



SCARY PLACES

Abandoned Amusement Parks

by Dinah Williams

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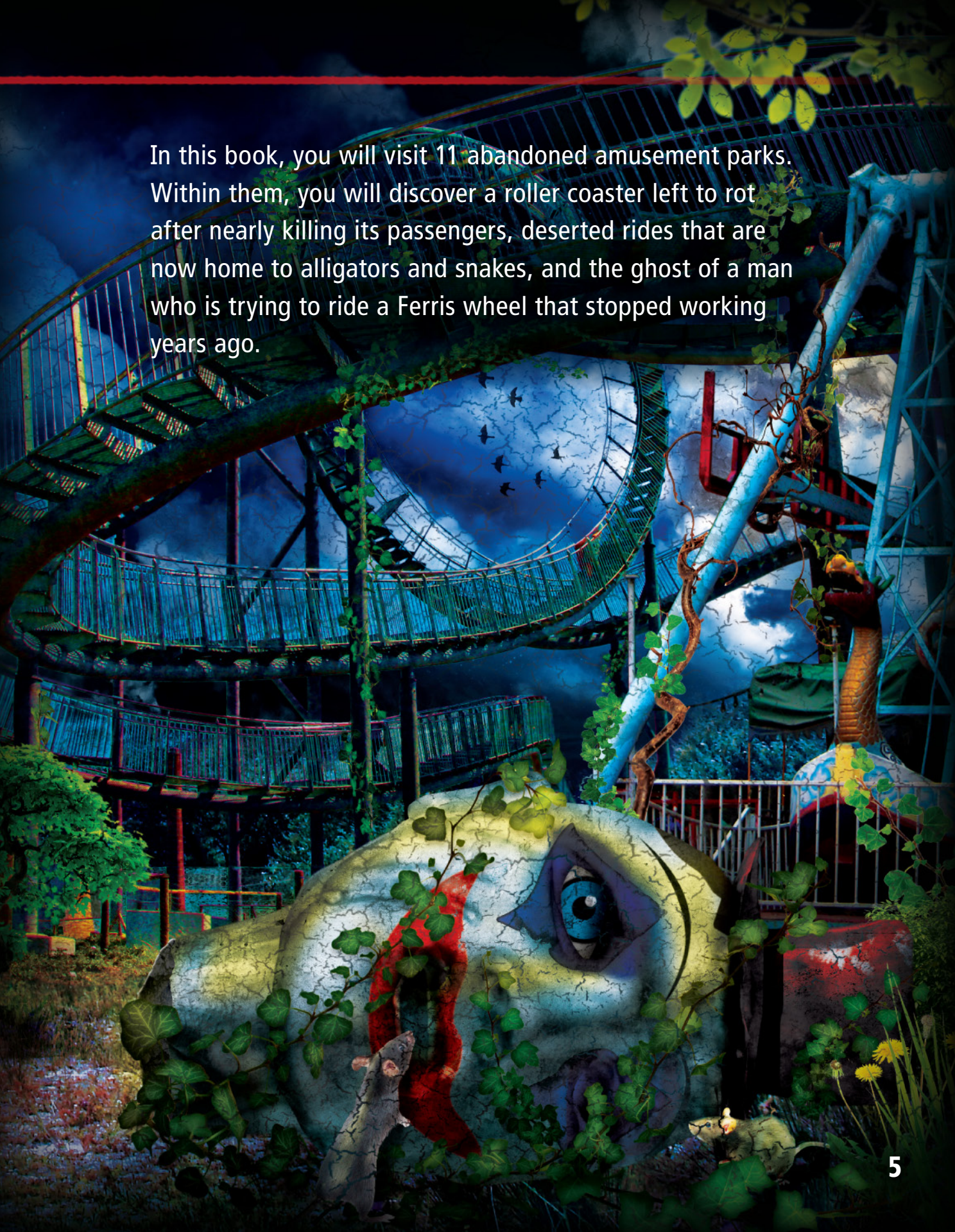
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Abandoned Amusement Parks

There is something both sad and creepy about an **abandoned** amusement park. Perhaps it's because a place that was once packed with fun seekers has become slowly choked with weeds. Or maybe it's because the sound of children's excited laughter has been replaced with the quiet creaking of rusted rides. When the only visitors are the spirits of those who died there many years ago, an amusement park can be a very scary place to visit.



In this book, you will visit 11 abandoned amusement parks. Within them, you will discover a roller coaster left to rot after nearly killing its passengers, deserted rides that are now home to alligators and snakes, and the ghost of a man who is trying to ride a Ferris wheel that stopped working years ago.

The Crash of the Coaster

Krug Park, Omaha, Nebraska

Krug Park introduced a number of new attractions in 1913. They included an airplane ride, a **penny arcade**, and a huge merry-go-round that had 72 horses. The most exciting attraction of all, however, was the Big Dipper roller coaster.

Krug Park



By 1930, the Big Dipper roller coaster in Krug Park had made riders scream for 17 years. That summer, however, the joyful shrieks turned to cries of pain. On July 24, just after 6:00 p.m., a bolt on the wooden coaster came loose, causing four cars to crash through a rotten **guardrail**. Twenty-three riders plunged 30 feet (9 m) to the ground. The cars landed on top of them, killing four and injuring seventeen others.

The terrible accident marked the beginning of the end for Krug Park. Soon after the crash, government leaders in Omaha banned amusement parks in the city from running roller coasters. As a result, Krug Park lost business each year until it closed in 1940, and it stood eerily empty for the next 15 years.

The Big Dipper
after the accident



In 1955, Krug Park was turned into a city park with baseball fields, a playground, and a swimming pool. The once-abandoned amusement park also got a new name: Gallagher Park.

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About the Author

Dinah Williams is an editor and children’s book author. Her books include *Shocking Seafood*; *Slithery, Slimy, Scaly Treats*; *Monstrous Morgues of the Past*; *Haunted Houses*; and *Spooky Cemeteries*, which won the Children’s Choice Award. She lives in Cranford, New Jersey.



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Abandoned Amusement Parks

Abandoned Insane Asylums

Creepy Castles

Creepy Stations

Cursed Grounds

Dark Labyrinths

Dark Mansions

Ghost Towns

Haunted Caves

Haunted Hotels

Haunted Houses

Lost Cities

**Monstrous Morgues
of the Past**

Mummy Lairs

Shuttered Horror Hospitals

Spooky Cemeteries

Spooky Schools

Tragic Theaters

Wretched Ruins

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