



The Phantom of Pine Hill

Carolyn Keene

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Nancy, Bess and George visit Emerson for the university's summer festivities. The girls are guests in a historic mansion on Pine Hill. Upon arriving, their host tells about the phantom haunting the mansion's library. He also relates his family's decades old saga of a lost French wedding gown and valuable gifts that went to the bottom of a nearby cove in the sinking of the Lucy Belle. Is there connection between the phantom and the old ship disaster? Nancy and her friends work diligently to solve the mystery of Pine Hill and to find the long-lost wedding treasures. This book is the original text. A revised text does not exist.

The Phantom of Pine Hill Details

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Author : Carolyn Keene

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From Reader Review The Phantom of Pine Hill for online ebook

John Yelverton says

Another great mystery in this series of books starring Nancy Drew.

Holli says

I absolutely loved this book. I read this book in a cottage by the lake. It was perfect for Spring.

Vintagebooklvr says

A pretty typical Nancy Drew. The two different strand of mysteries: the phantom bothering Pine Hill and the missing wedding presents from the 1800s tie in easily. Sometimes different events that tie in together are a stretch and that annoys me.

The events of the University's June Week and Bess being the hero of the day capturing the villains add fun twists that are not normally in these books.

Andrea Turner says

As much as I love Nancy Drew mysteries, the sheer amount of coincidences that allow her to solve her mysteries is just baffling.

Noina says

2017 POPSUGAR READING CHALLENGE : A book I loved as a child

Alice était mon héroïne préférée - hors Hermione bien sûr - quand j'étais jeune, et je dévorais ses aventures en attendant le prochain Harry Potter. J'avais décidé l'année passée de relire une aventure de la jeune détective. Même si tout est un peu "gros" si l'on regarde avec des yeux d'adulte, et extrêmement cliché, ça a un certain charme... Je lui met donc sincèrement 3 étoiles, et j'en rajoute une pour la nostalgie que cette collection provoque en moi.

Laura says

Sometimes you just gotta read a little Nancy Drew for fun. I loved these books when I was younger, and I still love them now.

Gabriele Goldstone says

Can't say I'm connecting with Nancy Drew stories like I did when I was in elementary school.

Sahifa says

This Nancy drew story gave me that relief and ecstasy which the first monsoon rain gives after the scorching summer.

This is the thing which I had been missing in the nancy drew mysteries which I had read lately. All I asked for was "A simple refreshing mystery" and I recieved it here. According to me this is the whole idea about a cozy mystery . If the story consists of lots of adventure ,gangsters and goons it becomes more of a thriller rather than a mystery.

A cozy mystery should have one crime (or two related crimes) followed by a clue here and there ,some logical reasoning and then the Result!!

The phantom of pine hill starts with the mysterious appearances of a phantom ? in a victorian villa which is followed by a series of thefts.

Nancy drew and friends not only solves the mystery of the spook but also unearthes a lost treasure (some part of it is always unbelievable, but I like it nevertheless)

I really enjoyed it ,as a matter of fact devoured it .

This book is definitely going to be one of my Nancy drew's favourites .

Harriet says

Nancy Drew books influenced my book reading life. I read the First Editions of my mother's and the their richness of language whetted my appetite for reading. I learned so many words. It is a shame that today's children and young adult books are "dumbed" down. I so enjoy re-reading these books. I still have all of my books that I collected from 3rd grade throughout high school. The backs are checked off as they were collected. In fact, \$1.95 label is still on this book. Pure nostalgia!

Melanie says

Some old guy suffers repeated burglaries from his house, blamed on a supernatural phantom. This is another book where obvious bad guy is obvious from the beginning. BESS of all people saves the day by distracting the bad guy long enough for the cops to show up.

Nancy gets knocked out by yanking a secret panel out of a wall onto herself. Nancy and George are both knocked out when the bad guy uses a "knockout spray gun" on them when they catch him in the act. No idea what the knockout spray is supposed to be.

Rachel Brand says

Sometimes you just have a day where the only thing that will get rid of your bad mood is a hot bath, a scented candle and a Nancy Drew novel.

I must have got this book off BookMooch a couple of years ago as I've had it listed on here since 2011, but I hadn't got around to reading it until now. In fact, I'd forgotten I had it until I reorganised my bookshelves this weekend and didn't recognise the synopsis. The title was familiar, but I have a feeling that's because it's one of the books Claudia Kishi references in the Baby-Sitters Club series.

Sadly, it didn't quite live up to Claudia's recommendation, or my childhood memories of Nancy Drew. Maybe this just isn't one of the better mysteries. The villains' motivations were never really clarified and I figured out who one of the villains was incredibly early in the book--so early that I was sure he must have been a red herring, and was confused when I realised this suspicious character was genuinely the villain.

I did enjoy the wholesome, innocent nostalgia of these books. The girls dress up and attend fraternity dinners, dances and boating races with their gentlemanly beaus. They still have plenty of independence, and even Bess gets the chance to prove that she can defend herself. That said, the girls are pretty caricatured--Nancy is the quick-thinking detective, George is the strong tomboy, and Bess is the worrisome girly girl who is always ruining her diet. But I suppose there was always a girl for the reader to relate to.

A fun, quick, nostalgic read for tonight's bath, but not the best-written mystery I've come across in this series.
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Tabi34 says

Nancy kissed Ned! Ok, it wasn't a great kiss, but she kissed him. Ok, in my quest to re-read my childhood heroine books, I've strayed from the mysteries to watch the characters in these books. For the young adult books that they are, I'm afraid today's pre-teen girls may find the character development lacking. There is little to no interaction between the lesser characters except for descriptions of what they look like or what they are wearing, but the author does describe the food in greater detail.

Poor Burt and Dave, while they are usually there, they don't do much - except this time Dave falls in the chimney.

Bess finally overcomes her timidity and whacks a bad guy and then gets shaky. It's the most action I've seen out of her except for crying, being scared and complaining she's hungry. Outside of that, I'm not sure what she does.

George while she has a slightly bigger role, very little is known about her either.

Apparently all of the characters are conveniently only children because there is never a mention of any siblings tagging along or causing trouble.

And what are the boys studying in college? We know they all play football and Ned (of course) is the quarterback. Why he isn't dating the head cheerleader is beyond me. Ned is also on the rowing team and in this book becomes president of his fraternity. The boys do have finals in this book, but take time out to go places with the girls. My question is - there was a big party "June Week" just before finals. What college is still in session having exams in June? And seriously a big party just before? Not gonna happen.

All through these books I've been trying to figure out where River Heights is located. I assumed that it was near New York City because Nancy's aunt lives there and she visits often. But Emerson College where the boys attend and which is within driving distance of River Heights is in the Ohio Valley, which is the southern part of Ohio, touching PA, WV, IN and IL. No where near NY state. There is an Emerson College in Boston MA. But this book makes direct reference to the Ohio River and its tributaries.

I did some digging and originally River Heights was in Iowa, then moved east probably to the Chicago area, then further east to somewhere on the coast - NJ is a guess, but in the later books like this one (#41) it's back in the midwest - Ohio/IN/IL. Which would make sense because Mildred Benson was living and working in Toledo Ohio.

Did I like this book? It was ok. Nancy stumbles on a mystery; she's girl wonder so she solves it in less than 125 pages without any serious mishaps, although she takes quite a beating in this one. She's knocked out by a panel falling on her and she is knocked out of a boat, her scuba gear gets tangled cutting off her air and she falls down an embankment, but she comes out of all of that unscathed - remarkable. At the end, instead of falling into Ned's arms, she's wondering when she's going to find her next mystery.

Suziey says

Nancy, Bess and George are planning to spend a week in Emerson with the boys. But their motel reservations fall through and the girls are left stranded. Ned, finds lodging for them at John Rorick's mansion and informs Nancy about a phantom haunting the home.

So... *giggles nervously* the mystery is good. Not only does Nancy have to figure out who the phantom is but she has to find a missing centuries old treasure. The problem with the story is... everything else.

Rorick is a descendant of the early settlers in Emerson. But apparently the Native American tribe massacred most of the early settlers. Nobody is sure why. Well, until Nancy figures it out. Anyway, Emerson College is having a week of celebrations, and in one event, a river pageant, they present the history of the area. This is where things get problematic. Ned and some other students, dress up as Native Americans and "kidnap" Nancy. (That's my boy Ned on the cover btw. Welp). They then proceed to "speak" like Native Americans (i.e. They sound like The Chief in Peter Pan). Which is of course, so damn disrespectful. I read through those parts quickly, but the cringe-factor was real.

Later on, when the mystery is winding down, Nancy decides it's a good idea to dig in an old Native American campground. Sigh. My Anthro heart could not take this. The girls are picking up arrowheads, and ugh just messing up the area! Only when they dig up a skeleton do they think "hey, we should call the proper authorities". When one of the local Emerson professors shows up, he tells them, "oh, I was going to conduct a dig here". Well, you're out of luck dude, because Nancy and friends have screwed the whole thing up. Ahhh!!

Okay. Okay. The mystery? Interesting. For a second there even Nancy believes the culprit may be a real ghost. It all actually comes together quite well and no one is kidnapped by bad guys. So, yay! But, like I said everything else is a big pile of yikes. By today's standards, this book is a culturally insensitive trainwreck.

Jean says

I read this, 'cause my student lent it to me.

And gosh, I haven't read a Nancy Drew mystery for years. It was something, reading the old use of English and imaging the outfits described back then. And just liking cool female antagonists, how people would date and how people communicated without cell phones. (^o^)

I'm glad that my student has taken an interest in this series. It's one that I don't have to worry about the child being exposed to anything inappropriate. Well, other than crime, criminals and their motives, but it does it in a... Practical sense, that bad things happen in the world.

And we can do something about it.

For what seemed like a simple read, it still drew me in, in a, "I want to know what happens next." style and hook. (^_^)

Erin says

Everyone once in a while I like to read books I read in elementary or middle school. I have read all 56 Nancy Drew books as well as some of the newer ones that came afterward. I didn't care for the newer books so I quit trying to read them.

I didn't remember the story of *The Phantom of Pine Hill*, so it was like reading the book for the first time. I forgot Bess and George had sweethearts as well, and this is one of the books all six characters play a central role in. The premise is Nancy, Bess, and George visit Emerson college for a week of fraternity festivities. Their hotel reservation didn't go through so the girls end up staying with a long-time resident in his mansion on a hill. It turns out his house is being robbed by a phantom, and Nancy and friends volunteer to solve the case.

The Phantom of Pine Hill was a good choice to dive back into the Nancy Drew world. All the characters are present, it has multiple subplots happening, and you find buried treasure. What's not to like?!

I think my one criticism with any Nancy Drew book is how quickly the story progresses. If some of them could be developed into full length novels I think it would be really fantastic. Plus, it would give adults a chance to enjoy Nancy on their level. As is, I love the books regardless and will always have a soft spot for Nancy Drew (I even play the computer games) but I would be interested in reading them all in novel form should they ever become available.

The Phantom of Pine Hill is definitely one of the stronger books in the Nancy Drew line-up, and one that anyone can pick up and enjoy at any time.
