



# Max and Maddy and the Chocolate Money Mystery

*Alexander McCall Smith , Macky Pamintuan (Illustrator)*

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Another great young readers' series from the creator of Mma Ramotswe, Isabel Dalhousie, Harriet Bean and Akimbo!

Max and Maddy Twist have a flair for solving crimes. You might even say it's in their blood. That's because their parents once ran a thriving detective agency—until their nemesis, the notorious Professor Claude Sardine, shut them down.

But now Max and Maddy are ready to pick up where their parents left off. In **Max & Maddy and the Chocolate Money Mystery**, a Swiss businessman asks for their help in catching a bank robber. But little do the brother-and-sister detectives expect to find themselves hot on the trail of a gang of . . . St. Bernard dogs. Who can be the dastardly mind behind this evil and cunning plot? The daring duo don their disguises and fly to Switzerland to find out!

## Max and Maddy and the Chocolate Money Mystery Details

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Author : Alexander McCall Smith , Macky Pamintuan (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Max and Maddy and the Chocolate Money Mystery for online ebook**

### **M. says**

2nd grade chapter book with a good story--children are hired to solve a mystery involving a bank robbery and a dog--in Switzerland. Exotic location for most 2nd graders, but individual kids will either like learning about somewhere else or they won't.

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### **Theo kids says**

A crime solving brother and sister! The kids are clever and smart, and truly brave in the face of danger and nasty criminals. Humorous, interesting and nearly believable. (What parents let their kids go solving mysteries in Switzerland unchaperoned?) The characters and plot were well developed and fun, we'll read more Max and Maddy.

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### **Sean Harding says**

Next book in the Alexander McCall Smith challenge sees the first of a two part series about two young detectives - all over the top and quite humorous with less mystery and more "Dahlesque" adventure. Fun reading though and should be entertaining for the target market audience.

This one was after his first book in the adult book and now only one more before the ladies detectives come out.

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### **Easton Gibb says**

What was this book about? -- "It was about Max and Maddy and a chocolate money mystery. There was two bank robbers and they stole dogs. They made those dogs bank rob. They found the money."

Why did you like this book? -- "Because it was about private spys and I'm one too."

Is there anything you did not like about this book? -- "Nope, there wasn't anything that I did not like. I liked everything about this book, because that is what I do."

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### **Lessa says**

A good, straight forward 3rd or 4th grade level mystery. The main characters are respectful, don't call each other names, and exhibit logical reasoning. I would recommend this series for kids who's parents want their

children to read about characters with traits they can model their behavior after.

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### **Megan says**

Coming off the success of the Aunts book, we picked up this one at the next library visit. I don't think I appreciated it as much (it wasn't as quirky or creative, in my opinion), but Madeleine was sold for sure. Certainly a book I'd be happy to offer a kid looking for a mystery.

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### **Talia says**

Max and Maddy's parents once were detectives, until the evil Dr. Sardine framed them and forced them to close their business. Now Max and Maddy are solving crimes themselves, a robbery that leads to a racket of St. Bernard dogs!

First of all, the title has nothing to do with the story until the very end. Second, if you listen to this on disk, Alexander McCall Smith does not have a very good reading voice. For a short mystery for kids, stick with the Sherlock Files.

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### **Varenya B says**

the book was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

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### **Katy Noyes says**

Complete adventure in one hour. McCall Smith gives us child detectives. And chocolate.

We are going through a lot of the author's children's books on audiobook at the moment, my seven-year-old is really taken with him. This is a part of a series featuring Max and Maddy, but it didn't need knowledge of the characters to follow what was happening, as often happens, you get some detail as to their history.

The title caught our eyes, and we did like the story too - Max and Maddy are Cluedo champions, which may not be surprising really, as their parents were famous and talented detectives, before a nefarious criminal set them up and caused their business to fail. But now the children are asked to use their skills to solve a series of Swiss bank robberies, which St Bernard dogs are carrying out. Will they be able to solve the puzzle?

It all happens in the space of one hour (we listened to the audiobook), which was a couple of days' worth of commuting time. Both of us enjoyed the 'swiss chocolate' element, and we talked about St Bernards too. It's a fairly basic story and stereotypical villain, but my son was happy listening.

I would say that McCall Smith does not make the ideal narrator, he has a very low voice and I found I needed to turn the sound up more than I usually would to be able to make out everything he said. That aside,

his reading was fine.

Short stories like that work well at bedtimes, and the interest level in this tale would probably target the age 6-9 market.

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### **Sarah Adamson says**

A fun chapter book mystery which made my daughter laugh out loud and sit and read for almost an hour straight as she wanted to solve the problem. Excellent writing as usual!

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### **Liam Leftley says**

Alexander McCall Smith's 'The Chocolate Money Mystery' sees two siblings, Max and Maddy, take on the villainous Professor Sardine and his assistant in the backdrop of the picturesque and snow-glistened Swiss alps.

The book is written in a style that will allow children to put themselves in the place of Max and Maddy as they leave their family home to help Swiss banker Mr Huddendorf in finding out who has been stealing the bank's money. The children soon discover that the evil Professor Sardine had been using St Bernard dogs to take money from banks and bring it back to him to store in his mountain hideout. The children manage to follow the Professor back to his lair and make a getaway, with the dogs and the money, whilst the villains sleep.

The story ends with the children returning the cash to a grateful Mr Huddendorf and sees them rewarded in chocolate money!

This story is written very much in the style of a Scooby Doo mystery and would be best for independent reading for children aged between 7 and 9 years old. There are only a handful of pictures and full pages of text. Overall the best facet of this book is the fact that the children are likely to be familiar with the format and will enjoy immersing themselves into the novel, picturing themselves either riding a cable car or enjoying Swiss hot chocolate.

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### **Dolly says**

This is the first book in the Max & Maddy series by Alexander McCall Smith. There are only two books in the series, so I'm guessing this series just didn't take off. I can kinda see why.

The story is very odd and implausible and despite the action and drama, the plot falls flat. The book begins with conflict and history that precedes this tale, but with very little details. That story begs to be told, but from what I can tell, it's not going to be.

Overall, the story was okay, but not great. It was a fairly quick read and we followed this book with the second story, hoping it would be better. Meh.

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**Sophie Starshine says**

Chocolate!!!!!!!

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**JoDean says**

We laughed out loud reading this tonight. I'm always looking for early chapter books that are engaging and do not use dumbed-down vocabulary. In my opinion, this book fits the bill. Alexander McCall-Smith writes as well for kids as he does for adults.

The villian is Professor Sardine. He plays mean and nasty tricks like stealing 2000 pairs of underwear, treating them with itching powder and reselling them! Funny to my 9 yo boy!

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**Tanja says**

A beginning chapter book mystery that will surely find many friends who will hope for more cases to be solved by Max & Maddy. Readers still developing confidence will appreciate the straightforward language that does not overwhelm.

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