



Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes

By Wendelin Van Draanen

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

Sammy's softball team is in contention for the Junior Slugger's Cup, and all she wants to do is hunker down behind the home plate and catch strikes. But Heather Acosta brings new meaning to the term "foul ball" as she schemes to get Sammy kicked off the team.

Then Sammy is thrown a wild pitch by a frantic girl at the mall. The girl asks Sammy to watch her bag and dashes off before Sammy discovers that the bag she's left holding contains a baby! When the girl doesn't return, Sammy decides to go find her. A heart-pounding search ensues, and leads to some situations that are definitely not covered in the softball playbook.

The Sammy Keyes mysteries are fast-paced, funny, thoroughly modern, and true whodunits. Each mystery is exciting and dramatic, but it's the drama in Sammy's personal life that keeps readers coming back to see what happens next with her love interest Casey, her soap-star mother, and her mysterious father.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Not normally a mall rat, young Sammy Keyes somehow finds herself at the video arcade with her best friend one day, blowing off steam before the big junior-high softball tournament. Naturally, fans of this plucky girl detective (*Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy*, *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy*, etc.) will not be at all surprised to learn that this innocent outing winds up putting Sammy in the middle of another big, messy, dangerous mystery. In spite of her best intentions, our sleuth is soon exploring the seamy underbelly of her hometown, confronting gang members, pursuing a man with "hatred for eyes, steel for a mouth," and trying to take care of an abandoned infant--all while remaining undercover at her grandmother's adults-only apartment complex. Newcomers and veterans of the Sammy Keyes mystery series will immediately take to this not-so-hard-boiled seventh-grade detective and her funny yet issue-laden adventures. (Ages 10 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

The intrepid detective lays her life on the line when she hunts down her latest suspect, a reptilian-looking fellow, in *Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes*, the seventh in the series by Wendelin Van Draanen. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grades 5-8--The unconventional girl detective is back in her seventh adventure. The upcoming Junior Sluggers' Cup tournament is all Sammy's friend Marissa will talk about, so Sammy suggests they go to the arcade to take her mind off it. While there, Sammy is literally left holding the bag as a stranger, who is frantically trying to hide from a scary-looking man, asks her to watch a bundle. Inside, the junior sleuth finds a baby. After a difficult night, she turns the infant over to her friend Officer Borsch. However, she now feels that she must find out who and where the baby's mother is before she is hurt (or worse) by the man with "hatred for eyes" and "steel for a mouth." The search takes Sammy and Marissa into the gang-infested parts of Santa Martina. In addition to this problem, Sammy's nemesis, Heather Acosta, is pulling her usual nasty tricks while at home trouble is brewing in the form of Mrs. Wedgewood, Sammy's grandmother's new neighbor. Sammy's search for the baby's mother rises to a frantic pace as she and Marissa risk their lives and the tournament to solve this latest case. A must for all Sammy Keyes fans, this book also stands alone and will make readers dash back to the library to read the first six.

Yapha Nussbaum Mason, Brentwood Lower School, Los Angeles

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Candy Yazzie:

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