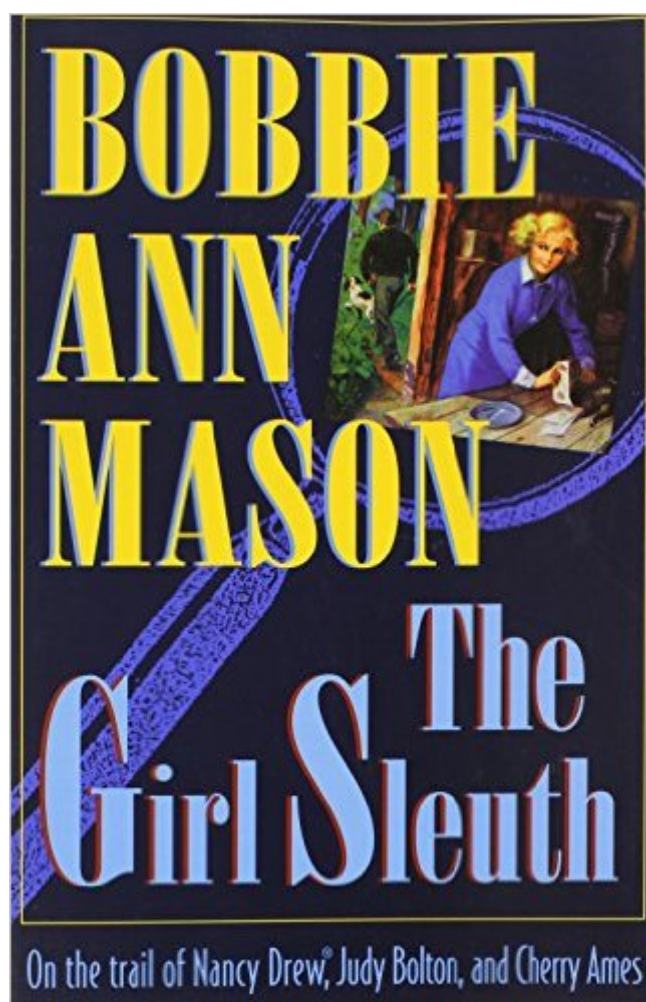


The book was found

# The Girl Sleuth



## Synopsis

The Girl Sleuth is a book for anyone who fondly recalls her late-night adventures inside a bedspread cave with a flashlight, a handful of snatched cookies, and a savvy heroine who has just two chapters left in which to decode the message, find the jewels, unmask the impostor, and then catch the next express to the big city. In this long-out-of-print work, which was first published in 1975, Bobbie Ann Mason examines the girl detective in her various guises through a combination of childhood reminiscences and insights as a fiction writer and observer of American popular culture. Mason ranges in her coverage from the Bobbsey Twins to the glamorous career-girl detectives Vicki Barr, Cherry Ames, and Beverly Gray to her own adolescent favorites—Judy Bolton, Nancy Drew, and Trixie Belden, a farm girl like herself. Mason's personal recollections of a rural youth spent longing for mysteries to solve represent a quintessential American girlhood experience. Mason reveals Nancy Drew ("as cool as Mata Hari and as sweet as Betty Crocker") to be a paradoxical figure: on the one hand a model of independence and courage; on the other, a lady, eternally feminine and firmly devoted to the preservation of middle-class values. The girl sleuths "thrilled us and contented us at the same time," the author writes. Holding up Nancy Drew as a model of "the conventional and the revolutionary in one compact package," Mason shows how the series heroines encouraged young readers to "dream big" and stay open to life's possibilities, dished up antidotes to spoon-fed notions of traditional femininity, and amiably subverted the literary snobbery of child experts, librarians, and book reviewers. Everyone who grew up reading mystery books will enjoy Bobbie Ann Mason's witty, sometimes nostalgic, observations on popular culture, childhood, and the pleasures of reading and writing.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: University of Georgia Press; No Edition Stated edition (May 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 082031739X

ISBN-13: 978-0820317397

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,228,310 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #250 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Mystery & Detective](#) #260 in [Books > Mystery,](#)

Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Reference #268 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Science

## Customer Reviews

From Aunt Jane's Girls to Sweet Valley High, series books for girls have been a staple of girls' literary diets. Bobbie Ann Mason (author of "In Country") is one of many who devoured series like The Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew. She looks back at the books with affection and the amused rememberings of adulthood, but also acknowledges some of the faults of the book - especially in matters of racism, stereotyping, bourgeois entitlement and sexism. She also brings some of the lesser-known girl detectives into the spotlight - especially Judy Bolton, a far more satisfying heroine than the rigid, frigid Nancy Drew. If a college course can be taught on Madonna, then this genre definitely deserves study and reflection for its influence on generations of little women.

Reading The Girl Sleuth was like getting in a car with a friend at the wheel and going back to the neighborhood where we lived from ages 10 - 12. Together we uncovered the probable reasons why my mother and the school librarian disapproved of Nancy Drew and what those series mysteries did for our self images as women. The overt mainstream racism of the earlier editions of the series books is shocking; it gives me some comfort to think that our culture has grown up in the last few decades to understand how very wrong that thinking was. This book was completed in 1975 when Mason was a young post-doc coming off a Nabokov dissertation. It is relatively free of scholarspeak, though the feminism and Freudian references are starkly of their time. It's not dated, however: Mason writes from the heart as well as the mind and this slim book is a timeless good ride.

Bobbie Ann Mason's book on Girl Sleuths crystallized for me why I loved Trixie Belden and why Nancy Drew left me kind of cold. Any girl that grew up on these series books will find a lot to love and relate to in this volume. As well as very illuminating, it is, at times, laugh out loud funny. You will find yourself cringing and shaking your head in wonder at some of the excerpts from the unrevised versions of the stories from the 30's and 40's. If only I had been introduced to Judy Bolton instead of Nancy Drew! Where was she? Did my library even have her? Did I just overlook her? It's a mystery, but I am sad for my younger self for being deprived of her adventures when I really would have just gobbled them up and waited in suspense for the next one. Well, this book has made me think maybe it's not too late...I'm bidding on a lot offered on ebay today!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Girl Sleuth Cozy Mystery Seven Sleuth Set The Care and Keeping of You (American Girl) (American Girl Library) Food Allergies:: Hungry Girl has the Recipes : Book 3 (Hungry Girl Cookbooks) Attract The Right Girl: The Official Guide For Finding Your Dream Girl And Being The Man She Can't Resist Summary - The Girl on the Train: Novel by Paula Hawkins -- Story Shortened into 35 Pages or Less! (The Girl on the Train: Shortened version -- Book, Novel, Paperback, Audible, Movie) So Far Gone, Girl: A Gone Girl Parody Gone Girl: Novel by Gillian Flynn -- Story Shortened into 35 Pages or Less! (Gone Girl: Shortened into 35 Pages or Less! -- Paperback, Hardcover, Audiobook, Audible, Novel,) Puccini and The Girl: History and Reception of The Girl of the Golden West Party Girl (The Girl's Series Book 1) Girl for Sale: The shocking true story from the girl trafficked and abused by Oxford's evil sex ring The Vanishing Girl (The Vanishing Girl Series Book 1) Minecraft Girl: A Minecraft Ghast Girl Diary (Minecraft Ghosts, Minecraft Diaries, Minecraft Books, Minecraft Books for Kids, Minecraft Stories, Minecraft Story, Minecraft Diary) Skater Girl: A Girl's Guide to Skateboarding Braids & Buns, Ponies & Pigtails: 50 Hairstyles Every Girl Will Love A Girl's Guide to Fitting in Fitness The Care and Keeping of You 2 Journal (American Girl) The Girl Who Wouldn't Brush Her Hair Do You Dream in Color?: Insights from a Girl without Sight The Babysitter's Handbook: The Care and Keeping of Kids (American Girl (Quality))

[Dmca](#)