



## **Shadows at Jamestown**

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Four hundred years ago, colonists voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean to discover a new world. Today, an amazing archaeological dig at Historic Jamestown promises to uncover new secrets from those earliest English settlers. Sam, Derek and Caitlin can't believe their luck when they are invited by Professor Evanshade to help with the archaeological digs for a week at Jamestown's Field School. Maybe they'll uncover something spectacular tracing all the way back to Captain John Smith and Pocahontas! But when one of the priceless artifacts dug from the Jamestown Fort is labeled a fraud, it threatens to upend the entire archaeological project. Can the kids expose the secret conspiracy or have they finally gotten in over their heads? Journey back with them to America's beginnings and a mystery in the shadows of Jamestown.

## Shadows at Jamestown Details

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Author : Steven K. Smith

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## From Reader Review Shadows at Jamestown for online ebook

### **Blanche Treece says**

#### **Great writing and story!**

Great story with history woven in! Loving this series. Maybe geared for young readers but I still enjoyed it very much.

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### **Jessaka says**

This was another fun mystery by Steven K. Smith. I really love the characters in his stories, Sam and Derek, who are brothers, and then their friend Caitlin. I imagine that he draws his inspiration from his own boys' lives, and since he is young, he could be drawing from his own boyhood as well.

This time the kids were invited by Professor Evanshade to visit an archeological site, the old fort in Jamestown, Virginia, where they actually get to dig for artifacts. Who wouldn't like to go on a dig, and who doesn't like to find old tools and other artifacts in the dirt? I find things even on our land. So far, I found a pair of old rusty pruning shears, a pitchfork and a rake, both without the handles, and a horseshoe, just to name the best of my finds. I wonder which Native American farmer used these years ago, since our land was first owned by an Indian woman and her husband and then perhaps handed down to other Native Americans. This area of Oklahoma was allotted to the Indians back at the turn of the century. Cherokee land. But other tribes are here as well. No, I have not found any Indian artifacts. No arrowheads; no pottery.

Well, the boys are looking for items left by those who lived at the fort when the first settlers came to Jamestown. What will they find?

Steven Smith always gives history lessons in his books, and that is something that I have always enjoyed. In this one, I learned that some of those who first came to Jamestown died of starvation and disease, and the survivors lived off the bodies of those who had died just in order to survive. That is something that makes people cringe, but unless you are starving you shouldn't judge, because the desire to live is very strong. When I was a kid I read a book about the Donner Party, another group of settlers that resorted to cannibalism.

The author of this book also gave a lesson on the proper word(s) to call Indians, suggesting "First People" or "First Nation," but most Indians refer to themselves differently, for example, some wish to just refer to themselves by their tribe. I have met Indians that asked me what tribe I was in, and I answered, "Cherokee," but I have also met Indians who asked me if I were Indian. So many refer to themselves as Indians. "Native American's" or "American Indians" is okay as well, but some prefer "Native American" instead of "American Indian." This can go around in circles pretty fast, for as one Indian told me, "We want to name ourselves" and added that he was Choctaw. When trying to get him to refer to Indians as a group, such as asking, "Can you tell me what all of the tribes would like to be known as, as a group?" Well, I got no where fast.

And now back to the mystery: The boys see a shadow creeping around on the archeological grounds and wonder what is going on.

““Why are we whispering?” said Derek.’

Sam crouched lower. ““I think I saw a shadow moving along the trail. Someone’s over there...’

‘Wait,’ said Sam, still whispering. A light, like a small flame, flicked directly under the entrance to the crumbling tower at the front of the brick church.

‘There’s two of them,’ whispered Caitlin.

‘Something’s going on,’ Sam said.”

And that begins the real mystery. Who is creeping around at night? A thief? That would be my own guess. Who else would creep around at night? Creeps? Yes, they would. Ghosts? Yes.

Well, the kids find more danger in this book than in Smith’s previous books, which makes for a real fun read.

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### **Ann says**

I am always looking for children/YA books set in Virginia and enjoyed this mystery set in Jamestown. While this is the 6th book in the series, it is my first. I looking forward to reading other titles in the series!

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