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The Girl with the Glass Bird: A Knight's Haddon Boarding School Mystery

By Esme Kerr



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When feisty Edie is sent to a remote school to spy on fragile Anastasia, she never imagines that they'll become best friends instead--and discover an ominous plot that puts both their lives in danger!

Through a series of strange coincidences, orphan Edie finds herself at Knight's Haddon, a stately boarding school for girls. But Edie is not just another student--under normal circumstances, she could never afford to go to boarding school. She's been sent to Knight's Haddon by her art-dealer uncle to investigate the disappearance of a precious crystal bird that belongs to his secretive client's daughter. Anastasia, a Russian royal, has a fragile disposition and a melodramatic bent--or so the headmistress and all the other girls say. Edie's assignment is not only to find the missing glass bird; it's to befriend the troubled blueblood and keep a watchful eye on her. When the two girls uncover a dangerous plot, how can they stop it? Inside the walls of the isolated estate, is there anyone they can trust?



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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #246099 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-31
- Released on: 2015-03-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x 1.10" w x 5.70" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Orphan Edie Wilson has been taken from her aging grandmother and sent to live with a negligent aunt and abusive cousins. When her mysterious and somewhat shady Cousin Charles offers her an opportunity to escape to an unusual boarding school, she jumps on it, even though it comes with some odd conditions. Cousin Charles works for an old-fashioned Russian aristocrat who fears his daughter is being bullied at school. Edie's task? Befriend and defend the Prince Stolonov's daughter, Anastasia—all while undercover. Befriending Anastasia is easy, and the two girls are soon close. Navigating King's Haddon boarding school, where the daughters of the wealthy live a throwback existence without access to phones or the internet, is more complicated, and Edie's loyalties are tested as she tries to find out what's really going on and whom she can possibly trust. Why does Anastasia keep losing her belongings, only to have them turn up hours later? Is she being gaslighted? And why does the kind, warm, and controlling headmistress of King's Haddon seem to know so much about Edie? In this self-consciously old-fashioned boarding school mystery, Kerr uses the frame of King's Haddon's strict rules to support the conventions of a thin plot, accented with pleasing nostalgic detail while maintaining a modern setting. The novel touches briefly on class issues but doesn't address them in a deep or meaningful way. Overall, the story is charming without being particularly engaging, reminiscent of Julie Andrews Edwards's *Mandy* (HarperCollins, 1990).—Katya Schapiro, Brooklyn Public Library

Review

Praise for *The Girl with the Glass Bird*:

"The British author Esme Kerr has fashioned a claustrophobic atmosphere worthy of an Agatha Christie novel." --*The New York Times Book Review*

"[A] rich, fun mystery that will likely hook young readers. Fans of Edie will be happy to know a sequel is in the works." --*Booklist*

"Set among skirmishes on the lacrosse field, forbidden midnight feasts in dormitory rooms, play rehearsals, and tea outings, the story keeps readers puzzling past its riveting climax, all the way to its gratifying conclusion." --*Publishers Weekly*

"[E]xciting and mysterious. There wasn't a moment where you didn't want to read on as the plot kept you captivated with its twists and turns [. . .] a good adventure-mystery book which will make you want to read it again and again and again!"--*Guardian Children's Books Website* (UK)

"This is a rollicking romp of a novel [. . .] With a wonderfully spirited heroine, wickedly unpleasesant relatives; teachers with hidden pasts and a fine supporting cast of lacrosse-playing girls. Kerr's debut is impressive and strikes just the right tone."--*Daily Mail* (UK)

"This is an engrossing book, cleverly plotted and peopled by very real characters."--*The Scotsman* (UK)

About the Author

ESME KERR lives between London and Oxford, where she studied history. She has three children, two dogs, three cats, and four goldfish.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jackie Sneller:

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This *The Girl with the Glass Bird: A Knight's Haddon Boarding School Mystery* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Eric Ray:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even an issue. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one works to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you get it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take *The Girl with the Glass Bird: A Knight's Haddon Boarding School Mystery* as the daily resource information.

Timothy Duchene:

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