

BRANDI REEDS OAK AVENUE 2018

(DARK CORNERS COLLECTION)

A young wife and mother—new to this town and to its secrets—learns just how much she doesn't know in this tingly tale of all the things hiding in the dark at the top of the stairs, from bestselling author Brandi Reeds.

While renovating her Victorian home, Ana Clementine finds an ornate door buried under forty years of earth. Once she restores it to the attic, she starts hearing whispers, her loving husband becomes a stranger, and her baby daughter learns a chilling new word. Maybe Ana has unlocked the house's secrets. Or maybe she's becoming just a little unhinged herself.

Anastasia and her daughter moved into the new house when Edison wasn't home.
It was lonely, but she was after all the restoration specialist.
Ana finds a beautiful Victorian door and hopes to restore it as part of the house.
Suddenly the attic door pops open and she hears "Hey Ana", but no one is there.

Is Ana losing her mind, or is there something strange in their new home?

Spooky old mean house...but who or what is "Zo?"
That, and other interesting tidbits, weren't answered.
The author excels at character development; the main character, of course, but even the pre-verbal child felt knowable.
I love the way the house itself has its own malevolent personality.

'...“I don't know what that means,” he says, laughing, “but I hate missing all these things. In a few weeks, I'll be able to take some time off, and we can do something fun together. Just the three of us.”

“That would be nice.”

“And, Ana? I miss the hell out of you too, babe.”

“Miss you more.”

“Listen, I have to call you back. I'm heading into a meeting.”

“Just a second. Did you speak with the tree man, by any chance?”

“I thought you were handling that.”

“I tried. Twice. But remember? He wanted to talk to you?” I'd detailed the annoying meeting

during last night's conversation. "Well, he's here. Overtaking the lawn."

"What's it going to cost?"

"I don't know! That's why I'm calling. I just woke up—"

"Just now? It's nearly eight there."

I ignore the dig and the implication it carries—that I'm eating bonbons while he's earning a living. Or maybe I'm just stressed and making a big deal out of nothing. "They're already working. They're already..."

He dreamed of owning the old Churchill home since he was a boy, and they paid way too much for the house. Edison is working in New York during the week leaving Anastasia and the baby in the house with her in-laws, who are not very welcoming towards her, as her nearest neighbors.

As a restoration specialist, she is looking forward to returning the home to its former glory, when they can afford it, but to start they have to take care of the dead trees in the yard that are presenting a danger. When uprooting one tree an old door is also uprooted, and when it is returned to the house something evil is returned with it.

They have purchased a house in his home town. He is working in New York City and she spends the week putting the house together. Then strange things start happening.

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Ann cannot settle in the new house
and hates being isolated from her husband
and spied on by her neighbours.

Her isolation makes what she experiences much worse.

This is the perfect menacing haunted house story. It's well-written, intense and pretty dark at times. I love ghost stories when they're subtle and blood and gore free. Oak Avenue ticks all the boxes for me. I loved the way it's not always clear whether what Ana is experiencing is real or a result of her exhaustion and stress. Ann cannot settle in the new house and hates being isolated from her husband and spied on by her neighbours. Her isolation makes what she experiences much worse. Oak Avenue is terrific

