



The Sword Thief

Peter Lerangis

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Amy and Dan Cahill have been located once again, this time in the company of the notoriously unreliable Alistair Oh. Could they have been foolish enough to make an alliance?

Spies report that Amy and Dan seem to be tracking the life of one of the most powerful fighters the world has ever known. If this fearsome warrior was a Cahill, his secrets are sure to be well-guarded... and the price to uncover them just might be lethal.

The Sword Thief Details

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Ker Malkin says

Uh... wow. That was a really quick read. Last I checked, I just started leafing through the pages and now I'm done.

Peter Lerangis, what have you done to the characters? You somehow tweaked them up a little bit. Since when did Amy begin to stammer so much when she talks?

Anyway, what Amy felt for Ian was quite incestuous IMO. They're cousins first of all, unless the bloodline is very distant. And I thought it was pretty clear that she and Dan despise the Kabras so much though it was mentioned earlier that Amy, herself had a teeny tiny crush on her cousin Ian.

Unlike the previous books in the series, this had a very few exciting moments. Either way, I wouldn't understand a thing if it's an action scene, probably because my mind is just tired of cooperating.

It was fast paced but I would really have liked it better if Peter had given off much more to the storyline. The transitions occurred almost too quickly. It's like one second, they're here and one nanosecond later, they're somewhere else.

I'm holding the fourth book right now and I can't wait to read this sometime. It's also quite thicker than the first three books.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Sword Thief (The 39 Clues #3), Peter Lerangis

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Cathy says

A fun, fast adventure, but no where near as substantive or satisfying as the first 2 in the series. It felt like watching a Disney TV series, each chapter ending in a cliffhanger; thank goodness there were no commercials. I really miss the strong historical bent of the first 2 books. There was some info here about the Japanese historical figure, but not nearly as much as in the past books. There was some nice character development, humor, and, as I said, terrific adventure. If this had been the first book in the series I would have enjoyed it but probably not bothered with additional books. As the third installment of many it was acceptable but not wonderful.

Nikki says

With the third installment, even Jack's enthusiasm for the series is fading. Having various middle-grades rockstar authors write each book is a clever marketing ploy I guess, but it makes the series uneven and it seems like the characters are different people each book. It wasn't my favorite series to begin with and thankfully Jack is ready to move on to something better.

Yordan Dimov says

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Sabrina Roy says

I enjoy these books. Cute and not too dramatic. I take that back, not too adult dramatic.

John Carron says

I thought this book was good for the most part, but it kind of got a little boring and i don't think ill be continuing the series.

Exina says

Amy and Dan's treasure hunt continues in Japan: many adventures and some really surprising twists in such a short story. Highly recommended!

Dan's eyes were cast upward, gawking at a steel structure that rose above the park.

"Cool, someone brought over the Eiffel Tower and painted it red and white!"

Alistair smiled. "The Tokyo Tower is taller than its Parisian counterpart, but also lighter, due to advances in steel construction -- advances that were developed, may I add, by an Ekat engineer. My illustrious family."

Esh Hope says

I knew it.

I loved it.

I want to punch them.

I wanted Amy and Ian together. I still do. But I can't believe that Amy was such a fool to trust him, and not only that, but something that surprised me even more: Ian's feelings were/are real.

Every moment, every smile, every stare. I fangirled it all. But I still knew that it wouldn't work out, and alliances don't survive in this quest, and love is FLO, and Kabras never lose. I knew what would happen since the beginning. I just never thought Amy would cry.

I have no idea how it'll turn out (even though I know about Jake Rosenbloom), I just know that Ian's "pleasing indigestion" was real, and his first thought about her and not the shirt was real too, and the time he allowed his lips to brush hers also was real. So I don't care about the betrayal (because his face said he didn't really want to do it, at least a bit) or his selfish self or even Jake; I still want them together, I still think she could make him change his mind, I still have him as my favorite character.

The development of this book was good, with little action but full-intense moments. It was a great time to get to know the characters better and those about-five-pages-in-total of romance were... Oh My God. Uncle Alistair's disappearance and the kid's reaction to everything felt really sad. I also loved Peter Lerangis's writing style. The way he described people and places was great, so I hope he keeps that for the other book he writes for this series.

I'm SO looking forward to buy the next book when it gets to my country.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll go listen I Knew You Were Trouble by Taylor Swift, Trecherous by her too and Steal Your Heart by Ross Lynch, for Ian and Amy, at least a thousand times.

Daniel says

E ovog puta se primeti da imamo novog pisca. Cccc, šteta. Nije da puno smeta ali ima manjih reakcija kod glavnih likova koje nisu na nivou prethodne dve i umeju da budu o?i. Do kraja se navikne na to ali malo smeta.

Sem toga nema šta puno re?i, opet ska?emo po egzoti?nim lokacijama. Akcije ima više pošto naravno da su morali da ubace ninje i yakuze i ?injenica da je svaki azijat kung fu majstor. Dobro ovde imamo jednog azijata al opet:P

Sve u svemu na nivou prethodnih i potraga se nastavlja.

Amy says

Another good clue hunt.

In this one, I was suprised that Amy & Dan teamed up with Uncle Alistair, and then added Ian & Natalie to the team to find the clues in their search in Japan.

When they go to the Library in Tokyo with Alistair, I was waiting for Alistair to pull one over on them again, more like he had in the First book. But he didn't.

He did hide who he was recieving e-mail from, and I was expecting it would have been their other cousin, he had teamed up with before, but it wasn't. Alistair actually played them straight in this book.

I knoew the Karbas couldn't play things straight with the Cahills, but why is the writer giving Ian a semi-interest in Amy as well?

It was a little sad when Ian & Natalie leave Amy, Dan & Uncle Alistair high and dry in the end of this search, but good job Dan, not giveing complete information, so the Kabras will be off track, at least for a bit in the next journey.

Amy & Dan are off to Egypt. It will be exciting to see what they find.

Anastasia Antonova says

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Hannah says

3.5

Jelinas says

When I was younger, I used to despise Koreans. I would get really embarrassed when all the other Korean kids started drawing Korean flags on their backpacks and notebooks and writing “KP” (“Korean Pride”) on everything they owned (I still think I was a tiny bit justified in that embarrassment. That’s pretty lame, yo).

But, as I grew older, I realized that, whether I liked it or not, being Korean was part of my heritage, and trying to cut that off was like cutting off my nose to spite my face. I learned to accept the good things that came with the culture (the emphasis on diligence, integrity, and respect) and to watch out for the bad (arrogance in achievement, undue emphasis on success in the eyes of the world, and the tendency to bury emotions and affection down where no one can find it, not even you).

Besides that, I realized that Koreans have the best cuisine in the world. Seriously, Korean food is tha BOMB.

And then I read *The Sword Thief* and now I hate Koreans again.

The third book in the *39 Clues* series (I can't believe I'm only one-thirteenth of the way through this series. Kill me now) contains two elements that I find absolutely repulsive. The first is a mysterious Korean uncle to two white kids (you still haven't explained this to my satisfaction, writers), who alternates between wanting to help the kids and wanting to hurt the kids to help himself. Through it all, he's creepy as creepy gets, and the picture of an actor posing as him on one of the collectible cards was even creepier because the book makes him sound like an old man, but the man in the picture was youngish. Creepy uncle of eternal youth? Creepy.

And his name is supposed to be Alistair Oh? Shenanigans. Strike three, writers.

The second creepy-as-all-get-out element is Amy Cahill's crush on her COUSIN. Ew, ew, and EW. I don't care that they're probably not that closely related. There's even a scene where Ian Kabra, the handsome cousin (GAG) "lightly brushes her lips with his" or some crap like that. EEEWWWW!!!! Excuse my while I *puke!!!* That is so not appropriate, I don't know what to say. And the worst part of it is that it's not even being played for laughs, or with any hint of irony. When the writers of "Arrested Development" put romantic tension between George Michael (the adorable Michael Cera) and his cousin Maeby (the also adorable Alia Shawkat), at least there was a chance she was adopted and it was all played for laughs anyway. But *The 38 Clues* is taking this über-seriously. As serious as the hereditary diseases that result from inbreeding.

Other than that, the adventure part of this novel was pretty much the same old schlock I'm getting used to seeing from this series. Kids race around exotic foreign location, avoid baddies, run into baddies, somehow elude their grasp *and* manage to be the first to find the next clue in the series.

Three down. Thirty-six to go. *sigh*

Cristian says

The Sword Thief is an amazing book that kept me hooked all the way! When the Cahill siblings are lead to Japan, they team up with some unlikely allies in the race for the 39 clues, and have several near-death experiences. I personally would give the book six out of five stars.

Jeremy Juarez says

Book three on the 39 clues has a lot of action and leaves you on a lot of cliff hangers. Amy and Dan loose their sitter and get caught up with uncle Alistair who they don't trust. Uncle Alistair try's to earn their trust back by providing for them and he even takes them to his mansion. Amy and Dan find their sitter Nellie with Ian and Natalie Kabra their competitor. Dan and Amy have to work with uncle Alistair and Ian and Natalie in order to find the next clue. When they found the next clue Ian and Natalie Kabra leave and trap them inside a rock where they found the clue. They found out a way to get out by burning gun powder that they found above them. When it blew up Amy and Dan got out but uncle Alistair didn't get out and they felt sad because after what he did for them. They figure out where the next clue is and have to go to Egypt. Before they go they must take a shower when Dan finds white gloves that uncle Alistair was wearing and realize he is still alive.

Bhavya says

3.5 stars

Sara says

What struck me about this book before I even started reading it was how short it was compared to the first two books in the series. Then, while I read this, I thought about how the writing in this book isn't nearly as good as the writing in the first two. I know, each book has a different author, but that doesn't mean that even though the writing might be different, it necessarily has to be worse. Unfortunately, I thought that was the case with this book. It didn't flow as nicely, there were mini-cliffhangers at the end of each chapter (actually, that's a good thing - they just weren't as exciting as they seemed). There was a lot of page-filler material with characters saying dumb things that were supposed to be funny, and I wish the time had been spent instead on increasing the already-short book with a fuller plot. It seemed like it was written by an older person with no idea how kids actually talk, instead throwing in lots of "like"s and "hip-hop music", etc, which made the writing and the story cheesy and dumb instead of funny and genuine.

In this installment, Amy and Dan head to Japan, following a new clue they've received, and must decide whether or not to form an alliance with their uncle, Allister Oh, who's betrayed them once... but they're currently facing a bigger betrayal from their cousins, and Allister could prove a good ally.

There wasn't as much history talked about in this book as the first two, which was disappointing, as I really liked that aspect of the series. I also was disappointed by how quickly all the new discoveries they made were described; sometimes I even missed big details because they were glossed over so fast in the book.

All in all, not the strongest installment. I am hoping the next book is better.

Christina says

The Sword Thief follows the Cahills as they travel to their next destination, Japan and not too far behind them are their competitors in the race for the ultimate prize. What the prize is, no one knows yet, but this book will soon reveal the answer. Personally I felt the Sword Thief was a little more rushed than the previous books. I liked the recurring appearances of the siblings' opponents throughout their clue-hunting. I did find the relationship between Ian and Amy off-putting and completely random. Aren't they meant to be related? (distantly but still, add this to the fact that they're enemies) I like how each 39 clues book finishes with a major cliffhanger. The possibilities are limitless for the next author to continue the story.

Laura says

Unlike The 39 Clues Book Two: One False Note where the action is non-stop, in The 39 Clues Book Three: The Sword Thief things slow down, and we get to know the characters better, especially the rivals, as they pursue their quest for the 39 clues. I liked this change. It reminded me of The 39 Clues Book One: The Maze of Bones, where all the characters were introduced and we got a good picture of them.

With this book the reader gets a chance to get his bearings and to recap all the events that now leads the brother-and-sister duo team of Amy and Dan Cahill to Japan and Korea. This time we learn about the historical person Toyotomi Hideyoshi who has hidden the third clue. As the hunt moves to the Orient, Amy and Dan have no choice but to enlist the help of their Uncle Alistair Oh. With the one rule of the race being TRUST NO ONE, Amy and Dan must exercise caution as to how much to divulge of their knowledge and exactly how far to trust two of their rival teams—Alistair Oh and the Kabra siblings—while dodging bullets and swords to escape the yakuza who guard what belonged to their ancestor.

It's a psychological game and we are left wondering what is going to happen by the end of the book. I truly felt author Peter Lerangis captured the original voices of Amy and Dan and their vulnerability as orphans who have lost much. For me, this was essential to keep the thread of the story solid. If it had continued with non-stop action as in Book Two, the impetus that keeps the reader emotionally involved would have been lost. By also engaging the emotions of the other rivals instead of just relating their killer actions, the stakes are elevated. And of course, the cliffhanger ending keeps us hungering for more.
