



Oak Avenue

Brandi Reeds

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A young wife and mother—new to this town and to its secrets—learns just how much she doesn't know in this tingly tale of all the things hiding in the dark at the top of the stairs, from bestselling author Brandi Reeds.

While renovating her Victorian home, Ana Clementine finds an ornate door buried under forty years of earth. Once she restores it to the attic, she starts hearing whispers, her loving husband becomes a stranger, and her baby daughter learns a chilling new word. Maybe Ana has unlocked the house's secrets. Or maybe she's becoming just a little unhinged herself.

Brandi Reeds's Oak Avenue is part of Dark Corners, a collection of seven heart-stopping short stories by bestselling authors who give you so many new reasons to be afraid. Each story can be read in a single sitting. Or, if you have the nerve, you can listen all by yourself in the dark.

Oak Avenue Details

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From Reader Review Oak Avenue for online ebook

Sandra says

Ana and Edison Clementine and their baby Sabrina move into an old Victorian house they bought a couple of weeks ago. Work takes Edison away a lot and Ana is left alone with Sabrina. Since Ana is a restoration specialist she is trying to bring the house back to its former glory. One day, some men who are cutting down a few dead trees in their yard show her that they came upon a buried, old ornate door. Ana thinks it's beautiful and she wants to restore it and put in the house. At night Ana hears noises and goes into the hallway. The attic door is wide open and there is a very cold draft coming down the attic steps. When Ana goes to shut the door she hears a voice saying her name, but there is no one there. Scared, Ana hurries back into her room. When her husband Edison comes home she tells him about it, but he puts her fears down to overwork.

The more time they spend in the house, the stranger Edison is acting... he starts drinking and staying out late, he becomes mean and threatening. This isn't like Edison at all. Other strange things start happening. Ana wants to leave the house and never come back. What dark secrets is this house holding?

This was an absorbing and spooky read. I liked Ana and I felt sorry for her since she was new to town and the town didn't take well to newcomers. I found the atmosphere in the house creepy and sinister. I wondered what was going to happen to Ana, and I was curious about the history of the old house.

This short story was part of Amazon's "Dark Corners" series and it was fun to read around Halloween.

Dalene says

The other books in the Dark Corners collection are okay. Nothing really great. But this one was different. I want to see this book be expanded into a full length novel.

Kia says

I read this short story on Amazon Prime in the Dark Corners collection. This was by far my favorite story in the collection, and also the one that is most "traditionally" horror, very much a haunted house story with all the trappings of such. It was unsettling to see the way everyone tried to sweep history under the rug and convince Ana everything was just in her head, and the changes in her husband throughout the story are deeply frightening. My only complaint would be the ending, because it really felt like the ending was rushed, as though Reeds forgot it was meant to be a short story and had to force it. I would love to see it expanded and made into a longer work, but I did enjoy it as it is now.

Andrea Trenary says

Audio book.

Probably the best one of this series I've listened to so far, enjoyed it.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

This is quite possibly the best of the lot - and one of the few that I would actually put in the 'horror' section. It's giving nothing away if you read the synopsis to tell you this is a ghost story of sorts. A good, creepy one, that will send a shiver up your spine. There was a lot I appreciated about Oak Avenue. The atmosphere sets almost immediately. The way the author balances the joys of having a small child against the evil creeping in. The way she can envision the house. It's all very lovely.

I want to read more by Brandi Reeds.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Okay this one was pretty good! So there were 3 out of the 7 shorts that I really enjoyed. It had some creep going on, although, I had a moment where I was gonna change my mind and then it all worked out!

Happy Reading!

Mel ????

Cindy says

I have to say this was a creepy good story! It was short and I read it in one sitting. Although I liked the writing, I felt as if I wanted to know more of what was going on. And the ending was basically a cliff hanger. It really needed to be wrapped up a little more instead of leaving me with unanswered questions.

Juli says

Ana Clementine's husband buys an old victorian house in his hometown. He's dreamed of living in the house since he was just a boy. He even paid more than asking price for the run-down house. Ana moves in with her young daughter, and starts trying to make the old house a home. Strange things start happening almost immediately....and Ana realizes the old house harbors dark secrets.

Oak Avenue is the final story in the Amazon/Audible Dark Corners Collection....an anthology of seven darkly emotional stories written by bestselling authors. I'm reviewing each story on its own as they are novella length, and many of the authors are new to me.

I really enjoyed this story. Not many of the tales in the collection are actually horror....or even really scary in any way. This story definitely had the haunted, creepy house vibe to it from the start but morphed into a combination of horror and morality tale about the cycle of abuse. Loved it! Very well-written and enjoyable!

I listened to the audio book version of this story. The audio book is just over two hours long. Amy Landon does an amazing job narrating. She does a great job of building suspense and reads at a nice, even pace. All in all, Oak Avenue is one of the most enjoyable stories in the Dark Corners Collection, IMHO.

LeAnna says

[What makes this story scary isn't that there's ghosts in this woman's house, it's the fact that the town is willing to ignore the danger she's in to uphold her husband's beloved image. The town literally buries the problem (the door Churchill locked his family behind) to be forgotten once again. The willing b

Amy says

[(when the door falls

Montzalee Wittmann says

Oak Avenue by Brandi Reeds is a scary haunting of a small family that buys an old house in the husband's home town. All the small town people know the husband but seem to despise the wife for being an outsider. The longer they stay there, the stranger the husband gets...The house also has a mind of its own too! Creepy!

Marie says

3,5/5

This was very entertaining, but I did find the characters quite frustrating, and the ending too rushed.

Stephanie ((Strazzybooks)) says

I listened to this while cleaning and walking the dog. It was a quick listen, but it just didn't work well as a short story. I thought the beginning had promise and it seemed like I was getting into a good ghost story, but not much was fleshed out and it ended up feeling jumbled and boring.

Sarah says

Decently creepy haunted house short. Interesting look into the inequality of regard given to men and women in these types of scenarios - woman being dismissed as hysterical comes standard. The ending leaves something to be desired, though I'd be hard pressed to say exactly what.

Blair says

Anastasia's husband, Edison, has just bought an old house in his home town. 'The Churchill house' is a place he's always dreamed of owning, and Anastasia, a restoration expert, is trying to see the dilapidated interior as an exciting project. But she feels lonely: the people of the town are unwelcoming, and at the beginning of the story we find her struggling to get taken seriously by a tree surgeon who won't trust 'Eddie's wife' to make decisions about the property. Then there's the weirdness the house seems to seethe with: whispers in the dark, doors that open by themselves, out-of-character behaviour from Edison, and a garbled new word from the couple's baby daughter.

This is perhaps the most conventional of the stories in the *Dark Corners* series. A newcomer in a small town, unfriendly locals, a house with secrets and even, possibly, a madwoman in the attic – plenty of overused tropes are present and correct. Yet it works. Anastasia is sympathetic; definitely a character you root for. When it comes to the house, the devil is in the details (70s shag pile carpet stapled to the walls!) On the whole, Reeds stays on the right side of cliché, and although it doesn't do anything new I enjoyed this story.

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