



Under Copp's Hill

Katherine Ayres

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Things are disappearing from the Boston settlement house where Innie goes for her library club in 1908. As she tries to unravel the mystery, she starts looking guilty herself!

Under Copp's Hill Details

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From Reader Review Under Copp's Hill for online ebook

Sarah Crawford says

This adventure takes place in 1908 in Boston and concerns a young girl of Italian ancestry, her sisters, and a place called a Settlement House which is based on places that actually existed (as covered in the historical section), that were built to help immigrants adjust to the U.S. culture. The one Innie goes to is one for girls only, but generally they were for people of either gender.

There are several threads running through this story. For one, there's the thread dealing with Innie and her family adjusting to American ways and her eldest sister studying to take the test to become an American citizen.

Then there's the thread about the settlement house itself, and the types of work it does and how it helps the girls.

A third thread deals with the major problem in the book. Innie is suspected of being a thief at the house, stealing food, clothing, etc. She eventually gets banned from attending the place which is really bad, especially since it will lend out books and she loves to read.

So it's up to Innie not only to prove that she is not the one that is stealing things, but to actually catch the crook, and this involves a secret tunnel and Innie and two other girls working together to sneak up on the thief late at night.

It's a really good story and another very good entry in this, apparently discontinued, series of books.

jenn says

Innie (like the belly button, not like "Cenza", a much more likely nickname for Innocenza) is so plucky and curious that she gets thrown out of a settlement house library.

A settlement house, by the way, is like the Athenaeum with no membership fee and free classes on things like how to paint some seriously righteous pottery. (Google "Paul Revere Pottery" real quick. Your eyes will thank you.) So of course I was like, GET IT TOGETHER, INNIE.

This is a kid's book, though, so there's only so much blackballing before the whole wacky mess sorts itself out. And the North End is awesome. I wish I didn't have to share it with every tourist, ever.

Lillian says

This is quite a heart warming book. The main character Innie reminded me of Anne of Green Gables in a way. The author really tried to address the issue of diversity in a digestable way that I think the actual target audience (10-12year-olds) will appreciate it.

Leo says

AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!!!

Holly Green says

Really great book. Very adventurous and scary at moments. Author was very descriptive. Probably the 2nd best of the series so far (The Smuggler's Treasure being the best). Very unique book. I don't know how to describe it, but I know whoever reads this will enjoy it.

Chloe says

The American Girl History Mysteries helped to make me who I am today. These books (along with the Magic Tree House series) instilled in me a deep curiosity about how people lived in different historical time periods - they're the reason I majored in history in college, and why I work in the field that I do today. I didn't read every one of the American Girl History Mysteries as a kid, but I came pretty close! Today, as an adult, I work in Boston's North End, and I recently came to the realization that one of the History Mysteries I read as a kid was set in this neighborhood, and I decided to take a brief jaunt into my past by revisiting *Under Copp's Hill*. To my surprise, I found that I recognized the names in the dedication page - they're the names of my boss and his family, who are related to that author! Since it was my job in the neighborhood that caused me to pick up this book again in the first place, I thought it was a funny coincidence that they were linked.

My personal reminisces about the series and my tenuous links to the author aside, I was really pleasantly surprised to rediscover how well written this book was! It had a compelling narrative and packed in a lot of information about Italian and Jewish immigrants of the North End in the early 1900s while still feeling pretty natural. I was had a really lovely time learning about the Saturday Evening Girls and the work of the settlement house, and I'll have a new appreciation for the history of the neighborhood the next time I stroll down Hull Street!

SFrick says

what I always like about the Americal Girl History Mysteries is the "Peek Into the Past".

There is a wealth of information to be found about the period.
For this one, it was Boston in 1908.

The Illustrators for all of these books do an excellent job.

Beka says

Though there were a ton of cringe-worthy moments, I still enjoyed this story. I liked the Innies and Matela characters especially.

Renee says

One of my favorites in the American Girl History Mystery series! The time period is interesting, but I also like how the author wrote this book. It's believable and fun to read. This is a very well-written and great book!

Rebecca says

Every since her Italian immigrant parents died in a fire when she was just two, Innies Moretti has lived with her grandmother in a tenement in Boston's North End. The year is 1908, and Innies is now twelve. When a settlement house for girls opens in her neighborhood, Innies is eager to attend, and join the library club. However, soon things start to disappear from the house. Because she is thought of as a troublemaker due to several incidents that were not really her fault, Innies immediately falls under suspicion for the thefts. If she doesn't prove that she is innocent, Innies will no longer be able to attend the library club, and reading is one of the few joys in her dreary, tedious, and difficult life. So she determines to solve the mystery and catch the real thief. While not the best from the series, this was still a good read that I recommend to girls who enjoy historical fiction.

Madeline Henricksen says

Trouble arises when an Italian girl named Innies and her cousin Teresa go to book club. Suddenly, a silver teapot goes missing, food goes missing, money goes missing, and Innies is blamed. Innies investigates and tries to prove to the teachers that she is innocent. Will Innies find the culprit before she is thrown out of book club?

I liked this book because it was a very interesting mystery and I am crazy over mysteries.

Maria says

Innocenza (Innies) enjoys going to the library club for girls at the settlement house. When valuable things begin to go missing, Everyone suspects Innies. Innies and her friends make a plan to meet at the cemetery and catch the thief. When they discover that all the doors are locked, but someone is still getting inside. Innies and her friends suspect that it may not be a person, but a ghost. Can Innies find the thief, and prove she is innocent?

Evelynn says

3.5 stars.

I guess one thing kept getting my goat with this book was the repeated Catholic theme (no offense to my Catholic friends!). But it was mostly the writing style. It drove me a little nuts. And the ending felt slightly anticlimactic.

Kristine Hansen says

I wasn't sure about this one at first - a different girl, a different historical period. Trying to get into the story with no basis (no doll) to guide one felt strange after reading so many other American Girl books. But then I came to really like Innies - and to wish that she had a doll of her own. I loved meeting her family and her world as she solved the puzzle of thefts at the Settlement House.

Marissa says

I love mystery books so this one was a good one to read. It kept me in and wasn't boring at all.
