud bell rang. It was time for the girls to hurry back to class.

All afternoon, Maddie wondered what Evie was going to say.

At the end of the school day, Christa and Evie asked Maddie if she wanted to hang out.



“I wish I could. But I booked some practice time in the music room,” Maddie explained. She’d never had the chance to play a grand piano—and couldn’t wait to try.

Maddie said goodbye to her friends and headed up the main staircase to the fourth floor. At the top of the building was a long, shadowy hallway that led to the music room.







## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dee Phillips develops and writes nonfiction books for young readers and fiction books—including historical fiction—for middle graders and young adults. She loves to read and write stories that have a twist or an unexpected, thought-provoking ending. Dee lives near the ocean on the southwest coast of England. A keen hiker, her biggest ambition is to one day walk the entire coast of Great Britain.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Amit Tayal is a self-taught comic and children's book illustrator originally from Delhi, India. His creative adventure began at age seven when he used to trade his superhero sketches with friends in return for help with his homework. In more recent times, Amit has worked for publishing houses producing a variety of work from cute children's books to gritty, dark illustrations for games and comics. Amit loves to draw all types of illustrations. He is best known for his award-winning graphic novel titles: *Steve Jobs: Genius by Design*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Super Sikh*, the first modern Sikh comic book superhero.



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# The GHOSTLY SECRET of LAKESIDE SCHOOL

*I need your help!* When Maddie opens her notebook, she sees these words scrawled in blood-red ink on every page. When she also hears mysterious voices, Maddie begins to realize that someone—or something—in her new school is trying to contact her. Will Maddie be able to uncover the ghostly secret of Lakeside School?

The Deadly Secret of Room 213

Doomed on Death Row

Fright at the Freemont Library

The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School

Nightmare in the Hidden Morgue

Terror in the Underground Tunnel

Trapped in the Abandoned Hospital

The Vampire's Lair

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