

Sora READS

24 Nov - 8 Dec 2026

Dear Reader!

I'm so glad you picked up *Secrets of the Broken House*. Thank you for choosing to spend time with this story, its characters, and the mystery tucked inside its pages.

Mysteries have long been my genre of choice—whether I'm reading them, writing them, or watching them on TV. As a kid surrounded by whodunits, I was right there with the detectives, trying to solve the case before they did. But it wasn't until I discovered Agatha Christie that my love for murder mysteries truly sparked. And as I've talked with young readers, I've found they want those kinds of stories too. That desire inspired me to write *Coop Knows the Scoop, The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle,* and my newest book, *Secrets of the Broken House*.

So...what is *Secrets of the Broken House* about? I'm glad you asked. This book is more than just a story about solving a crime. It's about friendship, forgiveness, and learning how holding on to grudges can sometimes hurt more than the thing that caused them in the first place. It's also about acknowledging the idea that justice isn't about being well-liked; it's about doing what's right.

In the quiet Southern town of Everson, Georgia, thirteen-year-old Tucker Stephens is used to life being *borrrrrring*. But that all changes when Miss Geraldine Guss—a world-class grudge holder if ever there was one—is found dead at the bottom of her stairs. What first seems like a tragic accident quickly turns into something far more serious...murder.

One of my favorite parts of writing this story was creating Tucker Stephens. Tucker is smart and always noticing things other people might miss. His knack for observation and deduction has earned him the nickname "Sherlock" from his friends—and I must admit, that makes me smile every time I write it. Like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie, I had so much fun crafting my own detectives who have to rely on both their wits and their hearts to solve a case.

If you love reading mysteries (or even just figuring out puzzles and patterns), I hope this story becomes a favorite.

Happy sleuthing!

Taryn Souders