



Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception

By Wendelin Van Draanen

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Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception By Wendelin Van Draanen

“The hottest sleuth to appear in children’s books since Nancy Drew” (*The Boston Globe*) is back! Don’t miss the eighth book in the series that’s been described as “a combination of Carl Hiaasen’s *Flush* and Janet Evanovich’s Stephanie Plum books” (*School Library Journal*) and hailed as “nonstop whodunits” (*Kirkus Reviews*)!

The artsy crowd thinks Sammy Keyes has a lot of nerve showing up at a fancy reception in high-tops. But when she tackles a robber who’s brandishing a gun with one hand and pulling paintings from the wall with the other, they’re glad she has nerve. Or are they?

Sammy may have stopped one criminal, but the real crime at this show has yet to be discovered. The real crime is more subtle, more artful, than anything Sammy’s ever seen. Who knew art could be so dangerous?

Praise for the Sammy Keyes series:

“If Kinsey Millhone ever hires a junior partner, Sammy Keyes will be the first candidate on the list. She’s feisty, fearless, and funny. A top-notch investigator!”
—*New York Times* bestselling author Sue Grafton

“The sleuth delights from start to finish. Keep your binoculars trained on Sammy Keyes.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“The most winning junior detective ever in teen lit. (Take that, Nancy Drew!)”
—*Midwest Children’s Book Review*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sammy Keyes, girl sleuth extraordinaire, cracks the case once again in the latest installment of Wendelin Van Draanen's smart, snappy mystery series for readers ages 11 and older. This time, the trouble begins when 13-year-old Sammy ("a magnet for mayhem") attends a fancy reception at an art gallery (wearing high-tops, of course) and ends up tackling a gun-wielding art burglar who crashes the party. He, however, proves to be only one of an entire gallery of rogues. As ever, Van Draanen crafts an entertaining, multi-layered page-turner starring a brash, likable heroine with a big mouth and a big heart. Throw in a little romance at a Renaissance Faire, a whole new side to Sammy's grandmother (what's this about a tricked-out Harley?), and some thoughtful views on the nature of art, and voila! you have one of the best Sammy Keyes books to date. (Ages 11 and older) --*Karin Snelson*

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8—Wendelin Van Draanen's eighth title in the Sammy Keyes series (Knopf/Borzoi, 2003) finds the middle-school detective solving the mystery of an art gallery theft. Sammy is attending a gallery event with her grandmother and elderly friend, Hudson, when she foils an attempted robbery. She finds an unlikely ally in her grandmother, who is more fully developed in this story. Grams and Hudson seem to be developing a relationship until Hudson becomes mesmerized by the victimized artist. Although she is distracted by both her grandmother's love life and her own, Sammy eventually unravels the mystery. She discovers that the art world is not unlike junior high school with its own share of intrigue, backstabbing, and confusion. Tara Sands does an excellent job of narrating the story, infusing Sammy with just enough attitude for a seventh grader. Mystery fans will enjoy the plot and interesting cast of characters.—*Katherine Devine, Westminster Academy, Elizabeth, NJ*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. Sammy Keyes returns, as feisty as ever, this time lurking around the art world to learn the secret a painter is keeping. As with other books in the series, there's more going on than just sleuthing. Sammy and her nemesis, Heather, mix it up once more. And there's some romance here for Sammy, but mostly for her grandmother, with whom she lives, and for Hudson, Sammy's 72-year-old best friend, who appears to be more interested in artist Diane Rejiden than in Grams. Van Draanen only makes slight concessions to her audience. Her tone is sharp, her dialogue fast, and the mystery, on the face of it, is not particularly kid-friendly. Yet Van Draanen's fresh take on things, painted with a patina of realism, will attract a new audience and also keep fans turning pages. *Ilene Cooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Clarke:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who

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Bruce Brown:

The experience that you get from Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the idea because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this specific Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception instantly.

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