

Literary Titan editorial review

5 Stars

Skylar Robbins has been preparing for this for months. Daniel made a promise to be her partner in the next ACE adventure, and she believes he meant what he said. As part of the elite group of students who take part in the Accelerated Courses and Experiments program, Skylar and Daniel are no strangers to adventure and mystery. The only mystery right now, however, is how Hannah Hilton made it into the program and why Daniel seems to have forgotten that Skylar exists. What promised to be a fantastic summer is now looking like a huge disappointment. Will the trip to Koma Island turn things around for Skylar or will it be more than they all bargained for?

*Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of the Island Idol, by Carrie Cross, is centered around young Skylar Robbins-gifted and talented and a member of ACE. With all the angst and stresses of late middle and early high school years, she is the perfect protagonist for today's young readers. It is refreshing to still see writers placing an intelligent and forward-thinking female lead in their stories, and Skylar rivals and surpasses the budding detectives many of us are used to-Nancy Drew and Trixie Belden. Kudos to Cross for putting motivated and capable young women at the forefront of her series. Our middle school readers need to see this more regularly.*

*Mysteries need to pop. They need to move quickly and hold the reader's interest, especially when younger readers are the group toward which a series is aimed. Cross is a master at this. Skylar thinks quickly on her feet, and her friendship with Alexa provides a nice sounding board for her ideas. There lies within Cross's work an amazing little cast of characters that provides readers with plenty of opportunities to visualize a vast array of personality types. It's nice to see such a well-drawn cast of characters-all having wonderful quirks and offering their own contributions to Skylar's role in the story.*

*Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of the Island Idol, by Carrie Cross is a rip-roaring young adult adventure/romance story that will keep readers on their toes. Centered around current technology and full of references younger readers will appreciate, this book has everything needed to engage readers and keep them coming back for more from Skylar and her gifted cohort. -- Literary Titan*



Rhonda Jones

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) The Most Dangerous Adventure Yet

Reviewed in the United States on May 11, 2021

[Verified Purchase](#)

Advanced class trip to a small island off the coast of Hawaii. It was supposed to be rustic, it is. The natives were supposed to be primitive. They are. But something unexpected is going on. Then the threats begin. This time most of the class is working together to figure it out, behind the teacher's back. This time everybody is in serious trouble, with no way to communicate with the outside world. Great mystery.



SLA

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Spooky and mysterious!

Reviewed in the United States on November 22, 2020

The Mystery of the Island Idol is one of a series of mysteries by teen detective, Skylar Robbins. It is a standalone story, though I recommend starting with the first book and continuing on, as these are great mysteries and you'll enjoy getting to know all of the characters. Skylar, founder of the Skylar Robbins Detective Agency, is looking forward to a summer program known as ACE (the Accelerated Courses and Experiments program), designed for teens who are high IQ and talented in other areas. Most importantly, Skylar is hoping to see Daniel, her partner from a previous case, and Skylar's current crush. Unfortunately, on the first day of ACE, it becomes obvious that there is a mean-girl type social media star, Hannah, in the program, and she has her eye on Daniel as well and is determined to attach herself to him.

This session the ACE program is focusing on the mysterious, secluded island of Koma. The goal is to learn about Koman plant life, animals, and Koman society, culminating in a field trip to Koma! However, as the students prepare their study projects, they learn there are many dangers, including antagonistic monkeys, poisonous reptiles, snakes, insects, and plants. There is also a mystery involving Koman carved idols, which may include a curse. Once upon the island, the ACE group is dropped off at a primitive campsite, isolated except for supervised visits with the native islanders. The trip takes an ominous turn when various students find voodoo-type idols and other menacing warnings left for them, and it becomes apparent that the native islanders are hostile. Skylar must use her detective skills and work with the other ACE students to figure out what is behind the cursed idols and why the islanders are trying to keep them isolated and scare them away. Will Skylar and her friends fall victim to the curse of the idols? Will they manage to survive their stay? And will Skylar be able to regain Daniel's interest?

This book is fast-paced and intriguing, and will keep you glued to the pages! It will definitely appeal to readers of all ages who are interested in spooky stories and mysterious curses. It was especially fascinating as all of the ACE students had very different personalities and talents; at first they didn't get along together very well, but by the end of the story they had all learned to pool their strengths and work together to solve the mystery and survive. I was given an ARC copy of this book, but the opinions expressed are solely my own.



Mz.Browneyes

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) An exciting, must-read mystery!

Reviewed in the United States on November 20, 2020

Excitement, fun, spine-tingles, danger, adventure, secrets, romance, fabulous characters, and a mind-boggling mystery are all elements you'll find in this next excellent installment of the popular Skylar Robbins Mystery Series. I loved it! The first part of the book is filled with a number of lively and entertaining happenings as we get to know Skylar and her friends a lot more before they fly off to a mysterious and dangerous tropical island in the South Pacific. I was on the edge of my seat as Skylar put herself in peril in order to keep her friends and herself safe from all the terrifying things on the island while she worked hard to untangle the clues that would help her discover the secrets of the island's mystifying idols. Ms. Cross truly outdid herself this time. I highly recommend this book, and the other Skylar novels, to tweens, teens, and all those young-at-heart adults who love a good, satisfying mystery.

I was given an ARC in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.



Elayne A.

[5.0 out of 5 stars Fun and Fast-Moving Mystery and Adventure](#)

Reviewed in the United States on November 27, 2020

The latest Skylar Robbins tale involves a thrilling journey with a major change of scenery: a far-off tropical island. The place is filled with dangerous flora and fauna and menacing natives who have unfamiliar customs. Skylar and her clever classmates are there to learn about the island and its inhabitants, who are obviously hiding a big secret. Young Detective Skylar could never resist one of those, no matter the risks! I'm so glad I was given a copy of this fun book to review.

Are the threats they receive really as dangerous as they seem? Will Skylar and Daniel finally get together? What is the meaning of the Island Idol and what are the islanders trying to hide? You'll have to read this engaging book to find out. Island Idol will keep readers young and old on the edges of their seats, rapidly turning pages to learn how the escapade unfolds.

Carrie Cross always weaves exciting stories that offer life lessons through entertaining characters dealing with challenging and unique situations. The Mystery of the Island Idol is certainly no exception.



Amazon Customer

[5.0 out of 5 stars Mystery of the Island Idol offers an exciting adventure for all ages!](#)

Reviewed in the United States on November 20, 2020

Anyone looking for an exciting adventure/detective story to read or give as a gift or both??? This is the latest installment of the Skylar Robbins series by Carrie Cross and yours truly had the honor of proofreading this one. I received a copy as a gift!

Even though this series is intended for ages 9-12, Carrie keeps it exciting enough adults will enjoy it as well!

Mystery of the Island Idol is fantastic filled with tropical dangerous adventures, who dunnit, and I even learned a lot! You're never going to guess the ending. You'll think you have it figured out but you'll be wrong. And you're going to enjoy every page!