

# AGAPE EDITIONS. SUMMER 2024.



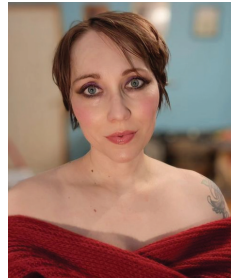
## ABOUT THE BOOK

Recent high-school graduate Chelsea is determined to escape her alcoholic mother and take her beloved younger sister, Mariah, with her. After Chelsea's high-school graduation, the girls spend summer in a seaside town with their no-nonsense Aunt Bobbie. As Chelsea makes clumsy forays into adulthood, Mariah grows increasingly close with a warm and nurturing married couple — a pair of artists who eventually reveal themselves to be predators. This coming-of-age summer proves deeply traumatic for both sisters.

When the FBI knocks on Chelsea's door fifteen years later, it's because her sister has joined a cult responsible for violent crimes. It's evident that Mariah is now in serious danger. Chelsea must revisit and dissect all the painful, messy details of that long-ago summer. Understanding Mariah's choices may be Chelsea's only chance to help extract her sister from the cult — before its elusive leader, Agape, persuades Mariah to take actions that will drive the sisters permanently apart.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Letitia Trent is the author of three novels, including *Summer Girls* and *Almost Dark*, and two full-length poetry collections. Her poetry and short stories have most recently appeared in *Biscuit Hill*, *Figure 1*, *Alice Says Go Fuck Yourself*, and *Smartish Pace*. Her short story "Wilderness" was nominated for a Shirley Jackson Award and later appeared in *Best Horror of the Year, Volume 8*. She lives in a haunted Ozark mountain town with her family and works in the mental health field. She can be reached via her substack, *Tell Me Something Good* (<https://letitiatrent.substack.com/>), or Bluesky (<https://bsky.app/profile/letitiatrent.bsky.social>).



## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"...equal parts poetry and thriller. You will not come away unscathed."

—Richard Thomas, Bram Stoker, Shirley Jackson, and Thriller Award finalist

"Fans of true crime will love *Summer Girls*... Trent's introspective prose will gut you in a way no other beach read can."

—Rebecca Jones-Howe, author of *Ending In Ashes* and *Vile Men*

"...unsettling, psychologically revelatory, and as smart as it is suspenseful, both a coming-of-age novel and a dark mystery that builds toward an explosive climax."

—Holly Goddard Jones, author of *The Next Time You See Me* and *Antipodes: Stories*



**HAUNTED DOLL HOUSE** is an imprint of Agape Editions. As our name suggests, we aren't afraid of the dark: we live there. We want your horror stories, your mystery novels, your dark sf/f, your genre-resistant writing about the ecstasies, traumas, & terrors that took you to the very edges of yourself.