

Booktalk!

Deep and Dark and Dangerous

Written by Mary Downing Hahn

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Ali's mother is tense and nervous, not just some of the time, but all of the time. The 13-year-old loves her mom, but sometimes feels she might suffocate under her watchful, wary eye. A chance for freedom comes in the form of an invitation to spend the summer in their family's old vacation home, live with her aunt, and babysit her young cousin. Ali's mother refuses. Her daughter can't go. Her daughter won't go. But Ali does go. And almost as soon as she arrives she wonders, "Was my mother right?"

There is nothing as good as a ghost story – except, of course, a ghost story told by a master. The author of *Wait Till Helen Comes* and other ghoulish delights is ready to send a shiver...or two...or three – right up your spine.



Best for fifth grade and up