

What our readers think about . . .

Katie & Kimble: A Ghost Story *and* Katie & Kimble: The Magic Wish!

“I love reading your book. Once I started to read it to my sister at bedtime, I didn’t want to stop.”

Cristina, age 7

“I liked both of the Katie and Kimble books. Because I thought they were neat and interesting. I really liked your pictures.”

David, age 8

“I think Katie was cool. Twinkle is a good dog trying to protect Katie. Mr. and Mrs. Russell are good parents.”

Nick, age 9

“I really like your stories. They are the best books I’ve read all year. I love the way you make the stories sound so real. It’s almost like they *are* real.”

Kelsey, age 10



Teachers and Homeschoolers

A full set of reading skills worksheets and classroom materials is available free of charge for *Katie & Kimble: A Ghost Story* and *Katie & Kimble: The Magic Wish*, at: <http://www.katieandkimbleblog.com>

“Guess what? I got to read your book! Katie and Kimble is such a fantastic book, everybody who reads it I bet will love it! And good ending!”

Miya, age 8

“Your book was great. I loved it.”

Aaron, age 8

“I liked both of your Katie and Kimble books because they are very creative. Another thing is when Katie and Kimble race up and down the stairs.”

Paul, age 9

“I love the books you write about Katie and Kimble. You write the best books I have ever read in my whole life.”

Melissa, age 9

“I enjoyed your Katie and Kimble story because it was funny. Toby called Kimble *Kibo* and his parents wonder what he is trying to say. *That* is funny.”

Brittany, age 9

“I loved your Katie & Kimble stories. They were really funny. It would be cool to have a ghost as a friend. I felt sorry for Kimble sometimes.”

Tiffany, age 10

Katie & Kimble

A Ghost Story

Linda Thieman



Chapter 2



THE FIRST SURPRISE

The next morning, Katie felt Twinkle's warm, wet tongue on her face. Katie turned her head away and said, "Good morning, Twinkle." She gave Twinkle a pat on the head. The sun was shining through the living room windows. It was a beautiful day.

Katie's mom started to move next to her.

"Morning, honey," Mrs. Russell said. "Do you want to take the dog out in the backyard? I'll get breakfast going."

Katie agreed. First, Katie ran upstairs to the bathroom. There, she washed the dog slobber off her face. Next, Katie went into her empty bedroom. She threw on the clothes she had worn the day before.

"No need to put on clean clothes," Katie thought. "Today's going to be a dirty day."

Twinkle was waiting for Katie in the hallway. They raced down the long staircase. Then they ran through the living room and into the kitchen. The kitchen was in the back of the house. Katie opened the heavy door to the backyard. Twinkle put his head down. He took a drink of water from the blue bowl.

When Katie opened the screen door, Twinkle barked. Then out the door he went. Katie followed him. Suddenly, Twinkle started running at top speed. Katie didn't know why. It looked like he was chasing something. But what? Katie couldn't see anything that might explain it. No rabbit. No cat.

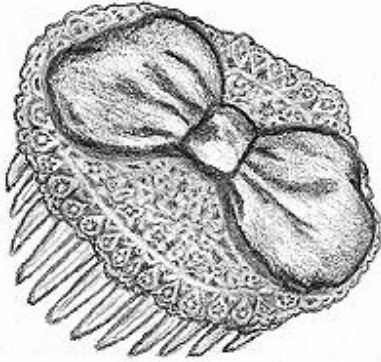
Katie started running after Twinkle. He was heading towards the forest that was right behind the house. When he entered the forest, it was quite dark. Then, suddenly, Twinkle stopped. Because it was dark, Katie did not see him. Katie tripped over Twinkle and went flying. Luckily, she landed on a big pile of old leaves. She was not hurt.

Katie stood up and brushed the leaves from her clothes. "Whew! That was some trip!" Katie said.

Katie thought she heard that laughter again. Maybe it was the same laughter she heard yesterday. Katie turned her head. She looked around. No one was there.

Just then, Twinkle barked. Katie looked down to see what Twinkle was pawing at. There, in the hollow of an old, dead log was a piece of lace. Katie picked it up.

"Hmm. Look at this." Katie walked back out into the yard. She could see the lace better in the sunlight. Twinkle followed her.



"It's a hair bow," Katie exclaimed. And so it was! On one side, there was a small comb. On the other side, there was a piece of lace. On top of the lace was a blue bow. It looked old-fashioned, but it was in good condition.

"Mama!" Katie shouted. She started running.
"Mama, look what I found!"

Katie raced in the back door. There was just enough time for Twinkle to slip in. The door slammed.

"My word," Mrs. Russell smiled. "The two of you are like a tornado! What did you find?"

Katie showed her mom the hair bow. "I found it in a log in the forest!" Then Katie rushed into the downstairs bathroom and looked in the mirror. She pulled her short, blond hair back. Then she held it in place on one side with the comb. It was beautiful! Katie was beautiful!

"Mama, can I keep it?" Katie yelled.

"Well, I see no harm in it," her mom said. Mrs. Russell came into the bathroom. "That is lovely," she agreed. "Until the real owner wants it back, you can keep it."

"Oh, thank you, Mama! I'll wear it all day," Katie said.

"There is one thing, though," her mother added. "Don't play too far back into the forest. And take Twinkle with you when you go."

Katie agreed. Her mother wasn't worried, though. Katie had a lot of common sense.

Mrs. Russell trusted Katie. And Twinkle, too.

It was moving day, so Katie decided to help. After breakfast, she rolled up the sleeping bags. Then she tied them up with string. Then Katie carried them, two by two, up the stairs.

"I'll put them on the floor in the big hall closet," she thought. "That's where they went in the old house. That's where they'll go in this house." Katie felt proud of herself.

Next, Katie joined her mom and Toby in the kitchen. It looked funny. There was no furniture. There was only a playpen. Twinkle was on the floor. He was lying next to the playpen. Toby was in the playpen. He was lying next to Twinkle.

"That's a sight!" Katie laughed. She pointed to the strange pair. Just then, Katie's dad walked in. He was carrying Toby's highchair.

"Katie," he said, "would you like to put the highchair together?"

Katie said yes. She'd done it many times before. When she was finished, she lifted Toby out of the playpen. Then she put him in the chair.

"Can I watch him while he eats?" Katie asked. She put Toby's bib on him.



"I've got the food ready now," Mrs. Russell said. She handed the bowl to Katie. Katie set it on Toby's tray. Toby squeaked. He was glad.

Toby grabbed a handful of breakfast cereal. Then he shoved it in his mouth. Then there was some on his bib. Then on his tray. Then on the chair. Finally, it was all over the floor. Katie didn't mind cleaning up after him. Sometimes she even pretended she was Toby's mom.

Katie remembered when Toby was a baby. He was just eight months old when they first gave him green beans. Toby did not like green beans. As a matter of fact, Toby hated green beans. He took one bite and threw up. That was the end of the green beans. Nobody was brave enough to try them again.

Just then, Mr. Russell came in the front door. "The movers are here," he shouted. Then he went outside to meet them.

"I can take Toby and Twinkle out back," Katie said.

"That would be a great help. Thank you, sweetheart. Let me know when you're tired of it," her mother said.

Katie quickly picked the cereal up off the highchair. Twinkle had already eaten the cereal that fell on the floor. Then the three of them went outside. They played happily in the sun for an hour. Then Twinkle lay down in the cool shade. He liked to sit under trees. And the Russells had a big oak tree in their backyard.

Toby followed Twinkle over to the shade of the oak tree. Then he sat down next to Twinkle. Toby rested his head on Twinkle's belly. One minute later, Toby was asleep. Then Twinkle fell asleep, too.

Katie's dad came out the back door to check on them. He'd already checked on them three times. This time he was bringing Katie a big glass. It was something cool to drink. He also carried a bottle of juice. The juice was for Toby.

"Hi," Mr. Russell whispered. "How's it going?" He handed Katie the glass. Then he sat down.



"Fine, Daddy. As you can see, I finally have a free minute."

She took a drink. "Oh, this hits the spot. Thanks, Daddy."

"Where did you get that blue bow in your hair?" Mr. Russell asked.

Katie touched it. "Oh! I found it inside a log in the forest. Mama said I can keep it." Katie didn't tell him about the laughter she heard.

"Oh, that's a nice surprise. What a happy welcome," her dad said.

Katie was pleased he noticed the pretty blue bow. And now, both parents knew about the forest. The forest worried her dad. Maybe just a little. Her mom and dad would have a meeting to talk about it. Katie was sure of that. But, for now, Katie was still free.