



The Strange Case of Baby H

Kathryn Reiss

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Twelve-year-old Clara Curfman has survived the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and discovers a baby abandoned on her doorstep. Taking the baby in, her family hopes it can fill the void left by Clara's brother's death. But Clara soon suspects the baby is the victim of a kidnapping, not an earthquake. As Clara pursues her suspicions, will she become the kidnapper's next victim? Illustrations.

The Strange Case of Baby H Details

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From Reader Review The Strange Case of Baby H for online ebook

Sarah Crawford says

This is the 18th book in the history mysteries series and takes place in 1906 in San Francisco, during and just after the terrible earthquake the city had at the time. The earthquake itself was bad but what was worse were the fires that raged through the city. At the time more buildings were built of wood and the fire-fighting capability of the city was zero since the water mains were broken during the earthquake.

Anyhow, Clara is the main figure of the story, a young girl whose parents run a boarding house. Their house is damaged but they are not hurt and they, their boarders and other survivors end up setting up on the ground outside the house. A baby is left at their doorstep and the mystery goes from there as it becomes obvious that the baby was a girl disguised as a boy, some people are out to get the baby back, and some very, very nasty men are also out to get their hands on the baby.

It's a good story both as far as the mystery of the baby goes and as far as how the conditions were in the city immediately following the earthquake. As always, there's a historical section with material relating to the main event of the time which, in this case, was the earthquake.

Erin says

Read this with my daughter as we were studying earthquakes for school. I thought this book really took you back to the time of the San Francisco earthquake. It had a unique way of putting you right in the middle of the action. It seemed very historically correct. I love the "Peek into the Past" section at the back of this book. It shows the reader just what was based on fact.

Towards the end of the book, it was hard to put down. I just had to know what happened next. Loved the story line. I think it would be a great book for older elementary school and junior high age students.

Madeline Stone says

I liked this book when I read it, but I have a feeling it might be one of the books I read which I forgot some of the important parts because I didn't like them.

Sarah says

I listened to the audio book version of this because I'm always looking for audio books to listen to since my library doesn't have a ton. It was ok but got a bit boring and seemed too child-like for my liking.

Angie Thompson says

I made it a little over halfway in this before I had to stop. The mystery was intriguing and the setting was interesting, but I really didn't like the way Clara's parents were portrayed. Or the way Edgar was so adamant that his dead uncle was watching over him. But what killed it for me was the profanity in the reported speech of the villains. I don't like profanity in any of my books, but it's totally unnecessary in a children's book.

Cathy says

I did not finish it. It seemed fine for a much younger reader than myself.

Keeley says

A good story

A kids' book which my 10 year old is reading. I'm sure younger readers will find it enthralling. As an adult it was pretty dang boring and I speed-read it.

I would think ages 7-13 would find it interesting. It was a child-appropriate accurate portrayal of the chaos after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Shelby says

I loved the American Girl History Mysteries when I was younger!! I read most of them and this one was my favorite. It's about the San Francisco earthquake hitting and a girl finding a baby on her doorstep needing to find out who the baby's parents were. It told a lot about the earthquake and was really interesting. I recommend it to all pre-teen girls.

Shasta Bos says

I've been fascinated by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 for a long time so I naturally had to read this book. Good book for any child interested in history, earthquakes or mysteries!

Sarah says

I haven't read any of the American Girl books since I was a pre-teen... but I found this book in a used bookstore/cafe. I thought it looked like a fun quick read. I was ultimately interested since I lived in San Francisco for a time& my brother still lives there. It was interesting to read a story from this time-period & perspective. I enjoyed this story& will be sure to pass it on to my daughter when she's of age.

Mariarosa says

I liked it, but I kinda wish that it wasn't so creepy.

Kristine Hansen says

Vivid retelling of the San Francisco earthquake. I love how the family winds up pulling together to help themselves and their neighbors from the rubble. How they look after the mysterious baby that just shows up on their doorstep. Brave girl to go to such lengths to save a child...and almost bittersweet ending. Loved how the death of the brother was worked throughout the story, the growing friendships...I'm not even making sense I loved this book so much! Very exciting and one I'm very happy to share with my kids.

Renee says

I really enjoyed this book! Another good book in the series! I enjoyed the time period and location, and the names in the book were also very well-chosen. I finished this book in one or two days and remember really enjoying it! A very good read about the earthquakes of San Francisco from the viewpoint of a young girl named Clara.

Syrion Carpenter says

This book is good. It seems very interesting. I am glad i am reading this. I like these type of books, they keep me very entertained. I look foward to finishing this book and liking it even more than i do now! It already keeps me on the edge already and im just at the beginning of it!!!

?Lexi? says

It was pretty interesting
strange though how the baby's hair was shaved and dressed like a boy even though she was a girl
