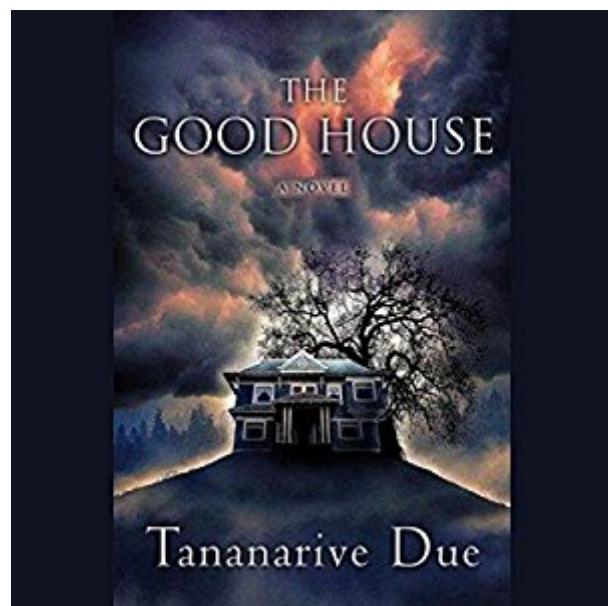


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# The Good House



## **Synopsis**

The home that belonged to Angela Toussaint's late grandmother is so beloved that townspeople in Sacajawea, Washington, call it the Good House. But that all changes one summer when an unexpected tragedy takes place behind its closed doors...and the Toussaint's family history -- and future -- is dramatically transformed. Angela has not returned to the Good House since her son, Corey, died there two years ago. But now, Angela is finally ready to return to her hometown and go beyond the grave to unearth the truth about Corey's death. Could it be related to a terrifying entity Angela's grandmother battled seven decades ago? And what about the other senseless calamities that Sacajawea has seen in recent years? Has Angela's grandmother, an African American woman reputed to have "powers," put a curse on the entire community? A thrilling exploration of secrets, lies, and divine inspiration, *The Good House* will haunt readers long after its chilling conclusion.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Tananarive Due gets better and better with each release! Her latest novel, *The Good House*, examines the consequences of misusing magic and the power of heritage and family. The story is set in the remote town of Sacajawea, Washington where in the early 1900's, Marie Toussaint relocates from Louisiana guided by her inner voice to a place that can be described in modern terms as the "epicenter of the spirit world". Marie is a trained, experienced, favored vodou priestess and often uses her powers to help and heal others. Through a series of events, Marie (in anger) misuses

her talents, is abandoned by the "good" spirits for her actions, and unleashes a vengeful, unrelenting evil spirit that is determined to destroy her and her progeny. Marie watches helplessly as her daughter is possessed and tormented by the spirit. She patiently waits for the opportunity to redeem herself but time is not her friend and she passes before she can banish the spirit. Fast forward to present day. Marie's granddaughter, Angela, is clueless about her grandmother's secrets; but when tragedy strikes at the family home (The Good House) and a destructive pattern emerges at the expense of her loved ones, she begins to suspect and believe that there is no such thing as coincidence. She must quickly discover the cause of these bizarre fatalities, her dead grandmother's role in it, and a method of containing or eradicating the evil before it consumes her and all her loved ones. This book is a suspenseful page-turner from beginning to end. It is wonderfully conceived and superbly written!! Due exhibits great expertise when she weaves together the spiritual aspects (Christianity, Vodou, Native American and African/Caribbean spiritualism), the history of the great Northwest, racial sensitivities, and family values. It is my opinion that very few authors could have blended such a diverse set of topics so brilliantly. Keep 'em coming, Ms. Due....we can't get enough!!Reviewed by PhyllisAPOOO BookClub, The Nubian Circle Book Club

Angela Toussaint has mixed feelings about the offer to buy her family home in Sacajawea, Washington. The property has been in her family for decades (her grandmother, Marie Toussaint, is a local legend). It's also the place where her teenaged son, Corey, died two years earlier under suspicious circumstances (though his death was officially declared a suicide). Although she fled the house after the tragedy, she decides she must return to the home, known by the locals as "The Goode House," before making her final decision. On her return to Sacajawea, Angela slowly comes to realize that something strange and lethal is going on there, and that the Goode House is at the epicenter of the mystery. She investigates, hoping to uncover the source of misery that has plagued her family and the citizens of Sacajawea since her grandmother's time. Doing so, she stirs up vengeful ancient forces that seek her destruction. As in previous novels, Due focuses intensely on family dynamics. Angela and her husband, Tariq, were having problems even before Corey's death. Negatively influenced by the entity that seeks retribution on Angela, Tariq later becomes a warped symbol of their failed marriage. Here, however, the focus is not so much on spouses as it is on the bonds between a mother and her child. Despite the intimacy inherent in that bond, mothers and children are often strangers to each other--Due seems to suggest that complete understanding is beyond either party. Acceptance, however, can lead to greater affinity. Due takes her time with her

narrative, allowing for extensive development of her characters and painstaking stage setting. As in previous works, her characters stand out--she cares about the people who populate her novels, and is eager to explore their frailties and hidden strengths. Angela is the best example; an able, tough-minded heroine, her fears, doubts and motivations all ring true. Due also does a masterful job of maintaining readers' interest, using changes in perspective and point of view to gradually illuminate the book's central mysteries. THE GOOD HOUSE shows Due to be a writer of great scope, depth, and empathy. An absorbing and frightening tale, THE GOOD HOUSE firmly establishes her as one of the modern masters of the horror genre, a writer who shows us more with each successive effort.

You read "My Soul to Keep," and you enjoyed the sequel, "The Living Blood," but nothing in either of those two earlier Tananarive Due books could have prepared her dedicated fans for this one! Angela Toussaint returns to her late gramma Marie's house for the summer hoping for some healing powers that would bring her own family closer together. She's separated from her husband Tariq, and her teenage son, Corey, splits his time between both parents. While gramma Marie has been trying to communicate or reach out to Angie, Angie has not been receptive so gramma reached the only other blood relative, Corey. Things pick up and start spinning wildly and unworldly out of control on the evening of Angie's 4th of July party. WARNING: if you're a big scradie-cat don't read this book at night just before going to bed. Gramma Marie was a well-respected voodoo priestess and before her death, in a fit of anger, she enlisted the help of the evil "baka" to punish her enemies. The baka, once called upon never wants to return and is bent on destroying anything and everything that attempts to send it back -- particularly anyone from the Troussaint bloodline. Get ready, prepare yourself for this wild ride. "House on a Haunted Hill," "The Blair Witch Project," and "The Exorcist," all in one -- and then some. Ms. Due, you've outdone yourself.

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