



Secrets on 26th Street

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In New York City in 1914, eleven-year-old Susan encounters a mystery through an independent-minded female boarder and becomes involved in the growing suffrage movement.

Secrets on 26th Street Details

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From Reader Review *Secrets on 26th Street* for online ebook

Katherine Kapellen says

Its a good book. It gives you a good insight on how hard it was for women to get the right to vote.

Erin says

History Mysteries are a fantastic way to introduce children and pre-teens to historical topics. One of the reasons I am so fascinated with history is because of these books and the American Girl books in general. Each one provides a snapshot into a specific historical event or theme, and builds a fictional yet factual narrative around it.

Secrets on 26th Street takes place in New York City as Women's Suffrage was gaining momentum. Susan O'Neal is the oldest of her sisters and their caretaker. Their mother, Rose, is forced to work long shifts since their dad passed, and even then they still can't make rent. They take on a boarder, Bea, who is from England. Not only is her past a mystery, but she holds many secrets which end up impacting the O'Neal family. It is up to Susan to uncover Bea's past and the secrets she keeps.

This book is a quick read, albeit a compelling one. I really enjoyed the story, and how it represents the different facets of NYC history from Women's Suffrage to Tammany Hall. *Secrets on 26th Street* and other History Mysteries are not meant to be full-on novels, and anyone who expects that are dunderheads. I saw some reviews from people complaining that the chapters are short, and well yes they are. I don't know why you'd assume that a 139 page book will have long chapters.

It cannot be stressed enough, fictional yet factual. While Susan and her mother Rose never existed, Alice Paul was an advocate for Women's Suffrage. Her contribution to the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment is nothing short of miraculous. These short stories weave together real history into a digestible tale for young adults. And because they are based off true events, they can be easily researched to gain more knowledge on the topics presented!

I will admit that I am a HUGE American Girl fan and might be a bit biased. However, that doesn't mean what I have written about *Secrets on 26th Street* isn't true. If you have pre-teens, I highly recommend the History Mysteries. The more history you know the less it can repeat itself! Plus these books introduce a variety of topics instead of just the textbook crap that gets shoved into their head at public schools.

Lauren says

Part of the American Girl History Mystery series, although the book stands alone, *Secrets on 26th Street* is set in 1914 and focuses on a young girl, Susan, who recently lost her father and is dealing with how that loss has changed her family. When her mother invites a boarder into the house in order to afford their rent, Susan connects with the high-spirited, independent Bea. When Susan's mother goes missing, however, and Susan notices that Bea is hiding information from Susan and her sisters, Susan realizes it's up to her to find her mother and figure out what's going on.

Anyone familiar with the women's suffrage movement will figure out the so-called mystery early on, but I was charmed by this book. No, it's not great literature, but the lessons weren't preachy, the history was nicely interwoven with the story, and Susan was a likeable protagonist. Recommended.

Linda says

This book is from the American Girls History Mysteries series, which features various girls in different periods of history. They are easy reads. I was pleasantly surprised by this story and wish I could give it a 3.5. It definitely kept my interest. Also, in the back, after the fictional story ends, there is information about the real history of this subject, with real photos. I will not say what the subject is since that would be a spoiler.

New York City 1914: Susan O'Neil lives with her 2 younger sisters and widowed mother who is struggling to make ends meet and not be evicted from their cramped little apartment. When Bea, an Englishwoman obviously used to a better life, arrives as a boarder, Susan immediately likes her but she fears that Bea is keeping secrets. Then Susan's mother disappears. Susan logically works out what has happened to her and in order to rescue her, she must discover Bea's secret.

Brooklyn Rose says

It's a books about a widowed mom and her three daughters who get a roommate and have several struggles as women in New York around 1914.

It's a historical fiction book.

I enjoyed it because it has a lot of thought into it and it has a lot of mysteries and hope.

Sarah Crawford says

Secrets of 26th Street

This story takes place in 1914 in New York City. Susan's mother has to take in a boarder to try and make enough money to pay the rent and the boarder is a woman named Bea. At first Susan takes a very strong liking to the woman, even when she finds out that Bea has some kind of secret.

But as events unfold, Susan finds out that Bea has been less than truthful with her, and eventually even her own mother lies to her and then suddenly disappears.

Susan needs to find out what the truth is about Bea, and also find out what has happened to her mother.

It's a truth that is wrapped up in the politics of the women's suffrage movement and the politics of New York City's Tammany Hall.

There's a historical section which explains what women's suffrage was. For those who don't know, women were not allowed to vote in the United States from its founding in 1776 all the way up until 1920. Women

were basically considered not really mentally capable of voting since they were sort of hysterical in nature.

It was a long struggle for the women who wanted the right to vote, and sometimes it was violent, including when some of the women would be put into prisons and mistreated simply because they dared to think that they were the equal of men as far as rights go. It's a story that all girls should become familiar with.

Eabreese says

Secrets On 26th Street was a really boring book. To begin with, the book was extremely short. The chapters were only 7-4 pages long! One way the book was boring is the fact that it's very predictable. After only a few chapters, you can easily see what the outcome of the book will be. Lastly, I found the book to be boring because of the lack of illustrations. While it is true there are some pictures, they were not at all inspiring. The book was not completely bad, however, because I found the setting interesting. The book takes place in the year 1914 in Chelsea, NY, during the women's rights movement. Some of the action includes exciting things such as disguises and spying.

All in all, I found the book to be unenjoyable. Despite my disappointment however, I am eager to give the other American Girl History Mysteries a try.

-Shea Breese!

-Grade 5

Madeline says

This book is awesome. I couldn't put it down.

PWRL says

A

Lorna Doerr says

I needed a book with a number in the title to complete a reading bingo card! Turns out, this was an interesting story about the women's suffrage movement. I will recommend this to young readers who enjoy historical fiction.

Kristine Hansen says

I loved the setting and the historical aspect of this book, but was plagued by one question throughout - whatever happened to the paper she was supposed to be writing on Middlemarch? And what child THAT age reads Middlemarch anyway? Seriously? This was a book for 11 year olds at the turn of the century? Oh, but we've fallen...

The adventure was good. Not all of the plot held together way I would have wished, but I still liked reading the story. And I really did like Susan.

Sometimes it's hard to believe there was ever a time when women did not have the vote. My but we've come a long way...!

Meghan says

I prefer to read about suffrage set in Washington D.C. and a couple years after this story takes place.

Margaret says

I love this book it is a great mystery book and there are a lot more like them!

Lindsay says

The History Mysteries series were books that my dad used to surprise me with when I was younger. They're oldies but goodies to me and have quite the sentimental value

Beka says

A mystery about lies, suffrage, and a missing mom.
