

# hannah house

## - Film Synopsis



If you traveled to Dalton, Nebraska today, you could still find it—a simple late 1800's farmhouse at the end of a winding dirt road, standing alone on the empty prairie. No one lives there now except for a few prairie dogs and maybe a spider or two seeking shelter from the cold. A

relic from the American past, from the age of homesteaders and Manifest Destiny, this tiny run-down house holds no more than a small piece of history. Or perhaps it holds a bit more, if you care to look closer and listen for a moment, to the sound of voices, almost imperceptible, mixing with the Nebraska wind.

In 1904, the house stood abandoned, the whereabouts of its former tenants known only to the residents of Dalton. The well-intentioned town preacher, hoping to see his newly formed congregation flourish, calls on two parishioners, Casper and Mary Jo, to contact their Eastern cousin and encourage her and her husband to make the trek West. The young couple can take up residence in the house at no financial cost and build a home for themselves in a land full of potential.

Back East, cousin Anna and her husband Jobe, receive a letter from Mary Jo describing the prospects and promises of homesteading. Anna is pregnant, and she can't think of a better life for her unborn child than the one she could find in a home on the open prairie.

What they don't know is that their new home already contains a family of sorts—rattlesnakes. Seeking refuge from the winter, a den of rattlesnakes has taken up residence just beneath the floorboards. Her senses heightened by her pregnancy, Anna knows there is something wrong, but she cannot name it.

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## - Film Synopsis Continued



Overcome by the demands of farm life, Job retreats from Anna by drinking and abandoning her late at night to take walks through the empty pastures. Anna often awakens alone to sounds she cannot identify, visions she cannot understand. The specter of a young woman with dead eyes invades Anna's bed with mournful demands that she look under the floorboards. Just as Anna comes to her senses to ask the woman who she is, the specter disappears into the darkness.

As Anna's pregnancy progresses, she becomes more and more convinced that something horrible is about to happen. Left alone in the house, she struggles with a presence that will not retreat. The ghost of the woman reappears, her face ravaged by the tortured knowledge of the fate that consumed her—a fate that awaits Anna and her family.

There are secrets her cousins and the preacher have been keeping from her. The cursed land of this Nebraska homestead holds more than the promises of a new life. What really happened to the house's former occupants? Who were they? Why would they leave behind their home? Where have they gone?

Perhaps they never left at all.

Based on a true story, this chilling account portrays the hardships and desolation of prairie life as a young family unearths the horrifying details of the house and its past. As Anna soon discovers, the past is never truly buried, and its ghosts will always remain.

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