

= Goosebumps =

Goosebumps is a series of children 's horror fiction novellas by American author R. L. Stine , published by Scholastic Publishing . The stories follow child characters , who find themselves in scary situations . From 1992 to 1997 , 62 books were published under the Goosebumps umbrella title . Various spin @-@ off series were written by Stine : Goosebumps Series 2000 , Give Yourself Goosebumps , Tales to Give You Goosebumps , Goosebumps Triple Header , Goosebumps HorrorLand , and Goosebumps Most Wanted . Another series , Goosebumps Gold , was never released . Goosebumps has spawned a television series and merchandise , as well as a feature film , starring Jack Black as R. L. Stine .

Since the release of its first novel , Welcome to Dead House , in July 1992 , the series has sold over 350 million books worldwide in 32 languages . Individual books in the series have been listed in several bestseller lists , including the New York Times Best Seller list for children .

= = Structure and genre = =

The Goosebumps series falls under the children 's fiction , horror and thriller genres , although Stine characterizes the series as " scary books that are also funny " . Each book features different child characters and settings . The primary protagonists are middle class and can be either male or female . The primary protagonists of a Goosebumps story are often situated in a remote location or somehow isolated from typical societal conventions . This can range anywhere from comfortable suburban areas to boarding schools , foreign villages or campsites . Books typically feature characters who either recently moved to a new neighborhood or are sent to stay with relatives .

The books in the Goosebumps series feature similar plot structures with fictional children being involved in scary situations . The books are mostly written in first person narrative , often concluding with twist endings . They contain surreal horror , with characters encountering the strange and supernatural . The author has plot devices that he follows throughout his Goosebumps books . Stine says he does not have any death in his stories , and the children in his novels are never put into situations that would be considered too serious . He attributed the success of his books to their absence of drugs , depravity and violence .

= = Inspiration and themes = =

Books and characters in the series were inspired by books and films . For example , the character Slappy the Dummy was inspired by the literary classic The Adventures of Pinocchio . Some of Stine 's ideas for the books also came from real life ; Stine got the idea for the book The Haunted Mask after his son , Matt , had a Halloween mask that he had trouble getting off . Stine also uses his childhood fears to help him write his books . The author said , " Luckily , I have a great memory . As I write a story , I can remember what it feels like to be afraid and panicky " . Stine states that he often thinks of a title to a novel first , then lets the title lead him to a story .

Two common themes in the series are children triumphing over evil and children facing horrid or frightening situations and using their own wit and imagination to escape them . Stine does not attempt to incorporate moral lessons into his novels , and says his books are " strictly reading motivation " .

= = Original Goosebumps series = =

Following the success of Stine 's young adult horror novels , the co @-@ founder of Parachute Press ( the company that developed the series ) , Joan Waricha , persuaded him to write scary books for younger children . Stine says the name for the book series came to him after he saw a TV station 's ad in TV Guide that stated " It ? s goosebumps week on Channel 11 " . He originally signed a six @-@ book deal with the publisher Scholastic , but went on to write 62 books in the original series , the first book being Welcome to Dead House , released in July 1992 . The series

was originally aimed at girls , but both boys and girls enjoyed the series equally with half of Stine 's fan mail being sent from boys . The cover illustrations for this series were first done by Tim Jacobus . Twenty @-@ nine of the books from the original series were later re @-@ released with new artwork under the Classic Goosebumps rename .

= = Spin @-@ off series = =

The books in the Tales to Give You Goosebumps and Goosebumps Triple Header series were written as short story anthologies , featuring a collection of stories in each book . From 1994 to 1997 , six Tales to Give You Goosebumps books were published . Two Goosebumps Triple Header books were released from 1997 to 1998 , beginning with Three Shocking Tales of Terror : Book 1 .

Fifty Give Yourself Goosebumps books were published from 1995 to 2000 , starting with Escape from the Carnival of Horrors . The books in this series were written as gamebooks , featuring multiple endings . The books in this series were ghostwritten by several authors , including Kathryn Lance and Stine 's sister @-@ in @-@ law Megan Stine . Many of the cover illustrations for this series were done by Mark Nagata .

Due to declining Goosebumps sales and increasing competition , Scholastic and R. L. Stine decided to create Goosebumps Series 2000 . From 1998 to 2000 , 25 books in the series were published , beginning with Cry of the Cat . The books in this series were written in a similar format and featured similar content to the original series , but Stine classified them as being " much scarier . " The covers in this series were illustrated by Tim Jacobus .

The books in the Goosebumps Gold series appeared on illustrator Tim Jacobus 's website and marketing sites but were never released . In this series , Stine intended to write a sequel to The Haunted Mask II ( The Haunted Mask Lives ! ) , and a sequel to Welcome to Dead House ( Happy Holidays from Dead House ) . It was one of the two book series by Stine that was planned to be released in 2000 ( the other was The Nightmare Room ) .

The series was renewed in 2008 following the release of the first book in the Goosebumps HorrorLand series , Revenge of the Living Dummy , that was published on April 1 , 2008 . Before the 2008 release of Revenge of the Living Dummy , there had not been a Goosebumps book published in almost 10 years . Stine decided to start writing Goosebumps books again after receiving mail asking him to write new books in the series . Nineteen Goosebumps HorrorLand books were published , and books in the series mainly featured two stories . The series continued in 2012 with new stories featuring some of the series ' most memorable villains , including Slappy the Dummy , the Lawn Gnomes and others . The first book of the spin @-@ off series Goosebumps Most Wanted , Planet of the Lawn Gnomes , was released in October 2012 .

= = Achievements , reception and controversy = =

= = = Achievements = = =

Following the release of the first novel in the series , the books quickly became popular , selling a million copies a month soon after they first appeared , and four million copies a month by the mid @-@ 1990s . Individual Goosebumps books appeared in the New York Times Best Seller list for children and the USA Today bestseller list . In 2001 , Publishers Weekly listed 46 books in the series in its list of bestselling children 's paperback books of all @-@ time . Goosebumps was a bestseller in many countries , including the United States , the United Kingdom , France , and Australia .

In 1996 , the book series accounted for almost 15 % of Scholastic 's annual revenue . Following the decline of Goosebumps sales in 1997 , Scholastic 's sales had dropped 40 % . The decline in Goosebumps book sales had made front page news of most newspaper business sections , which Patrick Jones stated " demonstrates the impact and importance of R. L. Stine . One writer , it seems , influences the fate of an entire company " .

As of 2008 , the Goosebumps series maintains an 82 % brand awareness among children 7 ? 12 .

It is listed as the number two bestselling children 's book series of all time and as Scholastic 's bestselling children 's book series of all time . By 2014 , according to Scholastic , there were 350 million copies of Goosebumps books sold in 32 languages , including Chinese , Czech , Spanish , and Hebrew . As of 2008 , the book series sells about two million copies annually .

Three books from the Goosebumps series have won the Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Awards for Favorite Book : Deep Trouble in 1995 ( the award category 's first year ) , the book Tales to Give You Goosebumps in 1996 , and Deep Trouble II in 1998 . In 2000 , the series was ranked as the number two children 's books by the National Education Association , as chosen by children .

= = = Reception = = =

Slate 's Katy Waldman classified a classic Goosebumps story as " funny , icky , and just a bit menacing " . Following the release of the first Goosebumps HorrorLand book , Publishers Weekly stated in a starred review that the new Goosebumps series was " deliciously chilling " . Two reviewers of the Goosebumps books did not feel that the books were high quality literature . U.S. News & World Report 's Marc Silver thought the series was " quite tame " . He called the Goosebumps books " subliterate " , stating the plotting in the books was careless and that characters in the stories rarely grew . Roderick McGillis , from the academic journal Bookbird , described the books as camp , writing the books " are so artificial , so formulaic , so predictable , so repetitive " . McGillis also felt that the content of the Goosebumps series is " thin in the extreme " .

Stine 's books have a reputation for getting children excited about reading , which the writer is very proud of . James Carter , writing in Talking Books : Children 's Authors Talk About the Craft , Creativity and Process of Writing , stated " regarding Point Horrors and Goosebumps , I feel that anything that children read avidly is a good thing " . Librarian and writer Patrick Jones commented that " [ t ] he real horror is a culture where kids , especially boys , don 't read ? and Stine has done his best to stop that turn of the screw from happening in his lifetime " .

= = = Book challenges = = =

Goosebumps was listed 15th in the list of most frequently challenged books during 1990 ? 1999 and 94th in the list of top banned / challenged books during 2000 ? 2009 by the American Library Association ( ALA ) . According to the ALA , a challenge is an attempt by a person or group to remove or restrict materials from a library or school curriculum . The series was challenged for being too frightening for young people and depicting occult or satanic themes . By 1997 , the ALA was informed of 46 challenges , over 75 % of which occurred in school libraries . The rest of the challenges were held in public libraries or the location of the challenges were unknown . In 1997 , a hearing by the Anoka @-@ Hennepin School District to ban the books was broadcast by C @-@ SPAN . In the hearing , most of the parents and children felt the books should not be banned , and the school district 's book review committee decided to keep the books .

= = Adaptations and merchandise = =

= = = Audiobooks = = =

Walt Disney Records and Scholastic Audiobooks have adapted Goosebumps into numerous audiobooks from 1996 @-@ present .

= = = Television adaptation = = =

In the 1990s , a Goosebumps TV series was produced in Canada by Protocol Entertainment in association with Scholastic Productions . The TV anthology series ran for four seasons from 1995 to 1998 , premiering on the Fox network on October 27 , 1995 . The series mainly featured plots based

on the Goosebumps books , among them The Haunted Mask and Cuckoo Clock of Doom . The TV series aired in over 100 countries and it was the number one rated children 's TV show for three years in the United States . Margaret Loesch , formerly the CEO of Fox Kids , offered Scholastic a TV deal after her son responded positively to the Goosebumps book Say Cheese and Die she had bought for him a day earlier . A book series , titled Goosebumps Presents , was based on the TV series .

= = = Film adaptation = = =

The first attempt at a Goosebumps film was in 1998 , which Tim Burton was going to produce . Chris Meledandri , the president of Fox Family Films , said : " I think you 'll see us tackling a scale of story that would be prohibitive to do on the small screen " . However , the film did not materialize since they could not find a script they liked or determine which book or monster to adapt . In 2008 , Columbia Pictures acquired rights to create a Goosebumps film , with Neal H. Moritz and Deborah Forte , the latter of whom developed the TV series , producing the film . Duo Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski were hired as screenwriters and wrote the original script for the film . They felt that the individual books in the series were too short to adapt into a film , so they chose instead to do a fake biographical film in which R. L. Stine writes a book and all the monsters within it become real .

On January 14 , 2012 , it was reported that a new draft of the screenplay was written by Darren Lemke . Lemke co @-@ wrote the screenplays for Shrek Forever After and Bryan Singer 's Jack the Giant Slayer . In September 2013 , it was revealed that Jack Black was to play a fictionalized version of R. L. Stine " whose scary characters literally leap off the page , forcing him to hide from his own creepy creations " . Rob Letterman was also confirmed as the director , which would reunite him with Black , after working together on Shark Tale and Gulliver 's Travels .

It was announced in February 2014 that Dylan Minnette was cast as Zach Cooper , and Odeya Rush was cast as R. L. Stine 's fictional daughter , Hannah . In the film , which was released on October 16 , 2015 , Hannah 's father R. L. Stine keeps all the monsters in the series locked up in his books . When Zach unintentionally releases the monsters from the books , Zach , Hannah , and Stine team up in order to put the monsters back where they came from . Principal photography on the film began on April 23 , 2014 in Candler Park in Atlanta ; they also shot the film in Conyers and Madison , Georgia . Principal photography ended on July 16 , 2014 .

= = = Games = = =

There are four Goosebumps video games , two of which have been created for the PC by DreamWorks Interactive . A 1996 game entitled Escape from HorrorLand is an interactive sequel to the book One Day at HorrorLand , and a 1997 game entitled Attack of the Mutant was based on the book of the same name . Scholastic released a Goosebumps video game in October 2008 entitled Goosebumps HorrorLand , based on the series of the same name . Another video game , Goosebumps : The Game , a prequel to the 2015 film , was released on October 13 , 2015 . Goosebumps : Night of Scares , a mobile game based on the film and the book series was released for iOS and Android devices on October 15 of the same year .

The books One Day at HorrorLand and A Night in Terror Tower were adapted into two separate board games in 1996 . Both games were published by Milton Bradley and designed by Craig Van Ness .

= = = Other media = = =

Goosebumps has spawned merchandise , including T @-@ shirts , board games , puzzles , hats , fake skulls , dolls , bike helmets , fake blood , and boxer shorts . Goosebumps was also adapted into a stage play by Rupert Holmes in 1998 . Goosebumps has an official website , which garners 1 @.@ 5 million page views each month as of 2008 . An attraction based on the series , the

Goosebumps HorrorLand Fright Show and FunHouse , opened in October 1997 at Disney @-@ MGM Studios 's New York Street . Before it closed , the attraction consisted of a stage play which featured characters from the series ; this show played five times a day . The attraction also featured a funhouse , called the Goosebumps HorrorLand Hall of Mirrors , which contained a maze of mirrors along with other props and gags from the series . In 2008 , it was announced that Sally Corporation would market Goosebumps rides .

A comic book series , titled Goosebumps Graphix , was written based on books from the original series . There were three books published in the series ; the first one , Creepy Creatures , was published on September 1 , 2006 .

= = Legal dispute = =

In November 1996 , Scholastic , the publisher of the series , and Parachute Press , the developer of the series , agreed to a new contract . Scholastic retained control of book publishing and the TV series , but gave Parachute Press merchandising rights to the series . In September 1997 , following a dispute between Scholastic and Parachute Press , Scholastic accused Parachute Press of breaching the contract . Scholastic claimed that Parachute Press had been making merchandising deals and issuing press releases without Scholastic 's required consent , and had begun withholding payments from them . In November 1997 , Parachute responded by alleging Scholastic had repudiated its financial obligations , claiming Scholastic had voided its rights to publish 54 books . Parachute Press filed a lawsuit , which followed with numerous other suits and counter lawsuits over who controls certain rights to the series . In 2003 , the two sides reached an agreement , with Scholastic receiving the Goosebumps trademark and all other rights to the series for US \$ 9 @.@ 65 million .

= = Note = =