



Cold Whispers II

The VAMPIRE'S LAIR

by Dee Phillips

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by Dee Phillips

illustrated by Timo Grubing

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Contents

CHAPTER 1

Castle Prahova 4

CHAPTER 2

Razva. 10

CHAPTER 3

The Prisoner 18

CHAPTER 4

Vampire Hunters. 24

WHAT DO YOU THINK? 30

GLOSSARY 31

ABOUT THE AUTHOR 32

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR. 32





Castle Prahova

Jack pressed his face to the car window. Mile after mile of dark forest flashed by. He checked the clock on the dashboard. Two hours had passed since they'd left the airport, and now the sun was going down.

"How much longer, Dad?" Jack asked.

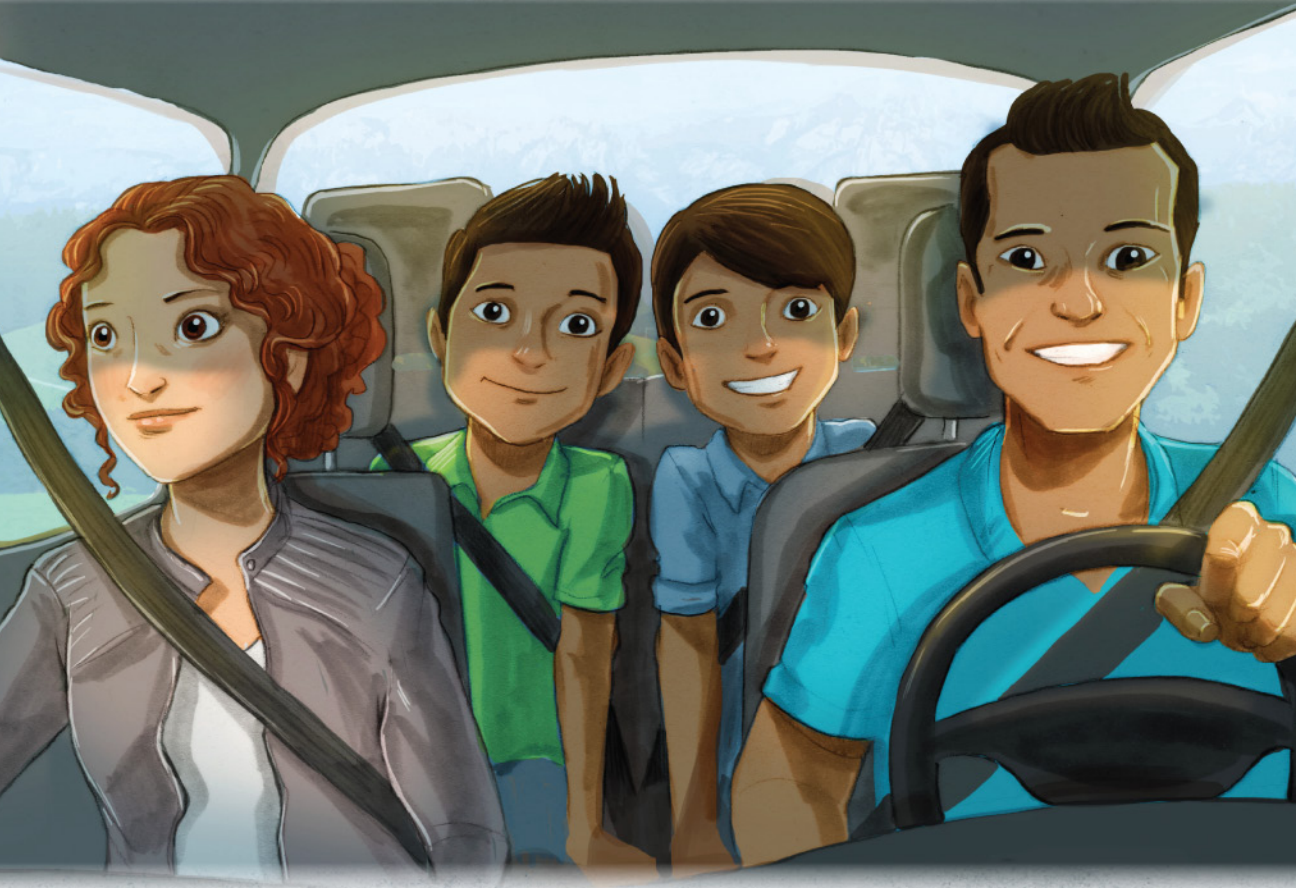
Dad caught Jack's eye in the rearview mirror. "About thirty minutes," he said.

Jack was excited. Soon they would be at Castle Prahova. He gave his twin brother, Dylan, a nudge with his elbow. Dylan, who was dozing after their long journey from the United States, slowly opened his eyes.

"I can't believe your sister is getting married in Romania—in a castle!" said the boys' mom.

In less than twenty-four hours, the twins' older sister, Penny, would marry her Romanian **fiancé**, Razva. The wedding was taking place in a mountaintop castle a few miles from the tiny village where Razva had grown up. Everyone was eager to see Penny and to meet Razva for the first time.

“Here,” said Mom to the boys. She passed them a brochure.
“This is all about the castle and its history.”



Jack slowly turned the pages, which showed photos of weddings and other parties that had been held in the old castle. Then the heading on one of the pages jumped out at him:

The Vampire of Castle Prahova

"Listen to this," said Jack, reading from the brochure. "More than five hundred years ago, the castle was home to a Romanian prince. The prince had a beautiful daughter with long black hair and pale skin. The people of the village became **suspicious** of the young woman because she never left the castle except to walk in the forest at night."

Jack continued. "Then, one morning, a group of villagers made a **gruesome** discovery on the edge of the forest. They found the body of a young shepherd. Every drop of blood had been drained from the boy's **corpse**!"

"Eeww!" said Dylan.

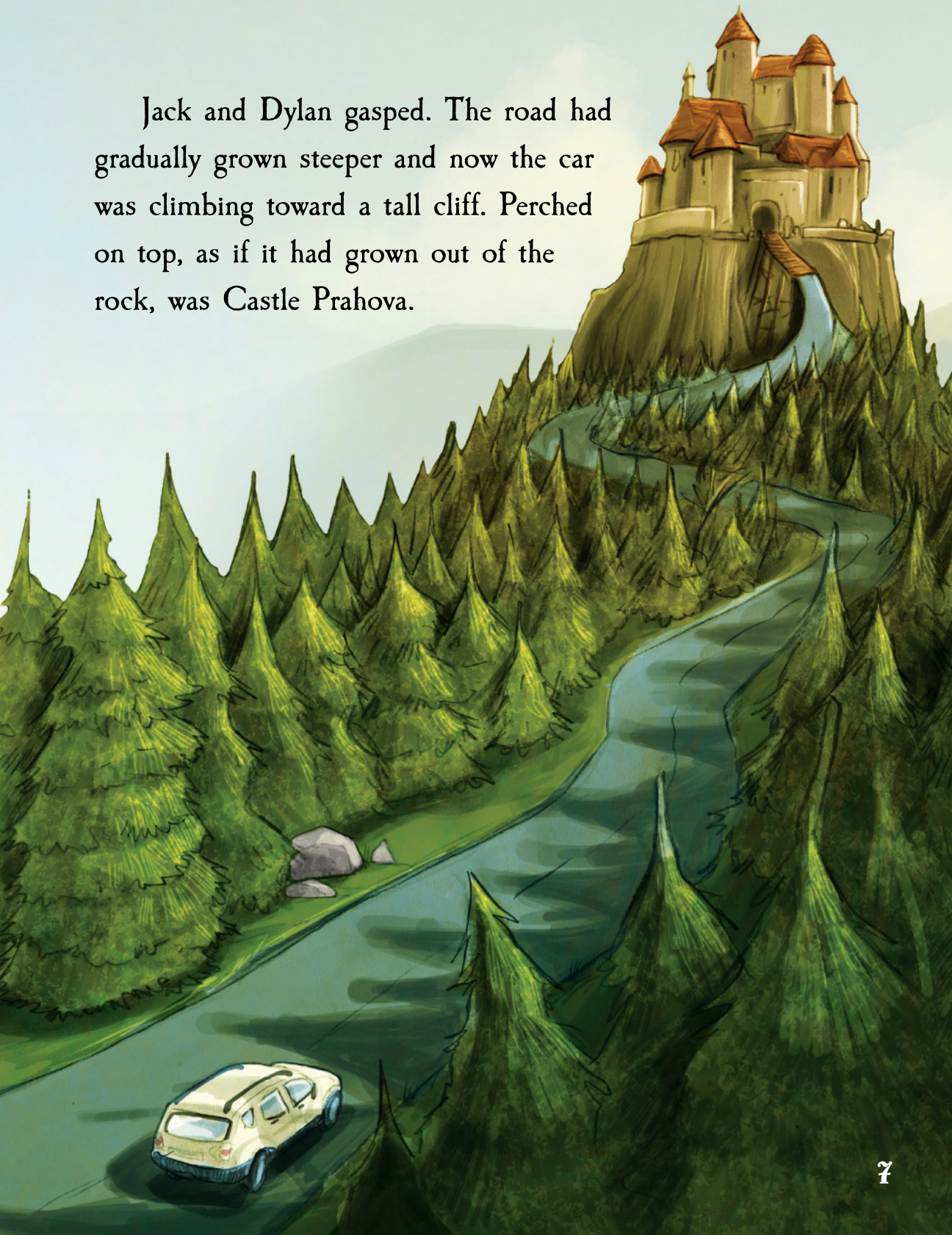
"The villagers were convinced the prince's daughter was responsible for the shepherd's death," Jack read. "They believed she was a vampire and wanted to kill her. To protect his daughter from the villagers, the prince locked her up in a secret room in the castle."

"Cool," said Dylan, enjoying the tale. "What happened in the end?"

Jack read the last passage. "After the prince died, no one ever found his daughter. It is said that to this day, the vampire remains imprisoned somewhere in the castle."

"Hey, guys," said Dad. "Look up ahead."

Jack and Dylan gasped. The road had gradually grown steeper and now the car was climbing toward a tall cliff. Perched on top, as if it had grown out of the rock, was Castle Prahova.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dee Phillips develops and writes nonfiction books for young readers and fiction books—including historical fiction—for middle graders and young adults. She loves to read and write stories that have a twist or an unexpected, thought-provoking ending. Dee lives near the ocean on the southwest coast of England. A keen hiker, her biggest ambition is to one day walk the entire coast of Great Britain.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

German-based illustrator Timo Grubing works on children's books, educational books, and magazines. When he's not working on projects for children, he enjoys drawing zombie comics. He lives and works in Bochum, Germany, in the heart of the Ruhr area, with his girlfriend, who is also an illustrator, and two cats, who do not have artistic dispositions.

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When twin brothers Jack and Dylan travel with their family to a castle in Romania, the boys discover an old legend about a vampire. The boys' curiosity turns to horror when they find the vampire in the castle's dungeon! Will Jack and Dylan be able to escape from the bloodsucking beast?

The Deadly Secret of Room 213

Doomed on Death Row

Fright at the Freemont Library

The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School

Nightmare in the Hidden Morgue

Terror in the Underground Tunnel

Trapped in the Abandoned Hospital

The Vampire's Lair

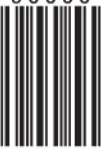
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