



The Mystery of the Singing Serpent

M.V. Carey , Ed Vebell (Illustrator)

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The Three Investigators become involved in witchcraft when they try to rescue a woman from the influence of snake worshippers.

The Mystery of the Singing Serpent Details

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Author : M.V. Carey , Ed Vebell (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Mystery of the Singing Serpent for online ebook

Cliff says

M.V. Carey has a clear understanding of the Three Investigators and it shows. I'm not certain, but I think that Pete has conveniently lost his ability to deal with horses (which was mentioned in the Mystery of the Moaning Cave).

This volume also includes the first female teenaged character, I believe. Though she will be unlikely every to re-occur, it is something noteworthy in this series which has been dominated by male characters.

For a series that draws upon the supernatural so frequently for its mysteries, however, you'd think that the writers would try to hint that perhaps there is something inexplicable at times. But alas, this one doesn't try to buck the trend. As a result, the reader is faced with a case that is expected to turn out to be a sham. Keeping the reader guessing was not part of their playbook.

Paul Reed says

M.V. Carey's second outing as scribe for the now 17 book long Three Investigators series. Good job. The characterisation is essentially indistinguishable from that of Arthur, Arden and West, and the story is solid. It's hard reading juvenile fiction through an adult lens. The plots are never as complex as you remember, but the tone and feelings this novel evokes remain the same. An enjoyable afternoon read.

Niki says

Another one of my favourites in this series! Of course I loved the addition of Allie to the main group, it was very important to have a girl to identify with when I read this book; I was 10 or so. Although it was a bit of a "Smurfette Principle" trope, which I only recognize now, it still made the book extra special for me.

That, and all the hustling involved. So good.

Danielle says

Oh yes. These are as good as I remember from a kid and borrowing them from my uncle's house. Can't wait for my kids to read them. I like how this one brings out how you must believe in things for them to happen. Although the poor aunt was so gullible...

FlySirius says

Once again we get the Three Investigator in action! This time they had to involved with 'serpent'. I personally think serpent is creepy and throughout the book I just know that my hunch is true. Serpent is dangerous, creepy, and the singing is just terrible. Watch out!

Taryn Wagner says

The Three Investigators are at it again when they are hired (or in this case, blackmailed) by the girl down the street to take a case. The girl, Allie, has an eccentric aunt who has become involved with a witchcraft group that can summon a singing serpent! Jupe and his pals try to solve the mystery of the serpent as mysterious accidents and terrifying attacks grow more frequent.

I love the Three Investigators. I discovered them during middle school at my Grandma's house, and I always thought they had great adventures. Unlike Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew, these high school kids had distinct personalities that brought distinct skills to the table whenever they tried to solve the mysteries. And usually, the mysteries are well thought out enough that you can follow the boys deductions along the way. The Singing Serpent is a good example of the fun in the series, though I noticed Bob takes the backseat in this particular adventure. You know the witchcraft is fake, but you still wonder how the villains do it, and its fun when Jupe deduces how their doing it.

No warnings, clean novel.

Mark says

This is great fun and a cleverly plotted mystery . Allie Jameson is a neighbour of the Jones', her parents are in Europe and her aunt is in charge, but she's a member of a cult that includes new house-guest Ariel. The boys are drawn in when they witness one of the ritual meetings, where the cult invokes the power of Belial, which appears in smoke as a snake and makes a sound that is "singing, but not". Filled with some great set-pieces - infiltrating the cult's mansion, breaking and entering the butlers flat and the bombing of a deli - and nice observations - the reasons why people are in the cult and what they want out of it - this is sharply written, with great characterisation and a pace that never flags. Highly recommended.

Raja99 says

Why I (Re?)Read This Book: It showed up in the Kindle store.

A few days ago I noticed 5 *Three Investigators* books had hit the Kindle store: The Mystery of the Flaming Footprints, this one, The Secret of the Haunted Mirror, The Mystery of the Invisible Dog, and The Mystery of the Scar-Faced Beggar. I would have sworn that I'd read all these books before, but I really didn't remember much of *Flaming Footprints* or this. In fact, I was so surprised by the identity of the client for the Three Investigators here—I remember encountering her before in The Mystery of Death-Trap Mine—that I wonder if I *had* read this before.

There are some clunky things about this book, but there are some clever twists by the end, so I give it a

better-than-average rating. I also suspect that at this point in my life, I'm more sympathetic to the idea of someone being so grievously harmed by their beliefs because of my experiences watching one of our dear friends go through severe brain damage.

Quentin Wallace says

I thought this was one of the better volumes because it dealt with witchcraft. Of course, there's a twist to it but it still was a pretty cool set up. There was also a first here in that the "other" teenager involved in the case was a girl. Now, what I did find unusual was how little the guys reacted to her being a girl. These are guys in their early teens, and they basically just treated her like...well, like a guy. There was no romantic tension to speak of. I'd have thought them to either be like "Oh man, it's a girl!" or "Oh Man! It's a girl!" but there was none of that. I'm guessing the target audience is too young to notice such things but it stuck out to me.

A good volume for fans of the series for sure.

Girish Narayan says

My first ever novel - introduced to me by my brother Harish in my summer vacations when I was 11 years young. We borrowed this book from Yuvaraj Lending Library in West Mambalam, Chennai. I fell in love with books every since. Thanks bro ! I would rate this interesting investigative thriller as one of my favorites simply because this is my first one ! I have forgotten the story line but still remember the three investigators - Jupiter Jones, Bob Andrews and Pete Crenshaw. Hope I will read this book sometime soon.

Mark says

original 2009 review - This is great fun and a cleverly plotted mystery. Allie Jameson is a neighbour of the Jones', her parents are in Europe and her aunt is in charge, but she's a member of a cult that includes new house-guest Ariel. The boys are drawn in when they witness one of the ritual meetings, where the cult invokes the power of Belial, which appears in smoke as a snake and makes a sound that is "singing, but not". Filled with some great set-pieces - infiltrating the cult's mansion, breaking and entering the butlers flat and the bombing of a deli - and nice observations - the reasons why people are in the cult and what they want out of it - this is sharply written, with great characterisation and a pace that never flags. Highly recommended.

2014 update - My original review stands, but I would add that this has a great atmosphere to it, that makes the reading process that much more fun. A lot of the action takes place during twilight or after dark and there's a real sense of adventure to it and some nice touches - the wisteria on the patio - make it all the more stronger. The singing of the serpent is very well described and eerie, as is the moment they first see it in the flame. Allie is a great character - very strong and independent - and she and Pete bicker well (though he's very protective of her). In fact, there's quite a few moments of humour sprinkled through the book and Pete carries most of them, giving him a bigger part than usual (occasionally to the detriment of Bob). Great fun, a cracking read, highly recommended.

2017 update - As before, a terrific read with some great characterisation and set-pieces. Very much recommended.

Andy says

Quick fun read, loved these growing up. Still tickle my funny bone!!!

Lea says

Ich bin einer groß Fan von Allie Jamison und fand das Hörspiel schon als Kind toll. Auch die Thematik Sekten & Zauberei mag ich bei den drei ??? sowieso sehr gerne.

Auch das Buch ist wunderschön nostalgisch, spannend und atmosphärisch. Gewundert habe ich mich über die Szene, in der eine "Zigeunerin" gerufen wird, um Allies Tante von ihrem Fluch zu befreien. Das las sich ein bisschen befremdlich.

Insgesamt aber bisher eines meiner liebsten Bücher der alten ???-Reihe. Auf Englisch finde ich die Art, wie die drei reden übrigens immer wieder sehr süß. Diese altmodischen Sätze sind einfach toll :D

Jeff Stephenson says

AH&T3I Update: 17 read, 11 hardbacks to go (and all those 15 additional paperbacks!)

The Mystery of the Singing Serpent was the second T3I book written by Mary Virginia (M.V.) Carey. I mentioned that I heard a female narrator when I read her first book. With this second attempt, I heard the normal voice in my head telling me the story. It did not have that same female quality that the first M.V. Carey book seemed to have. However, this title did have an admittedly more female take on the Three Investigators series. Of course, almost all Three Investigators stories contain the normal T3I elements. For example, all three boys work the case. The Jones Salvage Yard and Worthington with the Rolls-Royce is present in the story. Alfred Hitchcock and many of the supporting family member characters make an appearance as well, but the difference that makes this title special was the enhanced female presence in the book. Aunt Mathilda plays a stronger role, but her role is eclipsed by Allie, a girl about the age of the three boys, and it is Allie who employs the Three Investigators to help her and her aunt solve a problem involving witchcraft. This is the first time that females play a large role in the plot. It is also the first time that witchcraft and the occult figure into the story line. The book is fun and I enjoyed reading about the expanding world of the Three Investigators as they treat Allie more or less as an equal. Of course, they need to do that because Allie is full of spunk and demands that they treat her as an equal. This was an enjoyable plot and despite the witchcraft aspect of the tale, the book is appropriate readers as well. Three cheers for the Three Investigators plus one girl!

Robert Stewart says

This was MV Carey's second 3I book and it is one of her best, if not the best. Here we come across her greatest creation, Allie Jamison, a rich girl who rides an Appaloosa horse and is not daunted by Jupiter's air

of superiority and brainy deductions. She is very charismatic and a very good judge of character, often proving the boys wrong. The story centres around a group of fake snake worshipers who have dug their claws into Allie's aunt, extorting money from her and other gullible rich people who long for some sort of power. But the criminals are willing to go to dangerous lengths to convince their victims that the power of the serpent is for real. All the characters are strong and the story is very well plotted and written, with an exciting finale. Great story.
