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A Sally Lockhart Mystery: The Ruby In The Smoke (Sally Lockhart Mysteries)



Synopsis

In search of clues to the mystery of her father's death, 16-year-old Sally Lockhart ventures into the shadowy underworld of Victorian London. Pursued by villains at every turn, the intrepid Sally finally uncovers two dark mysteries--and realizes that she herself is the key to both."In Dickensian fashion, Pullman tells the story of 16-year-old Sally Lockhart, who becomes involved in a deadly web of events as she searches for a mysterious ruby. The novel is a page turner, peopled with despicable hags, forthright heroes, and children living on the underbelly of 19th-century London. The story's events are exciting, with involved plotting. Settings and characterizations are exquisitely drawn. The first entry in a planned trilogy."--(starred) Booklist. Reading level: 6.7.Â Â From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Series: Sally Lockhart Mysteries

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"Her name was Sally Lockhart; and within fifteen minutes, she was going to kill a man." Philip Pullman begins his Sally Lockhart trilogy with a bang in *The Ruby in the Smoke*--a fast-paced, finely crafted thriller set in a rogue- and scalawag-ridden Victorian London. His 16-year-old heroine has no time for the usual trials of adolescence: her father has been murdered, and she needs to find out how and why. But everywhere she turns, she encounters new scoundrels and secrets. Why do the mere words "seven blessings" cause one man to keel over and die at their utterance? Who has

possession of the rare, stolen ruby? And what does the opium trade have to do with it? As our determined and intelligent sleuth sets her mind to unraveling these dark mysteries, she learns how embroiled she is in the whole affair. As riveting and witty as the sensational "penny dreadfuls" of Victorian England (but thousands of times better written), Pullman's trilogy (including *The Shadow in the North* and *The Tiger in the Well*) will have readers on the edges of their seats. Ruby is an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. (Ages 12 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Sally Lockhart finds herself enmeshed in the perplexing clues surrounding her father's death, in this rousing Victorian thriller. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Pullman's 'Ruby in the Smoke' is an intriguing and gripping mystery for young adults or pre-teens. It is not quite as deep, tightly woven, or well-written as a few other books for this age group (notably, Harry Potter), but it still presents a quality read. Sally Lockhart, a Victorian girl recently orphaned by a horrifying but mysterious accident, is the heroine of the book. She is a great character - strong and intelligent, but still believable for her age and era. Throughout the course of the book, Sally will attempt to find out how and why her father died, where the title ruby is, who is trying to cause her harm, and whom she can trust. The plot is very exciting, and pushes you to keep reading, and the characters are varied and believable. It should be noted that this is not a book for young children, as the plot often delves into the seedy side of London in the Victorian era, and many adult themes are present, including murder, greed, and drug use (opium), although NOTHING immoral is glorified in any respect. I am eager to read the next book in the series and find out what happens to Sally and her companions! I highly recommend this for anyone who enjoyed Harry Potter or the Series of Unfortunate Events books. I also look forward to reading other Pullman books.

Set at the end of 19th century the heroine, Sally Lockheart, and her friends follow the trail of the ruby.

In *The Ruby in the Smoke*, Phillip Pullman combines three of my favorite things: young adult fiction, a good mystery and a Victorian era setting. Sixteen-year-old Sally Lockhart has recently lost her father in a shipwreck. After receiving a mysterious note warning her to "beware of the Seven Blessings", she visits her late father's shipping firm in the hope that someone there can make sense

of the note. When she asks one of her father's employees about the Seven Blessings, the man is so terrified that he dies of a heart attack right in front of Sally. And so begins a chain of events that will have Sally questioning the circumstances of her father's death as well as her connection to a priceless Indian ruby. All the while Sally is pursued by a series of villains who are determined to kill her before she can learn the truth. The Ruby in the Smoke is filled with colorful, vivid characters that seem ready to leap off the page. Sally is a strong female character, but she's not perfect by any means. Pullman avoided the pitfall of turning her into an unrealistic super heroine, while still highlighting her cleverness and charm. Even some of the villains are likeable while still being villainous; I was very amused by one soft-hearted thug who gives a temperance tract to a drunken man he's just beaten up. With witty dialogue and twists and turns on nearly every page, The Ruby in the Smoke is a delightful and exciting read. I highly recommended it to any reader who loves a good mystery.

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good book

I love the Sally Lockhart trilogy. The stories read just like a "penny dreadful," only the writing is

much more skillful. There is no end to the mystery, fun, and adventure in this too-short series of superbly-plotted books. I took issue with two major decisions the author made (in books two and three), but I won't discuss them here because that would ruin the books for anyone who hadn't read them. Let me just say (and this won't give anything away) that one had to do with a fire, and the other had to do with a replacement that just wasn't good enough. Book one was the best of the three, and the reason why I went on to read other series by Mr. Pullman. There was an incredible coincidence you had to swallow that I would have spit out with any other book. But the author has so much fun with it, and it's so appropriate for a book that honors that old-fashioned melodramatic genre of dime novels, that it feels like it belongs. In fact, everything feels like it belongs in this book, so finely-woven together is its setting, characters, and plot. Bravo to Mr. Pullman for his major success with this work!

after reading other Pullman books - these Sally Lockhart stories are a bit disappointing.

A terrific example of a "Kid Power" book. A spunky 16 year old heroine takes on a faceless enemy and a host of dangerous characters and, with the help of a troupe of intrepid friends, prevails. Well written, good use of English language. Informative regarding British economy and society in Victorian times. For that reason, rather dark. No objectionable language or references to sexual behavior, but does include murder and mayhem. Highly recommended as a book that young and old can read and talk about.

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