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GOSICK Volume 1



Synopsis

The year is 1924, the place, Sauville, a small European country neatly tucked beside the Alps... Kazuya Kujo has been studying abroad at the prestigious Saint Marguerite Academy, where urban legends and horror stories are all the rage. Most Kazuya ignores--but the story of the Queen Berry, a mysterious ghost ship, really gets to him. Of course, his brainy friend Victorique is much more intrigued by true stories, and she uses her unrivaled logic to solve mysteries even the town's famous detective can't. Ironically, it's Victorique's inquisitive nature that leads the duo to board a ship that matches the Queen Berry's description to a tee, a ship that might just hold the key to solving a sinister mystery... Kazuki Sakuraba's modern twist on Holmes and Watson--pairing Victorique, a wizened young girl with doll-like looks and her eager-to-please sidekick Kazuya--make this international bestseller a must-read murder mystery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been enjoying the anime, so I figured I'd try the book. In the end, I have mixed feelings.- The good:The characters are endearing, the plot is dark and intriguing, and the physical book itself is absolutely GORGEOUS. Lovely artwork.- The not so good:The writing itself is unfortunately a bit lackluster. I don't know if the problem lies with the author, the translator, or both, but the writing in general simply feels amateurish and unpolished. I realize that most readers don't get hung up on stylistic issues like I do, but poor writing can really ruin an otherwise great story for me. There are a number of "Japanese-isms" that seem clumsily translated, and a lot of the "clues" to the mystery are

more or less shoved unsubtly in your face. There are also a shocking number of typos and misused words.- Overall:I'd give 3 and a half stars, but since I can't, I'll say 4 out of 5. The story and characters are entertaining enough to keep me reading despite the unimpressive writing -- and to honest, reading a translation with my hyper-critical English-major eye is probably a little unfair!

The front cover suggests Sherlock Holmes, with a young golden-haired girl filling Holmes' role. The book delivers.First, read all of the product reviews. My review of the reviews shows that each misses one or two things about the book. All-together they cover the book well. Also see [...] 'Gosick 1' is definitely a Young Adults fiction. Quite a bit of it is cartoonish, such as the adult police detective Grevil de Blois, and his two assistants. The situations strain probability, eventually coming across more "wow." than "what?" Victorique seems to live in the library of Saint Marguerite Academy (typo in the novel; it should be Sainte) Kazuya is a foreign student at the academy who has come to know Victorique. His righteous indignation at a slight done to Victorique gets both of them a holiday at the coast, and Victorique's curiosity then gets both of them deep into a mystery, with danger that they won't survive the night.Having finished it, would I read another? I can think of a half-dozen books by other authors that I would want to read first. When I get around to wanting to read another book of this set I think I am more interested in 'Gosicks 1', a short story collection set before 'Gosick 1', before wanting to read 'Gosick 2', the next logical novel in the series.

This light novel is one of my favorites ones. It is not heavy as other out there with suspense and detective-ish but it does the job. I recommend it especially if you have watched the anime.One downside is that the translator of this book had a s***ty as editor since i spotted many English words errors. Many.

This was the first light novel that I have ever read. This novel is a little different compare to the manga but most of it is the same. I really don't read novels but this kept me reading the whole thing in less than a day. Great novel.

My son loved the book, read it in one day

If you enjoy adventure, mystery, nice art and not a English major then this is for you

Loved the characters. Enjoyed the way Sakuraba set up the action. This is an exciting beginning to

a series of fun stories.

For as long as many of us can remember, mystery novels have been given the shaft by the YA market. Passed over in favor of stories featuring sparkling vampires, spies and science fiction, the mystery genre has been viewed by many as a niche. As each year passes, it wavers dangerously close to fading into the background along with other recently forgotten YA genres such as Westerns. Though a number of recent paranormal YA have attempted to add mystery-like elements into their stories, they have usually fallen short of creating the iconic trademark that has defined the genre for so long. When asked why there isn't any focus on mystery in the current Young Adult market, a number of book bloggers have proclaimed that the genre is just too difficult for the YA market to produce. When I randomly stumbled across a new YA offering from Japan while browsing the aisles of Barnes and Noble, I grew curious. Would a Japanese author be able to breathe new life into the genre? I was soon about to find out. Set in a small European country beside the Alps during 1924, the story follows Kujo Kazuya, a Japanese teenager sent abroad by his family to study at the prestigious Saint Marguerite Academy, and his adventures with the doll faced and inquisitive Victorique. When the young girl's investigative nature leads her to a cruise ship that matches the description of one of the school's local ghost stories, the two find themselves caught up in a life and death race against time that promises to pit their intellect against an unknown killer. Trapped at sea, the two discover a terrifying clue. This isn't the first time this has happened. If there was any worry that the mystery genre was too hard for the YA market, lay it aside now. *GOSICK*, in a word, is stunning. More than that, it's terrifyingly gripping. Never failing to miss a mark, the story flows from one page to the next without pause or hesitation. Excellently written prose, unbearably suspenseful pacing and three dimensional characters that feel real enough to touch fill the pages of this beautifully illustrated novel. If Sherlock Holmes had a literary daughter, it would be the doll faced Victorique without any doubt. Capturing the mood and essence of the mystery classic, *GOSICK* gives new life to the old archetype stories that have still continued to entertain many today while managing to weave in its own special and unique touch. The decision of the author to base the story in the 1920's after World War I was genius. Not only does it enhance the setting of the story and prove more interesting, it dramatically changes the mood of the locations and the way in which children are treated. As with any mystery, the ending is perhaps the most important aspect of the book besides the story itself and I'm happy to report that not only does *GOSICK* have near perfect pacing, it also has a near flawless twist of an ending. Readers hoping to be surprised will not leave disappointed. In conclusion, there is almost nothing I can say negative about this book other than the

fact that it ends. GOSICK succeeds in doing what a number of YA authors seem incapable of doing: believing that its readers are intelligent. This belief, coupled with its flowing narrative, culminates in what is likely to become a new classic for the Mystery genre.- Matt Reeves

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