



The Mystery of the Whistling Caves

Helen Moss

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When Scott and Jack Carter have to stay with their great aunt for the summer they steel themselves for the most boring holiday ever. But then they meet Emily Wild and her loveable dog, Drift. Emily shows them the lighthouse, the castle - and the amazing whistling caves. Legend has it that when the caves stop whistling the castle will be attacked - and that's exactly what happens! Priceless treasures are stolen and Emily and the boys are determined to investigate. But how was the treasure smuggled out of the castle? Why did the caves stop whistling? And can the friends solve the mystery in time to catch the thief? The first in an exciting new adventure series - with five more gripping mysteries to come!

The Mystery of the Whistling Caves Details

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Author : Helen Moss

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From Reader Review The Mystery of the Whistling Caves for online ebook

Laila Murphy says

In keeping with my job as school librarian - something I take very seriously - I have just finished reading The Mystery of the Whistling Caves so I can talk to the girls about it.

The front cover design was reminiscent of Enid Blyton and Helen Moss's novel is a modern take on Blyton's adventure stories which, I confess, I loved as a kid!

Scott and Jack are on holiday on an island off the Cornish coast. They think they're in for a boring time while their dad is away for the summer (very Enid Blyton! No grown ups around to spoil the fun!) but then they meet Emily Wild, an adventurous girl, and become embroiled in a mystery involving stolen treasure.

This story was charming. The locations were well drawn and the characters simple but distinctive. The plot was very uncomplicated but the book didn't suffer for that.

It was so refreshing to read a simple book about children having fun without any underlying 'issues' attached. It really did harken back to a different kind of fiction which seems to have fallen out of favour in recent years. The kids entertained themselves without needing technology, or breaking the law, and enjoyed each other's company in an innocent way. It made me wish I had gone somewhere like Castle Key during my school summer holidays! This is just the sort of book I would have enjoyed reading as a kid.

I will definitely recommend The Mystery of the Whistling Caves to the girls after the Christmas holidays. I would be interested to hear what they think of it and whether or not they consider it 'old-fashioned'.

Zawani says

Great story, not just for kids but also for adults (well, it suits me..hehe) I love the way the writer described the story in detective-mode like Sherlock Holmes' stories and the book's cover reminds me a lot about books i've read during my primary school days. Feels like reading Enid Blyton's book!

Helen Hart says

I wasn't aware of these books before last weekend. I'm not the target audience but I'm still a kid at heart so I bought the book out of interest and nostalgia. The cover price was attractive, the cover design is lovely, and I was a big fan of Enid Blyton when I was younger. I wasn't disappointed. I thought the adventure was well-written, the dialogue lively, and the characters realistic and charming with just enough of the attitude I remember from the Famous Five and the Adventurous Four, but with an added dash of the contemporary. This is childhood as many of us wish it had been (and wish it still was!). With children apparently turning more and more to the screen and less and less to books for their entertainment, publishers and authors are having to work pretty hard to attract a readership and I hope this series pulls them in.

A.J. Maddicott says

A thoroughly enjoyable yarn very reminiscent of Enid Blyton's 7 and 5 adventure stories. Helen Moss succeeds in blending a warm-all-over nostalgic feel with plenty of contemporary references (even the old fisherman carries an iPhone!) and realistic up-to-date dialogue.

I enjoyed the three main characters' ruminations as they tried to solve the mystery of a disappearing Saxon shield, eliminating suspects along the way, uncovering new clues and embarking on covert operations.

The author has created a cast of lovely, memorable characters from the busy-body Mrs Loveday and her endless stream of funny malapropisms to the museum's boring curator Geoff Piggott.

The Mystery of the Whistling Caves is short but beautifully constructed; the whole thing flows easily and the reader is carried along. I felt I was one step ahead of the young detectives and enjoyed being proved right but, even so, there were still one or two nice twists. The finale was tense and thrilling and well-written and a fitting end to a very good children's book.

Lastly, have to mention that Helen Moss is economical with words. There are very few wasted words. She has some lovely descriptions - "foamy frills (of water) lapped at his trainers" - but she doesn't over-describe, leaving the reader to fill in the rest using their imagination.

Miss J says

What a smashing read

Well came across these and liked the look of the covers. Reminded me of Famous Five that I read as a child. So thought you know own what I fancy these and I wasn't disappointed.

Amanda says

How refreshing to read such an upbeat children's book. Both my 8 year old son and I thoroughly enjoyed this book. We are frequent travellers to Cornwall so maybe the target market, but what Moss does brilliantly is to bring so many ingredients of the Cornwall experience into her story line. Location isn't everything, but here the scene is set so well. My son particularly enjoyed the little bits of humour. This book, unlike some in the current children's market, really uses a wide range of exciting (sounding) language and is aspirational to the young reader.

Our greatest pleasure was, as the title suggests, trying to solve the mystery. Moss's plotting is excellent and is equally engaging to an adult reading to a child, as for the child trying to work out whole stole the treasure. As an avid reader of adult crime fiction it was wonderful to see my son gripped by the plot line and trying to work out who had stolen the shield from Castle Key. A great read for young adventurers. We will certainly stock up on some more Adventure Island books for our long journey to Cornwall this summer.

Celena says

This novel reminds me of reading the Famous Five sitting with my next-door neighbour Miki. It has the same great children detectives, same interesting characters of small townships and same punches of humour; all vital to enthrall a young mind.

Scott and Jack are left with their Aunt Kate on what seems like the most boring place on earth. But within a couple of days they are helping local girl Emily Wyld and her dog Drift to solve a mystery.

Robbie Leslie says

I am not the target audience for this book - I am 44 years of age! I'd heard that Helen Moss was doing a modern take on Blyton-style children's adventure stories and was intrigued to see what they were like. So downloaded this to my Kindle.

I am well impressed - I read it in a sitting and am sure that 8-12 year olds will turn the pages equally quickly. I would happily buy Ms Moss's books for the children in my life and might well just buy a few more for myself (as a guilty pleasure!)

Robyn says

Good thing this was a penny book, or I'd have been very annoyed at the waste of money. | For my own enjoyment, I'd give this 2 stars. Since I'm sure that the target audience wouldn't have the issue I had, however, I'm generously moving it up. It was a nice story, fun, not challenging, but here's the issue: Scott and Jack were little shits. Emily was great, and I'd have appreciated more depth to her or just more time generally, but every time one of those boys was on the page they were awful. I wouldn't want to put up with them for a day in person, I feel no reason to put up with them for another book.

Eva says

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Kimmy says

Fab.... A modern day Enid blyton x

Abbie Howard says

The Mystery Of The Whistling Caves is such a good book and I recommend this to children and teenagers.

Olivia says

i thought it was intertaining and funny and liked it very much i think this book is recommended for 9 year olds and older.

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Lavinia says

Jack and Scott Carter are on holiday with their Aunt Kate in Stone Cottage. At first, they think that it is so physically boring they were going to die of boredom. But when they meet Emily Wild, everything changes completely as they investigate who stole the Chieftain's Shield, the King's Sword, and the Ceremonial Helmet from the British Museum.

At first, they find Mrs Loveday fairly suspicious. But then, more suspects appear everywhere; and there is only one way to find out who really did it. They had to enter the Whistling Caves of Castle Key.

This book was very good, quite absorbing and an easy-read, but it involves stuff that only the modern-day-child would want to read: "for one horrible moment, it looked like Jack was going to kiss her. She shrank back." You see, I may be from the modern times, but I disapprove of these yucky moments highly.
