

By the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Coraline*

# NEIL GAIMAN



## THE Graveyard Book

With illustrations by DAVE McKEAN



CHAPTER ONE

*How Nobody Came to the Graveyard*

**T**HERE WAS A HAND IN the darkness,  
and it held a knife.









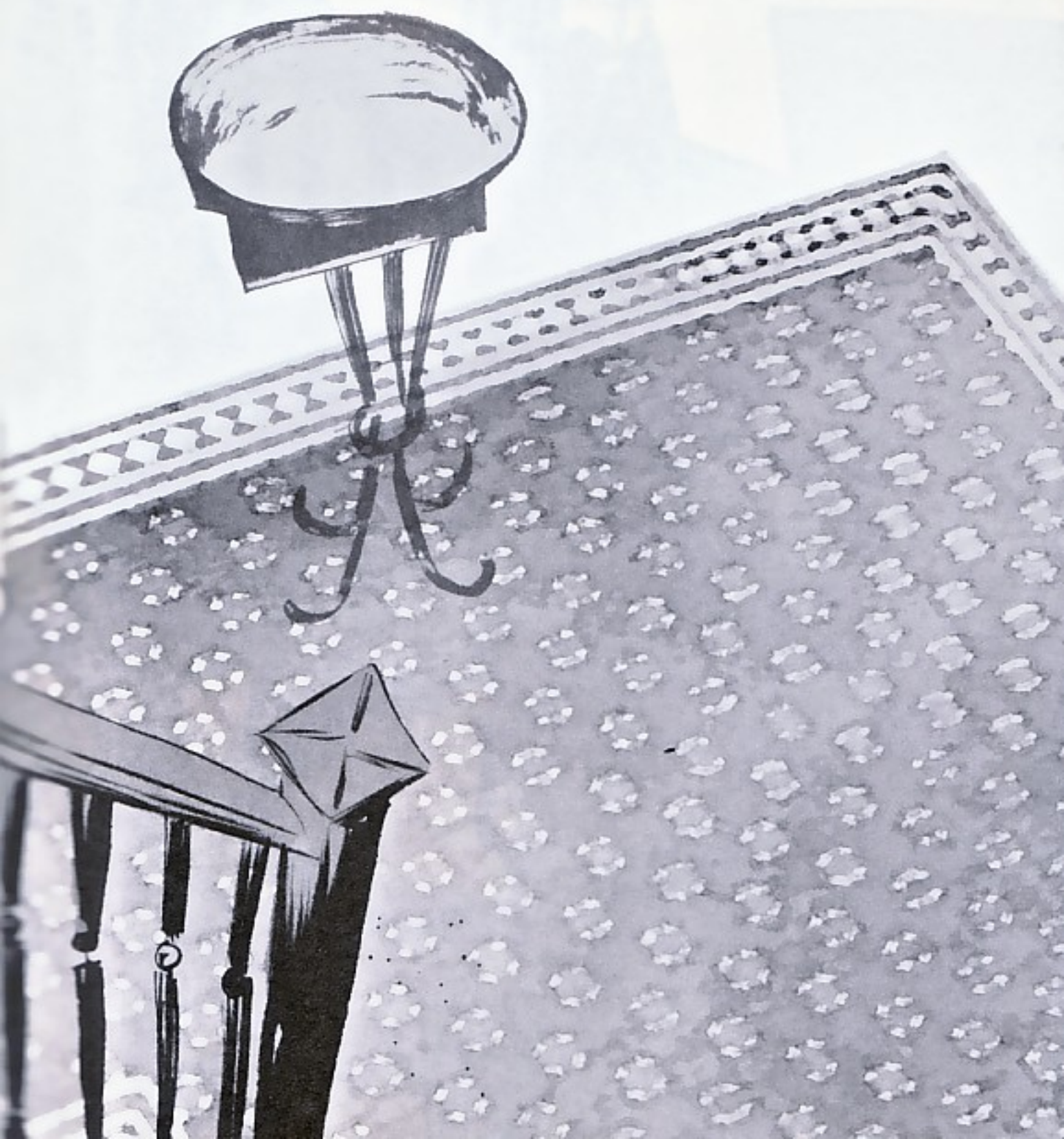




The knife had a handle of polished black bone, and a blade finer and sharper than any razor. If it sliced you, you might not even know you had been cut, not immediately.

The knife had done almost everything it was brought to that house to do, and both the blade and the handle were wet.

The street door was still open, just a little, where the knife and the man who held it had slipped in, and wisps of





**THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** is endlessly inventive, masterfully told, and, like Bod himself, too clever to fit into only one place. This is a book for everyone. You will love it to death.

—Holly Black, co-creator of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*

**THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** is everything everyone loves about Neil Gaiman, only multiplied many times over, a novel that showcases his effortless feel for narrative, his flawless instincts for suspense, and above all, his dark, almost silky sense of humor.

—Joe Hill, author of *HEART-SHAPED BOX*

It takes a graveyard to raise a child. My favorite thing about this book was watching Bod grow up in his fine crumbly graveyard with his dead and living friends. **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** is another surprising and terrific book from Neil Gaiman.

—Audrey Niffenegger, author of *THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE*

**THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** manages the remarkable feat of playing delightful jazz riffs on Kipling's classic *Jungle Books*. One might call this book a small jewel, but in fact it's much bigger within than it looks from the outside.

—Peter S. Beagle, author of *THE LAST UNICORN*

After finishing **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK**, I had only one thought—I hope there's more. I want to see more of the adventures of Nobody Owens, and there is no higher praise for a book.

—Laurell K. Hamilton, author of the *Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter* series

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US \$17.99 / \$19.50 CAN

ISBN 978-0-06-053092-1



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