NOVEL INSPIRED BY THE SECRET GARDEN HUM The ELLEN POTTER

The Humming Room By Ellen Potter

Melanie Dobson

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The Humming Room Ellen Potter, 2013-04-16 Hiding is Roo Fanshaw's special skill Living in a frighteningly unstable family she often needs to disappear at a moment s notice When her parents are murdered it s her special hiding place under the trailer that saves her life As it turns out Roo much to her surprise has a wealthy if eccentric uncle who has agreed to take her into his home on Cough Rock Island Once a tuberculosis sanitarium for children of the rich the strange house is teeming with ghost stories and secrets Roo doesn t believe in ghosts or fairy stories but what are those eerie noises she keeps hearing And who is that strange wild boy who lives on the river People are lying to her and Roo becomes determined to find the truth Despite the best efforts of her uncle s assistants Roo discovers the house s hidden room a garden with a tragic secret Inspired by The Secret Garden this tale full of unusual characters and mysterious secrets is a story that only Ellen Potter could write Read the Q A with Ellen Potter from Publisher's Weekly on writing a novel inspired by The Secret Garden By Sally Lodge Jan 12 2011 In 2003 Ellen Potter made a lively splash onto the scene with her middle grade novel Olivia Kidney She went on to write three sequels about that enchantingly quirky heroine as well as two other novels Slob and The Kneebone Boy Most recently the author tapped into memories of her own childhood reading to pen The Humming Room a novel inspired by Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden Set in a mansion a former children's tuberculosis sanitarium on an island in the St Lawrence River the story centers on Roo a prickly orphan who goes to live with her aloof uncle and befriends Phillip his troubled son and Jack a local boy Potter talks about how this novel took shape Is it safe to assume that The Secret Garden was an important book to you as a child Obviously I loved the novel as a kid What really struck me was that when I went back to read it as an adult the story not only held up but I discovered elements in it I had never noticed before It felt very fresh and surprisingly layered in a way I hadn t realized as a child Was that an unusual reaction for you to have to a book you revisit from your childhood Yes very unusual for me A lot of times when I go back to books I loved when I was young I don't guite understand what it was that I loved about them Rereading The Secret Garden I felt a lot like Mary feels when she visits her garden She s always finding something new popping up something delightful or surprising I ve reread The Secret Garden every year as an adult I have a battered copy on my bookshelf it's really quite a mess The experience of reading the novel keeps deepening for me How did you tackle the actual writing of The Humming Room The idea of writing a contemporary version of The Secret Garden was very exciting to me yet at the same time it was very very intimidating I knew I needed to follow the original story line or that I wanted to but I knew I had to make it different enough that it would be worthwhile for people to read my novel My editor Jean Feiwel was great and kept encouraging me to have at it to go anywhere that I felt I had to go with it Did you set parameters for yourself in terms of working within Burnett s original storyline I actually kept trying to swerve away from the original story but it wasn t easy There s something about The Secret Garden that kept me rooted in the original storyline which was difficult for me I don t plot my novels I move along

with my characters For the first time I had a story already set out for me which was very challenging Would you say that you heard Burnett's voice in your head as you wrote Yes I feel I know The Secret Garden so well that I could kind of riff on it like a jazz musician I know it in my core and could take the essence and work with that Still I love the original novel so much that it was psychologically a very tough book to write Though I think whenever I finish a book I always say it s the hardest thing I ve ever written You obviously did branch out from the original with the setting to begin with Why choose an island on the St Lawrence I went back and forth on the setting actually At first I thought of perhaps setting it in New York City but that didn t work At the time I began writing the novel I was living in the Thousand Islands and was spending a lot of time on the St Lawrence The river is so very beautiful and it struck me as similar in some ways to the moor in The Secret Garden Similar in what ways The St Lawrence seems a vast expanse of gray the way the moor is a vast expanse of purple But if you stop and look closely at the river it s incredibly changeable and moody and sometimes violent But it s always surprising And it occurred to me that this would be a perfect setting for The Humming Room On top of that there are guite a few mansions in the Thousand Islands with ghost stories attached to them It's quite incredible So that inspired your mansion setting with mysterious humming noises and an abandoned garden hidden within it Yes and I decided to make the mansion a defunct sanitarium because I wanted there to be a ghostly presence an eerie echo in the house One of the things I loved in The Secret Garden and tried to put in my novel was that there was a consciousness to everything the house the moor and the garden They are really characters themselves In my novel I wanted to give this same consciousness and self awareness to the mansion the river and the garden to give them personalities How did you set out to make Roo Jack and Phillip distinct from and have a more modern sensibility than Burnett's characters One thing I remember about Mary and Dickon is that there was a little squeak of romance in their relationship but it was so understated As a child I remember wanting more romance in the book So I brought out a bit more romance between Roo and Jack It's a young romance and entirely innocent but it's there With Phillip my Colin character I tried at first to make his ailment physical like Colin's but that didn't work so I decided to give Phillip a more mental affliction which worked better for the story And like Mary Roo starts off as a not very likable character she s a pretty tough customer That s unusual for a heroine and I loved that about The Secret Garden But before long Mary begins to blossom and that happens to Roo as well Have you tackled another writing project since finishing The Humming Room Yes I m working on a series for younger readers for Feiwel and Friends It's directed at boys though I think girls will like it too I have a son who is seven and I ve been noticing for a while how few very engaging books there are for boys around that age They somehow get the short shrift Boys at that age who are big readers are reading books like Diary of a Wimpy Kid which deal with middle school issues that seven year olds are not yet concerned about So I m trying to write something along those lines but more appropriate for younger kids As I write I ve been trying out scenes on my son I wait for his giggle and if it comes I keep that part in the book Luckily it s a method that seems to be working quite well Publisher s

Weekly January 2012 **The Humming Room** Ellen Potter, 2012 Twelve year old orphan Roo Fanshaw is sent to live with an uncle she never knew in a largely uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island and discovers a wild river boy an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a hidden garden The Wings of Poppy Pendleton Melanie Dobson, 2023-09-19 In this compelling new time slip mystery a little girl goes missing from her family s castle in the Thousand Islands of New York Eighty five years later a journalist teams up with a woman living on Koster Isle to find out what happened to Poppy once and for all 1907 On the eve of her fifth birthday Poppy Pendleton is tucked safely in her bed listening to her parents entertain New York's gilded society in their Thousand Islands castle the next morning she is gone and her father is found dead in his smoking room 1992 Though Chloe Ridell lives in the shadows of Poppy's castle now in ruins she has little interest in the mystery that still captivates tourists and locals alike She is focused on preserving the island she inherited from her grandparents and reviving their vintage candy shop Until the day a girl named Emma shows up on Chloe's doorstep with few possessions save a tattered scrapbook that connects her to the Pendleton family When a reporter arrives at Chloe's store asking questions about her grandfather Chloe decides to help him dig into a past she d thought best left buried The haunting truth about Poppy they soon discover could save Emma s life so Chloe and Logan must work together to investigate exactly what happened long ago on Koster Isle A propulsive time swapping tale Fans of WWII inspirationals will love this Publishers Weekly on The Curator's Daughter Readers will delight in this story that illustrates how the past can change the present Lisa Wingate national bestselling author of Before We Were Yours on Catching the Wind Standalone dual timeline historical mystery Clean suspenseful historical fiction perfect for fans of Susan Meissner or Lisa Wingate Book length 95 000 words Includes discussion questions for book groups **Hidden Among the Stars** Melanie Dobson, 2018-09-04 From the award winning author of Catching the Wind which Publishers Weekly called unforgettable and a must read comes another gripping time slip novel about hidden treasure a castle and ordinary people who resisted evil in their own extraordinary way The year is 1938 and as Hitler's troops sweep into Vienna Austrian Max Dornbach promises to help his Jewish friends hide their most valuable possessions from the Nazis smuggling them to his family s summer estate near the picturesque village of Hallstatt He enlists the help of Annika Knopf his childhood friend and the caretaker's daughter who is eager to help the man she s loved her entire life But when Max also brings Luzia Weiss a young Jewish woman to hide at the castle it complicates Annika s feelings and puts their entire plan even their very lives in jeopardy Especially when the Nazis come to scour the estate and find both Luzia and the treasure gone Eighty years later Callie Randall is mostly content with her quiet life running a bookstore with her sister and reaching out into the world through her blog Then she finds a cryptic list in an old edition of Bambi that connects her to Annika's story and maybe to the long buried story of a dear friend As she digs into the past Callie must risk venturing outside the safe world she s built for a chance at answers adventure and maybe even new love For Younger Readers ,2014 **Talking Book Topics** ,2014-07 Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-room Companion ,1851

Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-room Companion Maturia Murray Ballou, 1851 Ballou's Pictorial Drawing-room Central Park Ghost Ellen Potter, 2025-03-25 Cordelia and her friend Isaac investigate rumors of a Companion .1851 monster on the loose in Central Park The Golden Imaginarium Ellen Potter, 2024-10-08 Weeks after discovering the Nigh and leaving her brother behind Nell and her friends are given the opportunity to become Watchers but they must pass three challenging trials with their Nigh creatures called Fates while also evading the Minister and her Magicians The Girl in the Tree Ellen Potter, 2023-06-13 Cordelia a young girl raised by squirrels tries to branch out from her squirrel family and make a human friend but after stumbling into a gymnastics class she finds social skills are a tough nut to crack The Anchora of delta gamma May 1951, Punch Mark Lemon, Henry **Punch** ,1887 The Churchman ,1888 Mayhew, Tom Taylor, Shirley Brooks, Francis Cowley Burnand, Owen Seaman, 1887 Advocate and The New World ,1842 Family Guardian, 1867 Youth's Companion, 1892 The Illustrated London News ,1878

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