



# The Secret of Skeleton Island

*Robert Arthur*

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Skeleton Island is the next stop for The Three Investigators, where they encounter a movie company and a ghost.

## The Secret of Skeleton Island Details

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Author : Robert Arthur

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# From Reader Review The Secret of Skeleton Island for online ebook

## Jeff Stephenson says

AH&T3I Update: 6 read, 22 hardbacks to go!

I love the Three Investigators. I also love the Hardy Boys. However until this book, the two book series are quite different. For example, all three of the Three Investigators are 15. None of them have a driver's license or even a learner's permit. To get around to the places they need to investigate, they either need to ride bikes, use the car they won the use of for 30 days in a contest, or ask a couple of workers at the Salvage Yard, owned by First Investigator Jupiter Jones' aunt and uncle, to drive them around in one of the old beat up trucks from the salvage yard. All of the stuff that the Three Investigators have comes from fixing up recycled junk, like their walkie-talkies, or an old printing press, or even their secret headquarters made out of a damaged 30 foot mobile home. Even their office furniture was singed in a fire before the boys got it. All three boys work at the Salvage Yard for extra cash and to pay for a telephone in their headquarters. Sometimes work gets in the way and they cannot investigate a case for a couple of days because of their work at the salvage yard. Jupiter is the smart one, but not so athletic. Pete is just the opposite: athletic, but not as smart and gets spooked easily. Bob stands in between the two extremes: he is somewhat athletic, but he also works in a library and operates as the research and notes-taker of the group. Almost every adolescent boy can relate to the Three Investigators in some way because most boys can see themselves in the shoes of the Three Investigators. The Three Investigators solve cases the old-fashioned way: hard work and then Jupiter deduces the solution from a bunch of strange clues that seem to puzzle everyone else.

In contrast, Joe and Frank Hardy are 17 and 18 years old respectively. Old enough to have a driver's license. and they put those licenses to good use. The Hardy Boys own their own motorcycles, a motor car, a motorboat called the Sleuth, and have access to an airplane owned by their famous detective father. Early in the series, the Hardys needed to call on the pilot of the plane to fly them where they needed to go, but later on we learn that both boys are licensed pilots and can fly the plane. They are also great fencers--a sport that every boy knows! Money or time does not seem to be a problem for the Hardy Boys as anytime they need they can fly off to South America or Mexico or wherever they need to go. And both boys can, and sometimes do, solve the case. Of course, things usually fall into place just like magic for the Hardy Boys--just like the perpetual summer break that they seem to be on. They just always happen to be in the right place at the right time and poof! They solve another case. There is something just a little more elite about the Hardy Boys. They act maybe a little more like superheroes than actual teenage American boys.

But then we get to the Secret of Skeleton Island, the sixth title in the Three Investigators Series and the two series become somewhat entangled. The Three Investigators are sent to star in a movie on the other coast. They fly expenses paid to the Atlantic from the Pacific. No bike use here, and the car from the contest is back home. Also, no secret headquarters. So they get stranded on a lonely island. No wait, they are rescued. No, they get stranded again. Dang, trapped in an impossible situation. Poof, they find things that no one has ever found before them. Poof again, and they are rescued again. With about 10 pages left to go in the book, boom! There is the solution to the mystery. It all seems very Hardy Boy-ish for a Three Investigators story.

Now this is still a very good book and it is enjoyable to read. People love the Hardy Boys just like they love to go to the movies to watch Marvel Superheroes battle it out or Batman fight Superman or whatever other superhero story may be out there. It can be, and is, fun stuff. Yet, the Three Investigators series carved out a slightly different niche in the first five books of the series. This sixth Three Investigators book simply takes a different course and mirrors the Hardy Boy pattern more than it does its own pattern set up in its own earlier

books. With that said, enjoy the Three Investigators in the Secret of Skeleton Island. It is a fun book to read!

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### **Melissa says**

The boy visit a haunted island and find a new friend. Excellent story

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### **Alex says**

A haunted amusement park on a coastal island that used to be a base for pirates – what's not to love?

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### **Lea says**

Ich glaube am besten hat mir gefallen, dass Justus erkältet ist und sich ärgert, an den meisten Spaßigen Sachen nicht teilnehmen zu können. Interessant fand ich auch noch, wie unsympathisch Peters Vater dargestellt wird, auch wenn das wahrscheinlich einfach unter klassische elterliche Strenge fallen sollte. Oh, und natürlich die ganzen vielen viel zu altmodischen Ausdrücke die sich durch die ganzen alten Bücher ziehen.

Den Fall selbst fand ich nicht so spannend, er hat mich irgendwie nicht so richtig mitgenommen. Natürlich kannte ich ihn ja schon durchs Hörspiel aber auch so ist einem eben die ganze Zeit klar, dass der griechische Junge, den alle außer den drei Detektiven verdächtigen, nicht der Schuldige sein kann.

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### **Cliff says**

So, the problem I'm having with these books is primarily that they have to be read with a historical context. Aside from the fact that all three boys are...shall we say...racially monotone, a great deal of the mysteries are solved by common sense facts that were true in the 60s, but perhaps not as accurate these days. For example, I'm rather amused by the point that they had to save up their money to get a phone line. And that they had to pay for those calls.

Perhaps more troubling is that moving further into these books, a growing trend seems to be that the boys are destined to be at the right place at the right time. This book was ostensibly about determining who was causing a movie production so much trouble, but became a hunt for pirate treasure and ultimately, debunking yet another ghost story (there's really been a running theme here...Terror Castle, Green Ghost and this one, and a mummy thrown in for good measure).

But even so, I do really enjoy these. And the fact that they are quick reads doesn't hurt. :)

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## H says

Not as good action wise or mystery wise as others in the series. The solution to the main mystery was more heavy-handed and was compounded only by the dumb decision to send Pete and Bob alone at the climax instead of telling police for fear of adults getting angry. It's truths were more obvious too with more obvious deductions.

A nice resolution and fast final chapter at least. I also miss the salvage yard setting. But overall I've found this book and the more recent one of the midgets underwhelming. Also the author follows a lot of stereotypes with characters like the Greek Chris, the previous book's Spanish/Japanese/Chinese/etc that I'm not crazy for. The stuttering parrot and Jupiter's character are still my favorite highlights of the series.

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## David Phipps says

The Three Investigators is a juvenile detective series published in the 60s, 70s, and 80s that spans about 43 books. They feature three teenage boys who mostly investigate paranormal type stuff that they debunk (somewhat like Scooby-Doo) or other abnormal crimes that the police do not handle. They report their cases to Alfred Hitchcock or a fake director depending on which versions you read. Their base of operations is hidden away in the depths of a junkyard and it has multiple hidden entrances. I discovered these books in the library during middle school and promptly read them all. As such, I have a lot of nostalgia for these books.

The Secret of Skeleton Island is #6 in the series. The boys visit an island in order to help Alfred Hitchcock solve a mystery there. There is scuba diving involved and finding pirate treasure. Overall, it was OK though I'm getting tired of these Scooby-Doo like mysteries. Again, this book is intended for a middle school audience though.

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## Cara says

This series is just cute. I figured out what was happening before the Investigators did, but Jupiter *did* have a cold that slowed him down and I feel fine :)

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## Mia says

trio detektif diminta untuk menyelidiki kasus di pulau Tengkorak yang terkenal dengan kisah penampakan hantu carousel. di pulau tersebut akan diadakan pengambilan film dengan setting carousel & coaster di taman bermain yang terbengkalai, sayangnya kru film tidak dapat menjalankan proses shooting karena mengalami banyak gangguan, banyak terjadi sabotase dan pencurian. keadaan makin dipersulit dengan adanya cerita hantu yang membuat kru kesulitan mendapatkan bantuan karena penduduk lokal ketakutan. kedatangan trio detektif pun tidak disambut dengan ramah oleh penduduk lokal, mereka menganggap para pendatang asing ini datang untuk mencari dan menguasai harta karun peninggalan bajak laut. ini buku kedua yang aku baca setelah misteri kurcaci gaib, menurutku buku ini lebih menarik, cerita

petualangannya dapet banget, apalagi pas adegan Pete, Bob dan Chris menyelam mencari harta karun. sayangnya Juve diceritakan sakit dibuku ini, jadinya nggak bisa ikut menyelam dan bertualang. agak sebel dengan para orang dewasa yang sukanya meremehkan pendapat anak2, kayaknya kalau dari awal mau mendengar cerita dari trio detektif dan Chris mungkin masalah bisa cepat diselesaikan. suka cara author memberikan penyelesaian untuk kasus kali ini, rasanya epik banget

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### **Becca says**

In this book the Three Investigators solve a case rather far from home.

Bob and Pete play prominent roles in this book, often getting into trouble without Jupiter.

Chris is the 'character of the week' and he is very well written. You really feel for him when he talks about how his dad is ill and the situation they're in. Their friendship with Chris kind of puts the boys at odds with some of the adults which was an interesting dynamic.

And finally, I love that Jupiter can put all thought of interesting mysteries out of his mind whenever he learns one of his friends are in danger. It's one of the great qualities he has.

The fact that the boys like and respect each other is a great quality that the series as a whole has.

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### **Quentin Wallace says**

Another good adventure with the three investigators. This one had a haunted amusement park on Skeleton Island. With a name like that, it's got to be good, right?

We had the usual ghosts along with some thieves up to no good. Another boy their own age was introduced, this time a Greek lad. It seems as though having an international boy their own age show up is a trope in this series (Spanish, Japanese, Greek etc.) which is fine as it gives the stories a metropolitan flavor.

As I've said before, nostalgia fuels this series, so my ratings are probably a bit biased. If you like YA mysteries though, this is a great series to read.

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### **PenNPaper52 says**

I have read these guys when I was young. In the same company as the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew era. Yeah I'm that old. Back to this book, it was a fun read going back to your past with the 3 investigators. The plot felt the same as it does with such books, I can't believe I was so gullible back then, when I thought the plot was just unbelievable... but then again, it isn't such a bad book to read. I enjoyed myself running alongside the boys as they try to discover the secret of the skeleton island...

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## Jason says

I love this genre—a good, old-fashioned, family-friendly “whodunnit.” Campy? Sure. Do I care? No. In fact, I like it. I love stories that offer mystery and intrigue and a bit of danger without assaulting my soul. The most popular example of this genre is the Hardy Boys series, which I love.

This was my first dive into Hitchcock’s Three Investigators, and though it doesn’t measure up to the Hardy Boys, it has all of the same genre elements—mystery, danger, adventure. The pencil-drawn illustrations are an attractive addition, and the inclusion of Hitchcock as a character in the story is a nice piece of meta. Recommended.

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## JBooks says

Das Buch hat jetzt 2,5 Sterne von mir bekommen. 2 waren zu wenig, 3 zu viel ^^'

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## Mark says

2008 review - The only hardback in my collection (‘liberated’ from Junior school), this mystery has always appealed to me - I liked the idea of going away, I liked the fairground and in the Roger Hall line drawing of Sally, I discovered one of the scariest things I’d ever seen (TJ & I used to dare one another to look at it then go upstairs on our own!). The story plays out well, though the ‘mystery’ itself is fairly clear, but it has a nice idea of atmosphere and the scuba sequences are very well handled. A cracking read.

2013 update - the 2008 review still holds up (and Bob & Pete work well on their own with Jupe laid low by a cold), though I should mention that it's quite a spiky book at times, with flashes of Arthur's social comment. For instance, the adult characters (including Mr Crenshaw) are generally dismissive of the boys, Chris (a well realised character) is treated terribly ('they don't like foreigners!') and Fishingport (the main location) is a sad, depressed town full of people desperate for hope (a parasite in the oyster population has decimated trade in the region). This doesn't detract, indeed it adds an unusual air to the mystery, but it was something I'd forgotten between the re-reads.

2018 update - I completely agree with the 2013 update, a well played out mystery (even if it’s solved fairly easily) with some great set-pieces (I love the Sally sequence and the bit below The Hand is very well done) and social comment.

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