

= The Haunted Mask =

The Haunted Mask is the eleventh book in Goosebumps , the series of children 's horror fiction novellas created and authored by R. L. Stine . The book follows Carly Beth , a girl who buys a Halloween mask from a store . After putting on the mask , she starts acting differently and discovers that the mask has become her face ; she is unable to pull the mask off . R. L. Stine says he got the idea for the book from his son who had on a mask that he had trouble getting off .

The Haunted Mask was featured on the USA Today and Publishers Weekly bestseller list , and cited by one reviewer as " ideal for reluctant readers and Halloween @-@ themed sleepovers . " In the mid @-@ 1990s , the book was adapted for television and released on VHS on March 12 , 1996 . The Haunted Mask has three published sequels ; The Haunted Mask II , The Scream of the Haunted Mask and a stand @-@ alone story , Wanted : The Haunted Mask .

= = Background = =

The Haunted Mask was authored by R. L. Stine and originally illustrated by Tim Jacobus . The author says the idea for the book came from his son Matthew Stine , who had on a Halloween mask that he had trouble getting off . Stine also says that he incorporated a duck costume his parents got him for trick @-@ or @-@ treating in the book .

The book was first published in September 1993 by Scholastic , and reissued on September 1 , 2008 .

= = Plot = =

Carly Beth Caldwell is a naive , timid and gullible 11 @-@ year @-@ old girl who is afraid of pretty much everything . Thus , she is a constant target for pranks , jokes and tricks , most of them being inflicted on her by Steve Boswell and Chuck Greene at Walnut Avenue Middle School . In the opening chapter , Carly Beth and Sabrina discuss what costumes they are going to wear for Halloween , and Carly Beth is tricked by Steve into eating a sandwich containing a live worm . Horrified , Carly Beth flees and vows revenge . After school , she goes home and finds her mother has made her a silly duck costume for Halloween , and also a very realistic plaster of Paris model of Carly Beth 's head . When she goes to her room , the duck costume seemingly comes alive and attacks Carly Beth . It turns out it is her younger brother , Noah , playing another trick on her . Sabrina calls , and they discuss the school science fair .

At the science fair , Steve causes a panic by announcing his pet tarantula has escaped , and Carly Beth is terrified of tarantulas . Steve creeps up behind her during the chaos , and pinches her leg to make it seem that the tarantula is biting her . Carly Beth flies into a frenzied panic , destroys her and Sabrina 's project and is again humiliated in front of her teachers and classmates . Carly Beth vows that she will definitely make Steve pay for what he did to her . She plots to go to a new store that has opened , which sells frightening costumes , and plans to scare Steve and Chuck as payback .

On Halloween day , she goes to the party store , but it is closed . However , the store manager appears and allows her into the shop . She dismisses the masks she sees on display as not good enough for scaring anyone . But she sneaks into a back room and discovers a row of hideously deformed masks . She is startled to find that the masks feel warm and like human skin , not rubber or plastic . The store owner reluctantly sells her one of the masks and Carly Beth goes home in delight . Later that day , after she takes the mold of her head that her mother made , she puts on the mask and goes in search of Chuck and Steve , determined to get revenge on them . She starts acting more and more aggressively as the night goes on : she chokes Sabrina , throws apples at a house , and frightens children she doesn 't know . When she manages to scare Chuck and Steve , she loses the head her mother made , but no longer cares .

While at Sabrina 's house , Carly Beth is shocked to find she is unable to remove the mask and that the mask has , in fact , become her face . She returns to the store and finds the owner waiting for her . The store owner tells her that the " mask " is actually a real living face . All the masks in the

back room are deformed , monstrous , living faces . The store owner made them , but they started out beautiful but then became hideous . Every so often , a person puts one on and the mask possesses them . It can only be removed by a " symbol of love " , but if it attaches itself to her or another person again , it will be forever . Carly Beth screams in horror , and the other masks begin to pursue her . While running away from the masks , she realizes that the mold her mother made is a symbol of love . Carly Beth finds the mold and uses it to deter the masks and remove the mask from her face . She returns home to her mother , tossing the mask away . Noah later bursts in and asks her , " How do I look in your mask ? "

= = Reception = =

The Haunted Mask was featured on USA Today 's Top 150 Best @-@ Selling Books database for 43 weeks , attaining a peak position of 107 . In 2001 , it was listed as the 249th bestselling children 's paperback book of all time by Publishers Weekly , having sold 1 @.@ 42 million copies .

Terreece Clarke from Common Sense Media rated the book three stars out of five , commenting that it " is ideal for reluctant readers and Halloween @-@ themed sleepovers " and " is one of the better books in the Goosebumps series " . FlavorWire 's Kevin Pires listed the book as one of his ten favorite Goosebumps books , stating " Tim Jacobus ? [...] gripping illustration and Stine ? s straightforward plot made The Haunted Mask an emblem for the series . " Nathan Reese from Complex.com ranked it as the best Goosebumps book , stating the book was very thrilling , and the twist ending caused the right amount of horror . Author and librarian Herbert N. Foerstel stated it was " perhaps the most famous Goosebumps book " .

= = Television adaptation and VHS release = =

Filming for The Haunted Mask television special began in 1995 in Toronto , Ontario , Canada . The special first aired on October 27 , 1995 on the Fox Network as the series premiere of the Goosebumps TV series . In the United States , The Haunted Mask obtained an 8 @.@ 2 rating and was viewed by 14 @.@ 1 million people . In Canada , the special aired on YTV and became the network 's highest rated episode up to that point , with nearly three million viewers .

It was subsequently released on VHS on March 22 , 1996 . The video was listed 75th in Billboard 's list of Top Video Sales in their 1996 Year @-@ In @-@ Video charts , the only Goosebumps video on the list . Complex.com 's Frazier Tharpe named it the 12th best Halloween themed TV episode and called it one of the scariest Goosebumps episodes . However , Michelle Erica Green from FamilyWonder.com thought that the video had stereotypical characters , a corny feel @-@ good message , and hokey special effects . In 1997 , Kathryn Long , who played Carly Beth , received a Gemini Award nomination for " Best Performance in a Children ? s or Youth Program or Series " .

= = Sequels = =

Three sequels of the book were published , The Haunted Mask II in October 1995 (the thirty @-@ sixth book in the Goosebumps series) , The Scream of the Haunted Mask on August 1 , 2008 (the fourth book in the Goosebumps HorrorLand series) and a stand @-@ alone story in June 2012 , Wanted : The Haunted Mask . Wanted : The Haunted Mask was published as a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Goosebumps . Another book , The Haunted Mask Lives ! , was listed on illustrator Tim Jacobus 's website , but was not released .