



# Into the Dream

*William Sleator*

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## **Into the Dream** William Sleator

Paul has a recurring nightmare, about a small boy in awful danger. When he learns that his classmate Francine has it, too, the two of them join forces to solve the mystery and save the boy--before their bad dream becomes a terrifying reality. "Tightly woven suspense and an ingenious, totally involving plotline make this a thriller of top-notch quality." --**Booklist**

## **Into the Dream Details**

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Author : William Sleator

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# From Reader Review Into the Dream for online ebook

## Nomy says

i've been asking people if anyone remembers this book for months and just found out about a group on goodreads called "What's the Name of that Book?" <http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/1...> and it was solved within hours! how exciting. i'm going to check it out from the library and read it again soon. i remember it being really good.

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## Alex Kingsley says

was absolutely obsessed with this book as a kid. got me into sci fi

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## Kari says

This has always been a long time favorite of mine from when I was younger. I even still have my original copy. It is is dog-eared and worn from frequent reading. I'm not sure what it is about this one that has always stuck with me. After reading it as an adult, I still love it!

The author throws you right into the story and it doesn't slow down until the end. Every night, Paul has started to have the same weird dream that haunts him during the day. He then finds out his classmate, Francine, is having them as well. The two form an uneasy friendship as they search for answers to explain their shared dream. They also find out that they can read each other's minds. I don't want to give away too much of the plot as I think it would spoil it for you.

As I was reading, I kept wondering how different this would story would have been had it been written now. With the change in technology, the kids would have been able to do their research much faster. Instead, they have to rely on the library archives. Remember when there was no Internet? Since I read my older copy, I don't know if the author has updated the later versions. I hope not, I think it would change the story too much.

I look forward to sharing this with my kids when they are middle school age. I found nothing that wasn't appropriate for the middle grade level. Share it with your kids. I hope they love it as well!

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## Melody Siracusa says

I first read this book when I was eight years old, and absolutely loved it. It had everything: telepathy, telekinesis, UFOs, kids on the run from evil government agents, and a psychic dog! I reread it a few years ago, and it still holds up.

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## **Melissa says**

One of my favorite books as a kid. (This is a re-print. I think it had a different title when I bought it from Scholastic in school.) It was creepy and fascinating and I LOVED the ambiance the author set. It really fired my imagination. This author has a disturbing knack for throwing your center of gravity off just a bit. I've always wanted to spend a night in The Stardust motel. Perhaps "they" will contact me. ;)

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## **Brandy says**

I binged on William Sleator's books as a kid, and I honestly don't remember if I ever read this one. For a book involving UFOs, ESP, and a telekinetic kid, it's kind of forgettable and generic. I want to believe (!) that I'd have loved this as a kid, when these ideas were fresher, but it's just familiar enough to make me think I read it once and never bothered again.

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## **Chris says**

Read this book when I was a kid and it absolutely hooked me. How much did it hook me? Well, I'm now 41 years old and still think of it once in a while. Being a big dog lover may help, but the book is just a roller coaster story with great emotion and lots of "cool" aspects for a kid to fawn over, like telepathy.

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## **Kiri says**

Telepathy, precognition, and aliens - a fascinating mixture! William Sleator has a gift for creating thought-provoking problems and then dropping teens in to try to solve them. Here, Paul and Francine discover that they're having the same recurrent nightmare. They have to work together to figure it out - which also means figuring out how to work together, as they're not immediately compatible. The evolution of their friendship takes place in tandem with the unraveling of the mystery. The denouement was a little unsatisfying to me, but still, the story sticks with you.

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## **Kathleen says**

This book has haunted the back of my mind for years. The idea of shared dreams, the haunting black and white image of the Ferris Wheel in the distance, and the word Stardust have popped into my head randomly over the years. I could never remember more, like the image of a dream chased away by morning. Very unlike the circumstances in this book, as it happens.

I suppose that this is just a child's book about a couple of kids given telepathy by a UFO that appeared behind a motel while they were sleeping. But the gradual unfolding of the mystery, the overall tone of the book, and the sweet revelations make something far more. Yes, it's a book for children, but it's significantly better writing than you'll find in most books for adults.

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## Marissa says

I love William Sleator, but... no. This is bad. Bad. It's possible that it would be less bad if I were a child and couldn't actually see all the plot holes and ridiculous leaps this book makes, but that's a bummer too, because kids don't deserve poorly written books just because they're kids.

(I actually finished this a few weeks ago, so pardon my forgetting all the characters names.)

So Boy Protagonist has a recurring dream that gets worse - more vivid, more terrifying, more realistic - every night. He can't talk to anyone about it, BECAUSE WHO TRUSTS OR CARES ABOUT KIDS, AMIRITE? Instead, he sulks, withdraws, lets all of his schoolwork slip, and ditches his friends. And no one notices or really cares, because KID.

There's a girl he can't stand at his school, for no good reason. She's blonde and talks too much, or something? Guess what, BP - you've met Girl Protagonist! Suck it up, Buttercup.

BP and GP have been having the same dream, but instead of talking about the dream, they fight about who had the dream better. In fact, they spend most of their "collaboration" time being sullen and actively withholding information from the other, then getting upset when the other one withholds information. This is how kids communicate, I guess? Good thing they've figured out that the dream, and the circumstances leading up to the dream, have made them telepathic. Not particularly talented at it, but still. A little bit. Let's use this as a cover for our poor communication skills.

Eventually they venture to a library (this is pre-internet-days) to do some actual research on what little they know about their dream. The library is apparently straight out of *Welcome to Night Vale*, and the librarian is real angry that there are KIDS who want to KNOW THINGS and instead of offering to help in any way at all, she makes them feel bad for being there in the first place, and for not knowing how different parts of the library work/have changed since the last time they were there.

Wee pause for weird elevator chase scene.

There are some Men in Black, who BP and GP assume are government agents, but this is actually never confirmed. They're just shady dudes who are stalking them.

Anyway, BP and GP use their illicitly obtained library knowledge to track down the other people in their dream (good thing everyone lives in the same small town, right?), a woman whose sad grownup brain won't allow her to follow accept the extrasensory abilities they were all exposed to.

Oh, yeah, hi, did I forget to mention? It was aliens. Dunno what aliens, or why aliens, but aliens. And a big glowing orb that gave everyone near it mutant-y powers, and the younger you are when you're exposed to the orb, the better your powers are.

So the woman has a four year old kid, who is mute, but guess what? He's only mute because his telepathy is so good! Also, he's telekinetic. Also, he has a dog. Also, his dog is also telepathic. Also, his telepathic dog is the one who is sending this dream, and getting everyone together, and super overprotective, and, apparently, precognitive? Because the dog is sending BP and GP not only dreams of the past, but also dreams of the

future. Because she loves her little boy so much. And is afraid of the Men in Black.

So there's a chase scene, and the weird nothing town that these people live in apparently has GREAT public transportation, and subways, and subways that drop you off right at the base of a poorly run year round amusement park that doesn't take tickets or check if their rides might be in need of repair, so the little boy learns how to harness his powers all at once at the top of a broken ferris wheel, which a local news station just hanging out at the year round amusement park happens to catch on film, and now everyone is safe and the dog is happy, because if EVERYONE knows about these three telepathic children and their dog, then no government can steal them and use them for sadtimes.

Or something.

So, that's a thousand or so words that should really just be "read House of Stairs instead."

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### **Sam says**

I have been trying to find this book for years despite only remembering fragments of the story. Clearly it made quite an impression when I was a child!

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### **Chris Thompson says**

Probably the most powerful takeaway from William Sleator's, *Into the Dream*, is his insightful look into how a person views others and themselves, and how those views may change. The telepathic link between two characters serves to illuminate this even more strongly. While readers may be intrigued by the sci-fi/fantasy of the telepathy and UFOs, or horrified by the recurring dream had by the main character, Paul, and foreboding something terrible, or enraptured by the pseudo romantic comedy as you follow the conflicted relation between Paul and the second main character, Francine, it is the way the two characters change in their regard for one another that is most intriguing and insightful. Shortcomings aside, there is plenty to admire in this short YA novel.

Paul has a nightmare that he doesn't understand, except that it makes him more and more frightened each time he views it. It feels so real, like a warning. In the dream a young boy appears to be in danger, but doesn't realize it, as hulking beasts surround him. Each time Paul dreams it, he discovers something new. The problem is, nobody understands him when he explains this dream. A dream is always more meaningful to the dreamer than it is to somebody listening to you explain the dream. It frustrates Paul the way his friends and family either shrug off the dream as if to say, "It's just a dream," or the way they try to interpret it by discussing how it shows Paul's mood or state of mind. It's more than that to Paul. It's real, and soon he withdraws from the world because nobody will listen to or understand him.

Until Francine, that is. Francine is a girl in Paul's school, but the sort of girl who doesn't interest Paul - a "silly" girl. She hangs out with other "silly" girls, girls who aren't interested in academics like Paul is. Francine is the type of girl Paul would never talk to if it weren't for a special connection (and here it's tough to avoid spoilers). They discover a telepathic link to each other, catching occasional glimpses into each

other's thoughts or mood or life. Each time Paul learns something new about her, he grows to like her a little more. Seeing a new part of her, such as where she lives, catching a glimpse of her family's poverty compared to his life of luxury, in comparison, takes him away from his own egotistical world and allows him to empathize with Francine. The same is true of her. While telepathy is not possible in the real world, Sleator is showing how people can let go of animosity if only they take time to understand one another. When nobody understands him, Paul pulls away from the world, but when he finds somebody who grows to understand him and who he grows to understand, he becomes happier and better connected. The way Sleator shows this is quite powerful.

While Sleator nails the human element, especially in that middle school age range, the plot staggers at the end. For about three-quarters of the book, the plot moves along nicely, with twists and turns that keep the reader guessing and the pages turning. It's peppered with humor, particularly the tense exchanges between Paul and Francine. And the reveals get more and more interesting, seeming to lead up to something big. I don't want to spoil anything, but more than likely you will find the ending disappointing, anti-climatic, like Sleator could have done more with his short little novel but ran out of steam far too early. The ending makes sense, of course, and fits in the world of magical realism that Sleator establishes, but for all the hype and tension the end fizzles rather than erupts. And yet, in many ways this is a book that will stay with me for some time to come.

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### **Shanna says**

A visit from a UFO gives three kids and a dog special powers, such as telepathy, telekinesis, and ESP. This was an interesting, fast-paced story. I liked the dynamic between Francine and Paul, how they were annoyed by each other at first, then their relationship evolved through this unusual connection. There were a lot of unanswered questions, which just seemed ignored out of convenience, rather than left open for contemplation.

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### **Robert Davis says**

I read this book some 35 years ago, when I was just 12. I remember liking it very much. Then the years passed, I forgot about it, almost entirely. I had this itch to find it again, but I couldn't remember the title, or much else about it, except *Stardust Motel*. That wasn't much to go on for sure, and I probably would never have found it again, if it weren't for this goodreads group discussion:

- *What's The Name of That Book???* - <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

Then it all slowly came back to me. I checked it out from my library and gave it a long awaited 2nd read. And, the thing is, the first half is pretty much as I recall it, but the 2nd half is not at all as I remember. In my memory, the kids hop on a bus and travel to Lake Tahoe to visit the *Stardust Motel* in search of answers. I think that I got half way through and then let my imagination make up the rest.

Come to think of it, I may not have even FINISHED the book all those years ago... and that is why it has been nagging at me all these years to find this book again... TO FINISH IT!

In any event, I'm happy to have FINALLY finished it. Although the ending of the book was not as sophisticated as I remember it being, It was still fun.

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**Matthew Russell says**

One of the first novels I ever read as a kid, and it made me love science fiction and fantasy, and William Sleator. It sparked my own imagination, where I started to make up my own stories and eventually write them down.

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