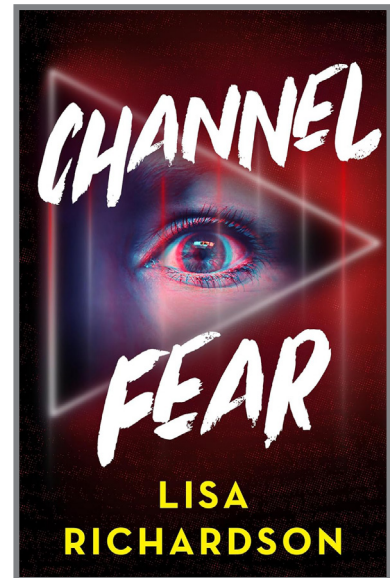


Channel Fear

AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Secondary
(Language, Violence, Suicide References)

SYNOPSIS

Iris is obsessed with star YouTube ghost hunting duo, Zach and Lucas, who disappeared at an undisclosed location several months ago. Iris—who heads up her own unsuccessful channel with co-hosts Byron and his girlfriend Molly—has been searching for the location ever since. When they stumble across long-abandoned Thornhanger House, the trio set aside their toxic love triangle to explore, and find Zach and Lucas’s abandoned equipment inside . . . complete with their last day of filming. As they watch the footage, a horrifying truth emerges: whatever came for Zach and Lucas is coming for them too . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa Richardson has a first-class honours degree in Creative and Professional Writing and works as a production editor. When not writing, Lisa can be found reading, binge-watching Netflix with her sons, or running and taking photographs along the Kent coast.

THEMES

- Horror and thrillers
- Haunted house stories
- Missing people
- YouTube & social media
- Supernatural & paranormal activity
- Love triangle romance
- Suspense & fear
- Friendship

STUDY NOTES

- The influence of social media plays a consistent role throughout *Channel Fear*. One of the reasons Iris is so eager to visit to Thornhanger House, besides finding Zach and Lucas, is to increase the number of subscribers to her own YouTube channel. Before they set off to the house, we learn that the channel currently gets a lot of negative comments. As a class, discuss the following:
 - How do you think these comments would make Iris feel?
 - What effect does social media have on our mental health and social relationships?
 - Ultimately, do you think the growth of social media has been a good or bad thing?

- Divide into groups of three and assign each person in your group a different character from *Channel Fear*. Individually, design what you think their Twitter profile would look like based on what you have learnt about them as you read the book. Include their handle and bio, and don't forget to draw their profile picture based off of the descriptions of their appearance in the book. Try to think of what things would be important to them and write three tweets that they might have recently posted. Make sure to stick to the 280-character limit!
 - In your groups, discuss what each of you have created—how do they differ? Next, think about what would their social media interactions look like? Together, write out an example of one of these conversations.
- There are lots of detailed descriptions about Thornhanger House throughout *Channel Fear*. With a partner, create a mind map with all the descriptions of the house that you can find in the story.
- Imagine you are writing your own ghost story. Think about who your main characters would be and where the story would be set. Write a scene where your characters are first introduced to the location. Engage all five senses in your descriptive language and think about what the character might experience, both physically and mentally. Read your scene out to the person you created your mind map with.
- 'Gripping the car battery in front of her like a prize, she turns from her friend and boyfriend and strides in the direction of the main gate and Byron's mum's car. Leaving Iris and Byron to Thornhanger House . . .' (pp 337) *Channel Fear* ends with Iris uploading 'OUR ESCAPE FROM HORROR HOUSE! We know what happened to Zach and Lucas teaser video!!!' to YouTube; the video includes the clip of Molly running away from the house after witnessing Bryon and Iris kiss, leaving them trapped by the house. Retell the events of the book as if you were a reporter writing a front-page article about the disappearance of Iris and Bryon. Think about the links between the disappearance of Zach and Lucas, and how much a reporter would know about what has gone on in the house. Make sure to include the following elements of an article:
 - a snappy headline
 - subheadings
 - pictures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which of the three protagonists do you feel you would be most like if you visited Thornhanger House? Why?
- What were the main motivations behind Iris, Bryon and Molly's actions? Do you think they changed throughout the book?
- There are many references throughout the story about the role of the house itself. Do you believe the house was 'alive' and that it was the reason behind the many deaths? What else could be behind the disappearances?
- One of the key themes in *Channel Fear* is the love triangle between Iris, Bryon and Molly. Which pairing did you find yourself rooting for? Did you find that this opinion changed throughout the book?
- At the end of the book, Bryon and Iris's deaths mirror those of Anne and Charlotte Turner. What do you think is the significance of this parallel?
- Which element of the story did you find scared you the most?