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# The Black Circle (The 39 Clues , Book 5)



## Synopsis

The highly anticipated Book Five of the #1 bestselling The 39 Clues series. A strange telegram lures fourteen-year-old Amy Cahill and her younger brother, Dan, deep into Russia and away from the only trustworthy adult they know. Signed with the initials NRR, the telegram launches a race to uncover a treasure stolen by the Nazis and the truth about the murder of the last Russian royal family. All too soon, the treasure hunt starts to smell like a Lucian trap. But the bait might just be irresistible . . . what will Amy and Dan risk to find out what really happened on the night their parents died?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Series: The 39 Clues (Book 5)

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; New edition edition (August 11, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545060451

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 106 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4&#8212;7&#8212;Siblings Amy and Dan Cahill continue their quest for clues to the family's source of power with non-stop action and adventure that takes them to Volograd, Russia, in this episode by Patrick Carman (Scholastic, 2009). They chase down riddles left to them by "NNR" in one of the more complex books of the series. Incorporated within this story are famous landmarks centering on historical icons in Russian history, such as Rasputin. In their quest, they uncover a

treasure stolen by the Nazis and the truth behind the murder of the last Russian royal family. The Madrigals play an integral role among the deceptions and espionage. David Pittu does an admirable job of narrating, giving each character a distinctive voice; listeners may find the chronic raspy quality of Dan's voice wearing by the end of the story. The exaggerated voicing of the bonus material at the end of the story is reminiscent of old time radio shows.

—Tina Hudak, St. Albans School, Washington, DC (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Patrick Carman is the bestselling author of numerous series for young readers, including *The Land of Elyon*, *Elliot's Park*, *Skeleton Creek*, *Atherton*, *Trackers*, *Dark Eden*, and *3:15*. He got his start as a storyteller weaving bedtime tales for his two daughters. He lives in Walla Walla, Washington, with his family.

Each book in THE 39 CLUES series just makes me wonder one thing: is the ending going to be a let-down, or is it going to be amazing? I keep trying to figure out what the end result -- what all the clues are going to create -- will be, but I'm stumped. Well, not exactly stumped. I have a few ideas, but I'm afraid that if I'm right... the ending might not live up to itself. And with the newest installment, book 5, THE BLACK CIRCLE, things are still continuing to spin in some interesting directions. Lots of questions that have been lingering since the beginning keep doing just that: lingering. We're getting licks of answers, but nothing definite. And there are definitely a few new twists thrown into things this time. Is everyone really who they say they are? Can Dan and Amy really trust anyone? THE BLACK CIRCLE sends the Cahill siblings off to Russia, where they chase down riddles left for them by someone only calling themselves "NRR." Is it a trap? Or is it really leading them to some of the biggest answers to their biggest questions? The writing is pretty crisp here, and Patrick Carman definitely keeps things moving along nicely and in a similar style to the previous books. The only thing I did notice was some of the cheesy humour employed by the other authors. And maybe part of that is the fact that things are getting a bit darker and more serious as the race for the clues goes on. All in all, THE BLACK CIRCLE probably ranks 2nd or 3rd from what's come so far, and the entire series is definitely worth a good read.

This book has most of the features of the previous books in the series. We have a new author but, as with the previous books, the authorial voice, the characters, virtually everything is totally consistent. The plot inches forward as a new clue is uncovered but progress is also made in the

ongoing subplot involving Amy and Dan's parents. A few new twists keep the book fresh. Amy and Dan's au pair Nellie is completely offstage in this book although there is a broad hint that there is more to her than previously suspected. Our heroes spend the book jumping through the hoops held up by a mysterious benefactor who has a very interesting background. The book is set almost entirely in Russia with various Russian landmarks playing prominent roles. Irina and the Kabras naturally have a big role. The Holts interestingly enough not only fulfill their usual role as comic relief but actually work effectively as allies to Amy and Dan and irritants to the Kabras. Highly recommended. The series has been quite entertaining to this point.

fun, but some times boring. I like how it starts when the last book ends. took me a while to read this series.

I can't wait for the next one. These poor kids, Amy and Dan are tired I'm sure but ready to find the next clue.

9 year old son is enthralled with these books. the 39 Clues series have kept him interested in reading.

My son loves this series and each one provides him with hours of reading.

This book is the best 39 clues so far. It is an action packed book with Amy and Dan at their best. I suggest this to all readers.

The central theme of this Series, is the relationship of Dan and Amy and it must stay consistent and believable throughout the series. Patrick Carman did a great job creating a believable brother sister team. Patrick Carman's description of all the Russian sights made we really want to see them myself. I ended up looking them all up so I could see pictures of them. After reading The Black Circle, I now want to travel to Russian and study Russia's history.

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