

SCRITCH SCRATCH

DISCUSSION
GUIDE
LINDSAY CURRIE



FOR FANS OF *SMALL SPACES* COMES A CHILLING GHOST STORY ABOUT A MALEVOLENT SPIRIT, AN UNLUCKY GIRL, AND A HAUNTING MYSTERY THAT WILL TIE THE TWO TOGETHER.

Claire has absolutely no interest in the paranormal. She's a scientist, which is why she can't think of anything worse than having to help out her dad on one of his ghost-themed Chicago bus tours. She thinks she's made it through when she sees a boy with a sad face and dark eyes at the back of the bus. There's something off about his presence, especially because when she checks at the end of the tour...he's gone.

Claire tries to brush it off. She must be imagining things, letting her dad's ghost stories get the best of her. But then the scratching starts. Voices whisper to her in the dark. The number 396 appears everywhere she turns. And the boy with the dark eyes starts following her.

Claire is being haunted. The boy from the bus wants something...and Claire needs to find out what before it's too late.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LINDSAY CURRIE lives in Chicago, Illinois, with her husband and three kids. She loves coffee, Halloween, Disney World, and things that go bump in the night! Visit her at lindsaycurrie.com.



PRAISE FOR *SCRITCH SCRATCH*

"*Scritch Scratch* brims with eerie thrills and nail-biting chills that are sure to keep readers turning pages. **Don't dare read this at night!**" —Kate Hannigan, author of *Cape*, book one in *The League of Secret Heroes* series

"The historical details are fascinating... Mary Downing Hahn fans will enjoy this just-right **blend of history and spooky.**" —Kirkus Reviews

"Delightfully chilling and rooted in history, **this haunting thrill ride will keep you hooked.**" —Jess Keating, author of *Nikki Tesla* and *the Ferret-Proof Death Ray*

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1. What is the most surprising thing you learned about Chicago through reading *Scritch Scratch*? Why?
2. Why did Claire dislike her father's ghost tour so much? Is there any proof in the text you can use to back this up?
3. Does Claire's opinion on the existence of ghosts change by the end of the book? Why or why not?
4. Who is your favorite character in *Scritch Scratch*? Why?
5. What were some of Claire's obstacles in this book besides the haunting? How did she handle them?
6. Had you heard of the Iroquois Theater fire before reading *Scritch Scratch*? What did you learn about that event, and how do you think it changed Chicago?
7. Research the Couch tomb. Do you think anyone is buried inside? Share your research.
8. Why do you think ghost stories are so popular? Do you have a ghost story you like to tell?
9. Do you think any of the spots that the Spirits bus stops at are actually haunted? Explain.
10. If you had the chance to look into the face of Dexter Graves like Claire and her friends at the end of *Scritch Scratch*, would you? Why or why not?
11. Why do you think Willie was haunting Claire? Did he choose her on purpose, or was it random? Is there any proof in the text you can use to back this up?
12. Why did the SS *Eastland* sink? What could have been done to prevent such a disaster?
13. Claire is going through some challenging times with friends in *Scritch Scratch*. Have you ever experienced something similar, and if so, how did you handle it?
14. Are there any famous ghost legends you've heard about the town you live in? What are they, and do you believe in them?
15. If you could visit any of the stops on the Spirits bus, which ones would you visit and why?