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Grave Robber's Secret

Author:

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Reading Level: Grades 5-9

Robby Hare's father decides that he will rob graves and sell the corpses to the medical school. His father forces Robby to help him with his grisly new venture. Although sickened by the task, Robby becomes fascinated with the study of medicine itself and one doctor takes an interest in the bright boy. Life changes when Mr. Burke and his daughter, Martha, come to live in the Hare family boardinghouse. Robby finds a friend in Martha and does not have to rob graves, but something much worse may be taking place in his home.

The story is based loosely on real-life killers, Hare and Burke who sold the corpses to medical schools in Scotland in the 1820s. This is an interesting historical glimpse into the beginning of medical education.

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