



SLA

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) [A spooky and entertaining book!](#)

Reviewed in the United States on October 18, 2019

[Verified Purchase](#)

I actually read the 2nd book (the Mystery of the Hidden Jewels) before I read this one, so it was interesting because I already knew some things about Skylar from the future. However, I also enjoyed this book very much! There were many things that Skylar had to deal with, including living at her aunt's house with a bullying cousin while her parents went to Europe for 2 weeks, being separated from her best friend, attending summer school at a different school, addressing her fear of horses, and learning about Wiccan culture. There was also plenty of spookiness, from weird noises in the attic, possible demonic cult rituals in the hills near her aunt's house, unauthorized midnight excursions on the beach, and Wiccan rituals. I found it all very fascinating! I am an adult (a lifelong Happy Hollister and Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys fan) and I know that I would have loved to read this series when I was young. I love reading these books now! The story is rich in details, and Skylar learns how to make new friends, deal with bullies, and overcome her fears. I really liked how Skylar made friends with people from diverse backgrounds, including those of a different ethnicity. She becomes friendly with a hearing impaired student, and begins learning American Sign Language so that she can communicate better with him. The storyline is complex enough that I think it will keep kids interested and intrigued until the end.



Linda McCutcheon

[VINE VOICE](#)

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) [A Kid Detective For All Ages](#)

Reviewed in the United States on April 10, 2020

[Verified Purchase](#)

The Mystery of Shadow Hills by Carrie Cross is the absolute perfect book for kids and teens. It is the first in a series which is a good thing since once you follow would be private eye 13 year old Skylar Robbins around Malibu as she unlocks the mystery of Shadow Hills you will want to be her side kick forever.

Skylar has decided she is just like her grandfather and needs to be a private eye. She carries her detective kit everywhere (it has a finger print kit inside)! It's a good thing she takes it to her cousin's house when she has to live there for the summer while her parents are in Europe.

While dealing with her bullying cousin and missing her parents she uncovers a secret garden, a maybe witch, caves with magical seeds, and learns about friendship.

This book is the best of everything you loved about Nancy Drew, Harriet the Spy, and some Encyclopedia Brown. It is fun, adventurous, educational, and will be a great distraction to your kids during this stay at home time in our lives.

I received a free ebook copy of this book from the author for a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own.



Carol J. Amato

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Keeps you on the edge of your seat!

Reviewed in the United States on May 13, 2020

[Verified Purchase](#)

I loved The Mystery of Shadow Hills! This is definitely a modern-day Nancy Drew-type series, and I am a big Nancy Drew fan. In fact, I have the entire original series. In addition, I am a writer myself, so impressing me is hard. I was glued from the first page! Skylar Robbins is a girl after my own heart. She is independent, resourceful, daring, and persistent. I worried so much for her as I read, since she was getting into a situation that was far over her head. She managed to find her way through, though! This book is spine-tingling and will keep you on the edge of your seat. It's a must-read! I'm off to Book 3, The Secret of the Missing Heiress!



Bruce A. Monson

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Girls make the best detectives!

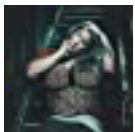
Reviewed in the United States on May 13, 2021

[Verified Purchase](#)

One of the great pleasures as a father was reading bedtime stories to each of my daughters. The activity is more important than the stories themselves, IMO, but when they are well written and entertaining even for adults it's a win-win. And Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of Shadow Hills hits a homerun on both counts! I would recommend it to any young teen (and parents alike). Carrie Cross's writing style is fluid, fast-paced, humorous and believable, especially in the sub-dialogues "Skylar" shares with us in her mind (in italics) during her many struggles with a gamut of issues she faces, such as bullying, race, disabilities, romance, self-doubt and cliques, among others.

Without giving away any spoilers, witchcraft is a central theme in the tale and it is clear that Carrie did her research on the subject, citing occult sources in some detail as well as the scientific methods her crack detective uses to approach such subjects critically. If there is one thing Skylar Robbins can help young readers with in the real world it is good critical-thinking skills!

Of special mention are the vivid imaginary mini adventures Skylar is prone to at any moment. Flashbacks of my own childhood adventures, and a good reminder of why we should all refuse to grow up!



Sabella

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) A Book that assists in lessons, communication, and building memories for our family!

Reviewed in the United States on November 25, 2013

[Verified Purchase](#)

Just finished reading Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of Shadow Hills to my 5 children. by Carrie Cross I love that there was inspiration to do activities with the family. We took the time to make amulets - or necklaces from rocks we searched for. We are planning some fun art projects too.

I also love that the book took a turn into a positive lesson that I would want to teach my kids anyway. We were able to stop after reading the book and discuss what we learned about friendship and deciphering what a true friend is or is not. My children learned something about following fads as well. All wonderful lessons that I as a mother often wonder how I will be able to reach my children and teach in a way that they would "get". This way we were able to do it together as a family all while building our own communications skills.

This book is rated 5 stars by me and the kids :) Thank you Carrie! We are looking forward to reading your future adventures!!!



Stephanie

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Great story!

Reviewed in the United States on December 2, 2019

[Verified Purchase](#)

My name is Ellie and I just turned 13, so I felt like I had a lot in common with Skylar, which made this really fun to read. I opened this book thinking it would be "just" a mystery, but I got sucked right into it and soon found it was so much more! I was super-surprised when the story turned to witchcraft; that was all so cool and interesting! I loved the magic, secret garden and the cousin drama, too. Heck, there were even horses; what's not to love - this story had it all! This was a great book and I look forward to reading more in the series!



Rhonda Jones

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Great New Series

Reviewed in the United States on May 14, 2021

[Verified Purchase](#)

And not just for kids. I am 64 and I loved it. Reminds me of when I was a kid reading Nancy Drew. Only this book setting is modern times and deals with some modern issues, like bullying, like peer pressure, like troubled kids playing dangerous games. And like learning who your real friends are, and sticking up for them. Plus there was a dangerous scenario towards the end of the book that showed how brave Skylar really is. Wonderful read.



Kathleen

5.0 out of 5 stars A MAGICAL ADVENTURE

Reviewed in the United States on May 31, 2015

[Verified Purchase](#)

I accidentally stumbled across Carrie Cross's Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of Shadow Hills, and was hooked by the words "the new Nancy Drew." Shadow Hills, written for middle-grade readers, epitomizes the best in entertainment for this age group. The book is fast paced and interesting with lessons about friendship, and the excitement of a mystery. Skylar is a super little sleuth. I love her detective kit!! The fun continues as readers can follow Skylar on her blog at (www.skylarrobbins.com) and become a Skylar Robbins Secret Agent, get detective tips, and play games. These books will bring back happy memories of hours spent discovering the joys of reading. Buy it now for your child or grandchild and share the fun with them.



P. Berinstein

5.0 out of 5 stars So much fun!

Reviewed in the United States on August 30, 2016

[Verified Purchase](#)

I loved this book. Part of the reason is that I love reading stories set in my home town, but I also loved what the author did with it. An expensive house in Malibu that looks tacky inside and smells bad? Witches in the Malibu hills? An exotic bullying teen whose parents are in show business? Awesome!

Skylar herself is a likable protagonist--a little lost in an unfamiliar environment, a bit bewildered at being left behind when her parents go off to Europe without her, a bit malleable. But she's also driven and curious, and that saves her. Losing herself in a puzzle, learning new things, turning disadvantage to advantage: she's a character I can really relate to.