



TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS By Nancy Springer



“But meanwhile, as she looks at the newspaper clipping, her rather long and angular face softens, rendered almost beautiful, by a smile: for she knows that in the secret code of flowers, a rose of any sort signifies love.”

GENRE

Historical Fiction

Mystery

THEMES

Independence and autonomy

Abandonment

Family Relationships

Societal norms in Victorian England

Womanhood in a Patriarchal Society

CHARACTERS

Enola Holmes

Enola is the 14-year-old protagonist of the story. Her name is “alone” backwards, and her mother repeatedly tells her she will be just fine on her own. Having lived her life feeling that she was a scandal to the family, Enola is then abandoned by her mother on her birthday. Smart, independent, determined, and resourceful, Enola rescues Tewksbury while on her mission to find her mother.

Lady Eudoria Holmes

Eudoria is Enola's mother. She is a free-spirited, intelligent, and cunning woman who rejects the patriarchal society and times she belongs to.

Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock is Enola's famous detective brother. He is melancholy but well-respected. While working at Scotland Yard, he and his associate work behind the scenes to track down Enola.

Mycroft Holmes

Mycroft is Enola's very proper older brother. Mycroft is very concerned with societal norms. While estranged from his mother and sister, he sent funds to keep the estate going after their father's death.

Viscount Tewksbury

Viscount Tewksbury is the Marquess of Basilwether. He is a wealthy 12-year-old boy, babied by his mother and forced to wear velvet. He runs away in hopes of going to sea but is kidnapped.

Lestrade

Lestrade is an associate of Sherlock Holmes tasked with helping to find Enola.

STORYLINE

Enola Holmes, sister to the famous Sherlock Holmes, discovers on her birthday that her mother has disappeared. Determined not to be sent away to boarding school, Enola disguises herself and begins the search for her mother, starting with hidden ciphers her mother left for her to find.

Enola's search for her mother takes a turn when she stumbles upon another mystery. Lord Viscount Tewksbury Basilwether has gone missing and his mother is distraught. Enola finds quite the adventure once she discovers "Tewksy," all while determined to stay hidden from her brothers. She discovers that people are not quite as they seem and finds herself and Tewksbury in perilous situations.

Can the resourceful Enola rescue Tewksbury and deliver him safely to Scotland Yard? While the mystery of the missing Marquess is inevitably solved, Enola is still left with questions about her mother's disappearance and is determined to find answers.

1 QUESTION ONE

Why do you think Eudoria chose to give her daughter the name *Enola*?

2 QUESTION TWO

The clothing in this story is described in detail and is often significant. How did Enola's clothes help or hinder her mission? Do you think what we wear is important to others' views of us?

3 QUESTION THREE

When Enola becomes upset, she draws or writes to express her feelings. What are some ways that you process or express your emotions?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Why did Enola suddenly abandon her search for her mother to find Tewksbury?

5 QUESTION FIVE

Tewksbury, Enola, and her mother have all run away from something. What is their common struggle? How are their struggles different?

6 QUESTION SIX

Why did Tewksbury leave home? What changed his mind and caused him to return?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

What qualities do you admire about Enola and why?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

“Two days in London had made me aware too, of much that I had not known before. And now that I did know, my own ill fortunes seemed small enough.”
How can seeing other people in need change our perspective on our struggles?
How did it change Enola?

9 QUESTION NINE

How do you think Enola’s brothers will think differently of her after her adventures?

10 QUESTION TEN

How does Enola see herself differently at the end of the story?



*This BTB Book Club Guide was written by
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Carol is the mother of two children, wife, avid reader, and speech-language pathologist. She loves a variety of genres, but especially mysteries and historical fiction. When not reading she can usually be found watching her kids play sports, playing with her dog Honey, or spending time outside.

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