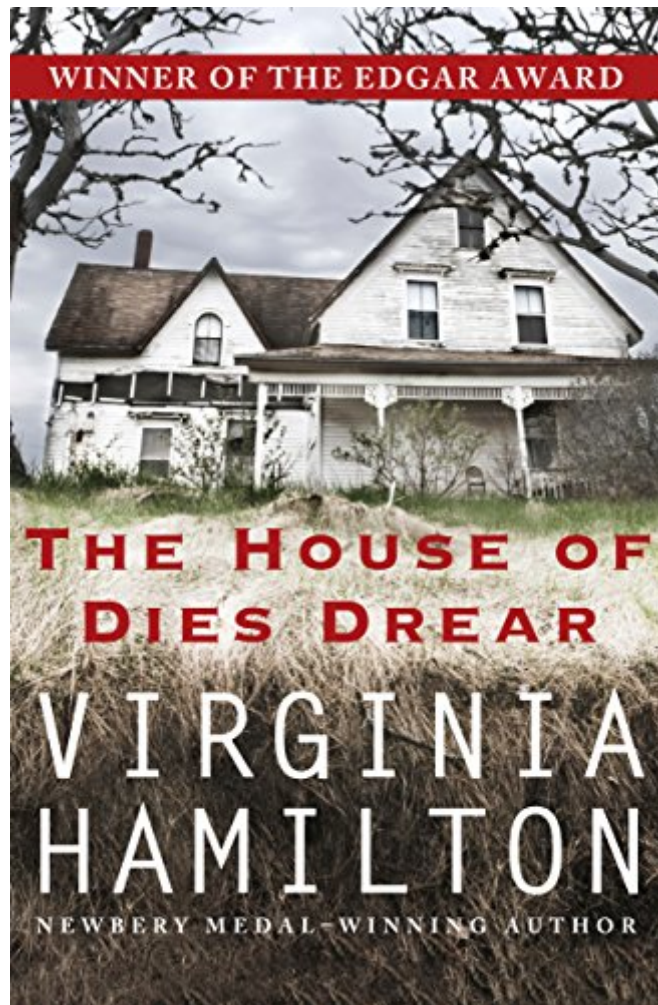


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# The House Of Dies Drear (Dies Drear Chronicles Book 1)



## Synopsis

In Virginia Hamilton's Edgar Award-winning novel, teenager Thomas Small and his family must uncover the haunting historical legacy of their Civil War-era house. Shortly after moving into an old, spooky home, thirteen-year-old Thomas Small and his family start hearing strange noises. The house has a past, and when Thomas discovers a hidden passageway that may have been part of the Underground Railroad, the family realizes the house has a history as well. To find out all there is to know about the House of Dies Drear, Thomas must explore secret rooms and the secrets of lives lived centuries before, lives that tell the story of America's troubled early years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I first read *The House of Dies Drear* more than 35 years ago, when I was in fifth or sixth grade. Finding a used copy of it recently I decided to revisit it, not so much out of nostalgia but instead as an attempt to (finally) understand it. And, as I had back in grade school, I failed to do so. A brief synopsis: Thirteen-year-old Thomas Small and his family move from North Carolina to a small town

in Ohio, where they take up residence in an historic house once owned by the famed abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor Dies Drear. Thomas hopes to encounter ghosts, and for a time it seems he does; exploring hidden tunnels and caves that surround the house, he is pursued by what he believes are unseen specters and plagued by the devilish (in Thomas's eyes) caretaker Mr. Pluto. Thomas and his family also struggle for acceptance by the neighborhood children and the community as a whole. In the end, much of the mysterious behavior and events are explained by the revelation that the neighboring Darrow family, convinced that Drear left behind a buried treasure, have been attempting to circumvent Pluto and drive off the Smalls so it can continue its hunt for the fortune. But the Smalls, now in league with Pluto, his son Mayhew, and the little girl Pesty, confound the Darrows' plans by playing an elaborate practical joke on them. The book is either a masterpiece or a rather pedestrian work of fiction, and I still can't say which it is. In some conventional ways, it seems to be the latter. Author Virginia Hamilton, an award-winning and nationally-recognized writer, to my ear has a literary voice that is a bit odd, stilted, and off-putting, and her perspective jumps from character to character suddenly and unevenly.

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