

the haunting joan lowery nixon

The Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon: A Glimpse into Her Mysterious Literary World

the haunting joan lowery nixon is a phrase that evokes curiosity and intrigue among lovers of young adult mystery and historical fiction. Joan Lowery Nixon, often hailed as the "Queen of Young Adult Mysteries," crafted stories that linger in the mind long after the last page is turned. Her ability to weave suspense, rich historical detail, and complex characters into engaging narratives has left an indelible mark on readers and writers alike.

Nixon's work isn't just about unraveling mysteries; it's about the subtle, haunting qualities that make her stories resonate. In this article, we will explore the essence of the haunting Joan Lowery Nixon, her unique storytelling style, and why her books continue to captivate generations. If you are a fan of suspenseful tales, historical fiction, or simply appreciate masterful storytelling, understanding Joan Lowery Nixon's legacy will be a rewarding journey.

The Literary Legacy of Joan Lowery Nixon

Joan Lowery Nixon was a prolific author, with over 140 books to her name, many of which are staples in middle school and high school reading lists. What sets Nixon apart is not just the quantity but the quality and depth of her storytelling. Her narratives often possess a haunting quality—a subtle eeriness that adds layers to her mysteries.

The Signature Style: Blending Mystery with History

One of the most striking features of Nixon's writing is her seamless integration of historical settings with suspenseful plots. Whether it's a ghostly presence in a Victorian mansion or a cryptic message

from the past, Nixon's stories invite readers to solve puzzles that transcend time.

This approach does more than entertain; it educates. Readers gain insights into different eras, cultures, and social dynamics, all while being engrossed in a gripping mystery. Her ability to create atmospheric settings—the creaking floors, the shadowy corridors, the whispered secrets—imbues her stories with a haunting ambiance that feels authentic and immersive.

Character Depth and Psychological Suspense

Joan Lowery Nixon didn't rely solely on plot twists or eerie settings; she crafted characters with emotional depth and believable motivations. Her protagonists are often young people confronting both external mysteries and internal struggles. This duality adds a psychological dimension to her books, making the haunting aspect not just supernatural but also deeply human.

Through her characters' fears, hopes, and resilience, Nixon explores themes like identity, trust, and the complexities of family relationships. This emotional undercurrent enriches the suspense, transforming her mysteries into explorations of the human psyche.

Exploring Some of Joan Lowery Nixon's Most Haunting Works

To fully appreciate the haunting Joan Lowery Nixon, it helps to delve into some of her most celebrated books. Each offers a unique blend of mystery, history, and that signature haunting quality.

The Haunting of Sarah Hardy

One of her most famous novels, **The Haunting of Sarah Hardy**, is a quintessential example of Nixon's style. The story revolves around Sarah, a girl who encounters strange occurrences in her old

family home. As Sarah tries to uncover the truth, readers are drawn into a chilling narrative filled with suspense and emotional complexity.

The novel not only thrills but also subtly addresses themes of loss and acceptance, making it a haunting tale in both the literal and figurative sense.

Land of the Buffalo Bones

In **Land of the Buffalo Bones**, Nixon transports readers to the American West, blending historical fiction with mystery. The haunting here is less about ghosts and more about the echoes of history—the unresolved conflicts and cultural tensions of the time.

The novel's rich historical detail and suspenseful plot make it a compelling read, demonstrating how Nixon's haunting narratives often arise from the past's lingering shadows.

Why Joan Lowery Nixon's Stories Remain Relevant Today

Even decades after their publication, Nixon's books continue to find new audiences. This enduring appeal can be attributed to several factors that make the haunting Joan Lowery Nixon a timeless phenomenon.

Universal Themes and Relatable Characters

At the core of Nixon's work are universal themes—fear, courage, identity, and the search for truth. These resonate with readers of all ages. Her young protagonists face challenges that reflect real-life issues, making the stories relatable and impactful.

Educational Value Through Engaging Storytelling

Educators often praise Nixon's books for their ability to engage reluctant readers. The mix of mystery and history offers a dynamic way to learn about different periods and cultures without feeling like a textbook. This educational aspect, combined with the gripping narrative, makes her stories an excellent resource for both classrooms and personal reading.

The Art of Building Suspense and Atmosphere

Nixon's mastery in crafting suspenseful scenes and atmospheric settings is a lesson in storytelling. Her pacing keeps readers on edge, while her detailed descriptions create vivid mental images. This skillful balance ensures that the haunting quality of her stories stays with the reader long after the book is closed.

Tips for Writers Inspired by the Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon

If you're a writer intrigued by the haunting Joan Lowery Nixon and want to incorporate similar elements into your own work, here are some tips inspired by her craft:

- **Blend genres:** Don't be afraid to mix mystery with other genres like historical fiction or psychological drama to add depth.
- **Create multidimensional characters:** Develop characters with internal conflicts that complement external mysteries.
- **Use setting as a character:** Make your settings atmospheric and integral to the story, enhancing the mood and suspense.

- **Maintain suspense:** Pace your story carefully to build tension gradually, using foreshadowing and cliffhangers effectively.
- **Incorporate universal themes:** Address themes that resonate universally to connect emotionally with readers.

The Enduring Mystery of Joan Lowery Nixon's Haunting Appeal

Joan Lowery Nixon's stories are more than just mysteries—they are evocative journeys into the past and the human heart. The haunting Joan Lowery Nixon is not just a phrase but a testament to the lasting impact of her work, which continues to inspire readers to explore the unknown and confront the shadows within and without.

Her ability to blend suspense, historical insight, and emotional depth ensures that her books remain a treasured part of young adult literature. For anyone seeking stories that linger, provoke thought, and entertain, diving into Nixon's world is an invitation to experience the true art of haunting storytelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon about?

'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon is a suspenseful novel that revolves around a young protagonist who encounters mysterious and eerie events in a haunted setting, blending elements of mystery and supernatural themes.

Who is Joan Lowery Nixon?

Joan Lowery Nixon was a prolific American author known for her historical fiction, mysteries, and suspense novels for young readers. She has won multiple awards for her engaging storytelling.

Is 'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon suitable for young readers?

Yes, 'The Haunting' is generally suitable for middle grade and young adult readers, combining suspense with age-appropriate themes and language.

What themes are explored in 'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon?

The novel explores themes such as courage, facing fears, the supernatural, and uncovering hidden family secrets.

Are there any real historical elements in 'The Haunting'?

While primarily a work of fiction, Joan Lowery Nixon often incorporates historical settings or elements to add depth, so 'The Haunting' may include historical references relevant to the story.

Has 'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon received any awards or recognition?

Though specific awards for 'The Haunting' may not be widely documented, Joan Lowery Nixon herself has received numerous accolades for her contributions to children's literature.

Where can I buy or read 'The Haunting' by Joan Lowery Nixon?

'The Haunting' is available for purchase through major bookstores and online retailers. It can also be found in libraries and some eBook platforms.

What makes Joan Lowery Nixon's writing style unique in 'The Haunting'?

Joan Lowery Nixon is known for her compelling narrative style, combining well-developed characters, suspenseful plots, and a strong sense of atmosphere, which makes 'The Haunting' an engaging read.

Additional Resources

The Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon: An Investigation into a Literary Legacy

the haunting joan lowery nixon is a phrase that conjures images of suspenseful storytelling and intricate plots, anchored by one of the most prolific writers of young adult mysteries. Joan Lowery Nixon, often hailed as the “Queen of Young Adult Mystery,” carved a unique niche in American literature through her compelling narratives that blend psychological depth with historical context. This article delves into the haunting allure of Joan Lowery Nixon’s work, exploring the elements that make her stories resonate across generations and why her legacy remains influential in the realm of adolescent fiction.

Exploring the Literary Craft of Joan Lowery Nixon

Joan Lowery Nixon’s writing is distinguished by its ability to captivate young readers while addressing complex themes such as identity, morality, and justice. Her narratives often employ a haunting quality—not in the supernatural sense, but through the lingering emotional resonance and moral ambiguities embedded in her plots. This distinctive feature of her storytelling invites readers into a space where mystery intertwines with personal and societal challenges, making her work both entertaining and thought-provoking.

One of the most notable aspects of Nixon’s oeuvre is her meticulous research and incorporation of historical elements. Books like **The Haunting** and **The Other Side of Dark** demonstrate her

commitment to authenticity, enriching the reader's experience by grounding suspenseful tales within realistic settings. The haunting atmosphere in many of her novels is amplified by this historical layering, which adds depth and credibility to the unfolding mysteries.

The Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon: Signature Themes and Motifs

A recurring theme in Nixon's writing is the exploration of psychological tension. Unlike conventional mystery novels that rely heavily on external clues, Nixon delves into the internal struggles of her protagonists. This psychological nuance not only heightens the suspense but also humanizes her characters, allowing readers to engage with their fears, doubts, and hopes intimately.

Another motif frequently encountered in her works is the confrontation with the past. Characters often grapple with secrets, family histories, or unresolved trauma—elements that create a haunting backdrop for the narrative. This approach aligns with the broader tradition of gothic and psychological thrillers but is uniquely tailored to a young adult audience, blending accessibility with sophistication.

Comparative Analysis: Joan Lowery Nixon and Contemporary Young Adult Mystery Writers

To fully appreciate the impact of Joan Lowery Nixon's work, it is instructive to compare her narrative style and thematic concerns with those of her contemporaries, such as Lois Duncan and R.L. Stine. While Duncan's novels often incorporate supernatural elements and Stine's works lean towards horror and humor, Nixon's stories stand out for their grounded psychological suspense and historical realism. This distinction has allowed her books to maintain relevance and respect within literary circles and among educators.

Moreover, Nixon's emphasis on strong, relatable protagonists—frequently young women confronting real-world dilemmas—sets her apart. Her characters' struggles with identity, morality, and family

dynamics offer a more nuanced and mature exploration of adolescence compared to the often sensationalized portrayals found elsewhere in the genre.

Impact on Readers and Educational Value

Joan Lowery Nixon's novels have been widely adopted in educational settings, praised for their ability to engage reluctant readers and stimulate critical thinking. The haunting elements in her stories serve as catalysts for discussions about ethics, history, and psychology, enriching classroom experiences beyond mere entertainment.

Educators often highlight Nixon's skill in creating suspense without resorting to graphic content, making her books suitable for middle and high school students. This balance between thrilling storytelling and age-appropriate material has contributed to her enduring popularity in school curricula.

The Haunting Appeal: A Closer Look at Nixon's Most Influential Works

Among Nixon's extensive bibliography, several titles exemplify the haunting quality that defines her legacy. **The Haunting** (1974) is often cited as a seminal work, weaving a ghost story with a psychological mystery that challenges the protagonist's perceptions of reality. The novel's layered narrative structure and ambiguous ending leave readers pondering long after the final page, embodying the very essence of "haunting" literature.

Similarly, **The Other Side of Dark** (1983) tackles themes of identity and deception through a suspenseful plot involving multiple personalities and hidden truths. This novel showcases Nixon's ability to address complex psychological issues sensitively and insightfully, elevating her work above typical genre fare.

Strengths and Limitations of Nixon's Storytelling

- **Strengths:** Nixon's strengths lie in her character development, atmospheric settings, and integration of psychological depth. Her stories often feature strong female leads, which was relatively progressive for her time, and her research lends authenticity to historical narratives.
- **Limitations:** Some critics argue that Nixon's pacing can be uneven, with moments of slow exposition that may challenge readers accustomed to fast-paced thrillers. Additionally, while her avoidance of graphic content is pedagogically sound, it may occasionally limit the visceral impact of the suspense.

Despite these minor critiques, Nixon's contributions to young adult literature remain significant, particularly in how she broadened the scope of what young readers could expect from mystery and suspense genres.

Legacy and Continued Relevance in Modern Literature

Joan Lowery Nixon's influence persists in contemporary young adult literature, inspiring authors to blend suspense with psychological and historical complexity. Her pioneering approach to crafting "haunting" narratives that resonate emotionally and intellectually continues to inform writing styles and thematic choices in the genre.

In the digital age, where young readers have access to a vast array of entertainment options, Nixon's books remain relevant due to their timeless exploration of human nature and ethical dilemmas. The haunting joan lowery nixon brand is synonymous with quality storytelling that respects the intelligence and emotional depth of its audience.

Her work also underscores the importance of mystery as a vehicle for exploring broader social and personal issues—a legacy that encourages both writers and readers to look beyond the surface of suspenseful plots.

The haunting joan lowery nixon narrative is not simply about ghosts or scares; it is about the enduring power of storytelling to illuminate the shadows within human experience. Through her novels, Nixon invites readers to confront their fears, question their assumptions, and ultimately find meaning in the mysteries that shape their lives.

[The Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon](#)

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Haunting Joan Lowery Nixon, 2007-12-18 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes The Haunting from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. The walls whisper. The ceilings shriek. No one can survive a night of terror inside Graymoss. The old plantation house has been in Lia's family since the Civil War, but it's been possessed for generations by a malicious spirit, and Lia's family has always stayed far away. Now her parents have decided to move into Graymoss, and Lia must either change their minds or chase away the horror lurking inside the old house. Using clues from her great-great-grandmother's diary and an old copy of Favorite Tales of Edgar Allan Poe, Lia must discover what—or who—the evil wants. "Nixon creates a spooky setting fairly dripping in atmosphere, then spins an ever-tightening thread of tension." -Kirkus Reviews "A book that will please mystery fans...[and a] plot [that] keeps readers guessing until the end." -School Library Journal "Nixon has woven a tale that grabs and holds her readers...It's a really fun read!" -VOYA "A page-turner that will satisfy mystery and ghost story fans." -Booklist

the haunting joan lowery nixon: *Haunting* Joan Lowery Nixon, 1998-01

the haunting joan lowery nixon: *Secret, Silent Screams* Joan Lowery Nixon, 2009-02-04 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Secret, Silent Screams from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Is Barry's death the latest tragedy in a string of suicides at Farrington Park High School? Or is it murder? Marti is sure her friend Barry didn't take his own life, but no one will believe her except Police Officer Prescott. But opening an investigation takes time, and Marti is determined to find her friend's killer soon. Because even now he could be planning his next crime... "Enthralling suspense...satisfying[,]...[and an] intricate plot." -Publishers Weekly

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Name of the Game Was Murder Joan Lowery Nixon, 2013-09-25 Novelist Augustus Trevor has written a manuscript that reveals the darkest secrets of his guests. Whoever can solve Trevor's clues can have his story removed from the book. But when Trevor is bludgeoned to death, the survivors (along with the reader) are challenged to find both the manuscript and the murderer.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Whispers from the Dead Joan Lowery Nixon, 2013-09-25 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Whispers from the Dead from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Only Sarah senses the horror. The minute she steps through the doorway of her family's new home, Sarah feels a smothering cold mist, and hears the echo of a scream and a heartbreaking whisper in Spanish,

"Help me!" Sarah feels compelled to find out who is trying to reach her. But can she uncover the mysteries of the past before terror strikes again? "A master at creating compelling suspense novels, Nixon has written yet another carefully plotted, subtly terrifying thriller." -Publishers Weekly

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Other Side of Dark Joan Lowery Nixon, 2011-01-11
EDGAR AWARD WINNER For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes The Other Side of Dark from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Stacy wakes up in a hospital room, in a body she doesn't recognize. Her mother is dead—murdered—and Stacy is recovering from a gunshot wound. She is the sole eyewitness to the crime, but she has only a shadowy memory of the killer's face. Will Stacy be able to regain a clear memory of that fateful day before the killer reaches her? The Other Side of Dark is one of Joan Lowery Nixon's most intriguing, suspenseful, and dramatic mysteries. "The compelling premise...and Nixon's mastery of suspense are gripping." -Publishers Weekly "Tense and dramatic...[The Other Side of Dark has a] quick pace, and the determined protagonist should attract and hold readers." -School Library Journal

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Wicked, Wicked Ladies in the Haunted House Mary Chase, 2015-05-20 Maureen Swanson is the scourge of the neighborhood. At age nine, she already has a reputation as a hard slapper, a loud laugh, a liar, and a stay-after-schooler. The other kids call her Stinky. So sometimes when Maureen passes the crumbling (and haunted?) Messerman mansion, she imagines that she is Maureen Messerman-rich, privileged, and powerful. Then she finds a way into the forbidden, boarded-up house. In the hall are portraits of seven young women wearing elaborate gowns and haughty expressions. Maureen has something scathing to say to each one, but then she notices that the figures seem to have shifted in their frames. So she reaches out her finger to touch the paint—just to make sure—and touches . . . silk! These seven daughters of privilege are colder and meaner than Maureen ever thought to be. They are wicked, wicked ladies, and Maureen has something they want. . . .

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Nobody's There Joan Lowery Nixon, 2012-10-31 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Nobody's There from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Furious at her father for breaking up their family, Abbie Thompson acted without thinking and got arrested for malicious mischief. Now the judge has assigned her to volunteer in a program that matches teens with the elderly. But Abbie doesn't get just any elderly person. She gets Edna Merkel, a cranky, difficult woman who's a member of the town's crime prevention group. In fact, Mrs. Merkel is too active a member, and after she brags that she's on to something big, she is attacked and ends up hospitalized. Suddenly the private investigator game is real, and only Abbie—with the help of Mrs. Merkel's indecipherable notebook—can figure out who did it. But will Abbie get to the assailant before the assailant gets to her? "Fast-paced and involving." -Kirkus Reviews "Well drawn and distinct...Nixon's fans will no doubt enjoy." -School Library Journal "Another great mystery." -VOYA

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Dark and Deadly Pool Joan Lowery Nixon, 2012-10-31 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes The Dark and Deadly Pool from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Liz enjoys her summer pool job at the glamorous Ridley Hotel. Until the dark and lonely night when a ghastly shadow surges up from the pool. A face—eyes wide, mouth gaping—stares at Liz. A hand clutches at her sneaker. Then it, whatever it is, is gone. But danger isn't. Strange things are happening at the hotel, and a shaken Liz wants to know why. But whoever is behind the trouble will stop at nothing—not even murder—to get what he wants. "[A] suspenseful mystery, rounded out with touches of humor and romance." -Publishers Weekly

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Weekend Was Murder Joan Lowery Nixon, 2012-10-31 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes The Weekend was Murder! from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Mary Elizabeth can't wait for the weekend to begin at the Ridley Hotel, where a famous mystery writer and a troupe of actors are coming to enact a murder mystery for 150 amateur sleuths. Mary Elizabeth's role is to

discover the “body” in Room 1927, which is supposed to be haunted. But nothing prepares her for the real body she finds in Room 1927... “A masterfully constructed, engaging read that...[is] ingeniously plotted, fast-paced and lighthearted.” -Publishers Weekly “Fans will love wading through the myriad details and placing bets on the outcome.” -Kirkus Reviews “Mystery fans will...enjoy trying to solve the various crimes.” -School Library Journal

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Ellis Island: Three Novels Joan Lowery Nixon, 2013-11-27 Moving and inspiring stories of the immigrant experience are offered up in this eOmni edition comprised of three novels from Joan Lowery Nixon’s historical fiction series, *Ellis Island*. Each story features a unique teenage girl’s perspective—one from Russia, one from Ireland, and one from Sweden. In *Land of Hope*, Russian immigrant Rebekah Levinsky settles with her family on the Lower East Side of New York and soon realizes that the roads are not paved with gold. In *Land of Promise*, Irish immigrant Rose Carney arrives in Chicago to a life filled with family responsibilities that impede on her dreams of independence. And in *Land of Dreams*, Swedish immigrant Kristin Swensen’s family lives on a farm in Minnesota, but her parents still cling to the life they’d known in Sweden. Follow their journeys as Rebekah, Rose, and Kristin—and their families—struggle to find the courage, faith, and resilience they’ll need to conquer the odds, find their independence, and realize the American dream.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Moonpies, Fireflies, Some Twisted Dreams, Some Truth, and Some Lies: Book One of Two James (Jim) Linn, 2023-08-22 About the Book In this memoir and bibliography, combined with philosophy and short stories, James (Jim) Linn has collected twelve years of quotes from others and how they spoke to him, his deep thoughts, some poetry, and thought-provoking memes. Linn also shares his observations about life and human nature. About the Author James (Jim) Linn played and managed softball teams, both men’s and co-ed, for forty-seven years. He now enjoys playing pickleball five days a week. In his free time, Linn likes to spend time with his family and friends, travel to Europe and different cities in the US, and learn new things.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Thematic Guide to Young Adult Literature Alice L. Trupe, 2006-05-30 Contemporary young adult literature is a relatively new genre. This guide provides an overview of the burgeoning field, focusing primarily on fiction. Each of the 32 chapters is devoted to a theme of special significance to young adults, and provides brief critical discussions of several related literary works. Chapters close with lists of fiction for further reading. An appendix groups works according to additional themes, and a selected bibliography cites relevant critical studies.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Common Core State Standards for Grade 6 Michelle Manville, 2014-05-21 *Common Core State Standards for Grade 6: Language Arts Instructional Strategies and Activities* is designed to help teachers address Common Core standards using research-based, effective instructional strategies in combination with ready-to-use activities. These strategies include identifying similarities and differences, writing summaries and taking notes, creating non-linguistic representations, and suggestions for homework and practice. There are a variety of suggested texts as well as identified text exemplars that can easily be used with the strategies and activities.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Playing for Keeps Joan Lowery Nixon, 2007-12-18 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes *Playing for Keeps* from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Rose Ann can’t believe her good luck. Her grandmother, Glory, needs a last-minute roommate for her bridge-tournament cruise to the Caribbean. But Glory doesn’t really need a companion. She’s eager for Rosie to meet her friend’s grandson, Neil, a brainy guy full of facts about baseball, among other things. Once Rosie is aboard the ship, though, someone else catches her eye—a boy her own age, who introduces himself as Ricky Diago. But after the ship sails, something doesn’t seem quite right. Rosie sees only Ricky’s uncle, Mr. Diago. Even stranger, Neil swears that Mr. Diago is actually a famous Cuban baseball player from the Cincinatti Reds. Then, after a day excursion in Paradise Beach, Rosie is approached by

another boy who claims he's Ricky Diago. She's certain he's not the person she met at the beginning of the trip. Suddenly Rosie finds herself caught in a high-stakes game of international intrigue with life-or-death consequences. Who is the real Ricky Diago? And how far will Rosie go to help him? With her trademark expertise, Joan Lowery Nixon interweaves politics, baseball, and romance in a masterful novel of suspense on the high seas. "[An] engaging mystery." -Kirkus Reviews "[A] fast-paced combination of suspense and romance." -Booklist "Satisfactory teen mystery." -VOYA

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Search for the Shadowman Joan Lowery Nixon, 2012-10-31 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Search for the Shadowman from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Twelve-year-old Andy Thomas isn't thrilled with his teacher's assignment to explore family history. But when he starts asking questions about his ancestors, he is surprised to discover a black sheep named Coley Joe Bonner. No one wants to discuss what happened in the family's past. Everyone, including Andy's own relatives, advises him to stop his investigation. But Andy continues and searches everywhere, from the Internet to the local cemetery, to discover the truth. Will Andy's search hurt those he loves or make them realize that it's never too late to seek social justice? "A riveting tale of suspense set against a background of fascinating historical context." -School Library Journal "Hints of disgrace and treachery...children will read the story for the fun of guessing who is warning Andy off the case." -Booklist

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Dictionary of American Young Adult Fiction, 1997-2001 Agnes Regan Perkins, 2004-03-30 Young adult readers have special needs and concerns, and librarians have become increasingly interested in selecting books suitable for them. This reference provides information about 290 books for young adults. These books received major awards between 1997 and 2001, reflect the voices of 242 different authors, and range from new to familiar themes. Included are nearly 750 alphabetically arranged entries for individual works, authors, characters, and settings. Many of these books were originally written for adults but have become popular among younger readers. Entries for works provide plot summaries and critical assessments, while author entries focus on those aspects of the writers' lives most relevant to literature for young people. The reference is a valuable selection tool for librarians and teachers and a useful guide for students.

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Who Are You? Joan Lowery Nixon, 2013-09-25 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Who Are You? from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Kristi Evans and her parents can't understand why police detectives are telling them that a man named Douglas Merson has been shot. They've never heard of him. But it becomes important when they learn that Mr. Merson has kept a secret file on Kristi for her entire life. Suddenly Kristi finds herself investigating who this man is and why he has intruded on her privacy. When Kristi goes to see Mr. Merson in the hospital, she discovers he is a professional artist; he even offers to help her pursue her own dream of being an artist. Kristi has always wanted someone with whom she could share her passion for art. Her parents not only don't understand it, they want her to do something more practical. Now this stranger seems to be offering Kristi the piece that has been missing from her life all along, but at what cost to her relationship to her parents? Who is this man who seems too good to be true? "[A] fast-paced mystery...[that] hook[s] and hold[s] readers until all is resolved at the finish." -Publishers Weekly "Appealing characters, an interesting scenario, and a fascinating peek into the big-money art world will keep the pages turning." -Booklist "Lots of action and Kristi is a likable heroine...A solid offering for mystery fans." -School Library Journal

the haunting joan lowery nixon: Laugh Till You Cry Joan Lowery Nixon, 2009-02-04 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes Laugh Till You Cry from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Thirteen-year-old Cody doesn't like Texas. He and his mom were only supposed to spend the summer there, helping out his grandmother. But Cody's grandmother is sick and needs them to stay. Now he's the new kid at the local middle school and all his friends are back in California. You'd think Cody's cousin Hayden would show him the ropes. Not only is Hayden in the same grade; he lives next door. But Hayden

doesn't want anything to do with Cody. Cody's luck begins to change when he befriends Officer Ramsey, a policeman and aspiring stand-up comic. Officer Ramsey appreciates Cody's jokes so much, he pays Cody for the material! But it's no laughing matter when a crime is committed at school and Cody becomes a suspect. Cody is going to need more than jokes to solve this mystery—and clear his name. "Nixon has crafted a lively, fast-paced tale with an intelligent young hero who is creative, courageous, and compassionate." -Kirkus Reviews "Cody's humorous side...and the book's length make this mystery ideal." -School Library Journal "A fast-paced and fun read." -VOYA

the haunting joan lowery nixon: The Trap Joan Lowery Nixon, 2012-10-31 For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes The Trap from four-time Edgar Allen Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Julie has the perfect summer plan. She'll be with her friends on the swim team, and this year, for the first time, they have a chance to make the Interstates. So when her family tells her she's being sent to spend the summer with her great-aunt and great-uncle at Rancho del Oro, their ranch in Texas, she feels resentful. Once she's at Rancho del Oro, however, Julie quickly learns that something strange is going on. Pieces of jewelry and other little objects are missing. The older people on the ranch say they may have misplaced the items—but something doesn't add up. Julie's Uncle Gabe only broke his ankle when he fell down the stairs from his observatory, but two other men on the ranch have recently died. The deaths have been ruled accidents, but were they? When Julie figures out that Uncle Gabe's fall was not an accident, she knows she must discover the killer's identity. Or she could be next. Joan Lowery Nixon expertly combines a family story with a compelling mystery to keep her readers guessing until the very end. "With its twists and turns, this page-turner is a must for mystery fans." -School Library Journal "[The Trap] maintains a fast pace, with likeable, interesting characters and a dash of romance." -VOYA "A teen reader can identify with...Julie." -Kirkus Reviews

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