



## The Mystery of the Circus Clown

*David A. Adler, Susanna Natti (Illustrator)*

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The Cam Jansen books are perfect for young readers who are making the transition to chapter books, and Cam is a spunky young heroine whom readers have loved for over two decades. Now the first ten books in the series have updated covers that bring new life to these perennial best-sellers. Old fans and new readers will love Cam's cool, modern look!

When Aunt Molly's wallet is stolen at the circus, Cam suspects that there's something not-too-funny going on under the big top. Is one of the clowns really a criminal?

## **The Mystery of the Circus Clown Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2004 by Puffin Books (first published 1983)

ISBN : 9780142400166

Author : David A. Adler , Susanna Natti (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 64 pages

Genre : Mystery, Childrens

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## **From Reader Review The Mystery of the Circus Clown for online ebook**

### **Duty Zambia says**

This is the first Cam Jansen book I ever read and it SUCKED me in!

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### **Dolly says**

Reading this story with our girls was somewhat of an act of bravery for me because I HATE CLOWNS (*shiver*). Ever since I read *It* by Stephen King (and even worse, saw Tim Curry portraying Pennywise the clown on the made-for-tv miniseries), I have been petrified of clowns. I don't even want to take our girls to the circus, although I mainly will hide behind the veil of an animal rights protest in that case and not just my fear of the painted ones.

Now that my confession is behind me, I must admit that the story was entertaining. The solution was somewhat obvious, but otherwise, it was an engaging mystery and an exciting story, with a few clever plot twists, too. We enjoyed reading this story together and now I can return the book and get that hideous clown cover out of my house!

We have read almost all of the Cam Jansen books by David A. Adler and Susanna Natti and have really liked them.

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### **Tara Geske says**

This is a great beginner mystery book for elementary aged children. I used to read this series when I was younger and I really enjoyed them. They are not too long to have the students lose interest in them, but are long enough to have a good mystery. The kids can relate because it is a young girl and boy solving crimes. These books would introduce the idea of photographic memory. Maybe memory activities could be involved after you read these books.

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### **Anna says**

There is a circus clown. It was a fat girl and he bumped into people and grabbed their money. It was dressed as a boy clown but it really was a girl.

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### **Mimeewasuda says**

Cam Jansen series is very fun. I feel like i'm Sherlock Holmes when i'm reading it. Collect all the clues and solve problem,

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### **Julie says**

I was introduced to this book by a librarian. I have never heard of this series before. I enjoyed this book. It had an exciting introduction that grabs the reader. However, I disliked that the title of the book gave away the mystery ending. I think children would love this series because the mystery is not too intense for them, but yet makes them feel that suspense. I would use this in my classroom to teach about morals about not taking things that don't belong to you or maybe a lesson about the circus. This book was fun.

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### **Caren says**

Cam is a girl. She got her nickname from having a photographic memory.  
Perfect little mysteries for 1-3 grades.

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### **Kris - My Novelesque Life says**

3.5 STARS

When Aunt Molly's wallet is stolen at the circus, Cam suspects that there's something not-too-funny going on under the big top. Is one of the clowns really a criminal?

A great mystery/detective series - a great novel for young children (easy to read). For those who like Harriet the Spy and Encyclopedia Brown.

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### **Amara says**

It was ok. There are clues you can follow along with to figure out "who dunnit". The main character has a photographic memory, so that was cool.

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### **Lyle Willey says**

Cam Jansen, The Mystery of the Circus Clown, David A. Adler

Category/genre- Easy Reader

Estimate of age of level of interest- Grades 3-6

Estimate reading level

• 3.9

- Lexile Measure: 590
- Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Level: L

#### Brief description

Cam is the nickname (short for camera) of a young super sleuth in a series of emergent reader mystery stories. In The Mystery of the Circus Clown, Cam, along with her Aunt Molly and friend, Eric, solve the mystery of a purse snatcher at the circus disguised as a clown using Cam's "photographic memory" and their super-sleuth skills.

Identify at least 2 characteristics of this genre and subgenre and discuss how they appear in your book  
Plot- Of prime importance in any work of fiction for children is the plot. Children ask first, "What happens? Is it a good story?" The plot is the plan of action; it tells what the characters do and what happens to them. (Huck p. 10)

Adler is able in a short space to develop a believable plot of missing purses being connected to the clowns and then moves the story through a sequence of events to solve the mystery. Young readers are easily engrossed but not confused by the events which all work out in the end. There is action and mystery along with trails that lead to nowhere.

Setting. The structure of a story includes both the construction of the plot and its setting. The setting may be in the past, the present, or the future. (Huck p. 10)

What makes the Cam Jansen stories timeless is the avoidance to settings that would date the story. With the exception of the reference to cameras going "click" (not a digital age thing), the stories could take place any time. In this story, the circus becomes the setting for the clown purse snatcher and circus activities form the setting for the story. The author not only builds on prior knowledge of the reader of the circus setting but also gives enough information for clear understanding for those readers that may have never experienced a circus.

In what ways and how well does the book as a whole serve its intended audience?

This is a great book for readers just beginning chapter books. The text is easy to understand and is large with limited words on each page. Illustrations create extra interest. The element of mystery and what happens next keeps the reader engaged and wanting to read on.

#### Awards, if any

- None

#### Links to published reviews

- None noted

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### Victor Lam says

Ages 8 & Up • When Aunt Molly's wallet is stolen at the circus, Cam suspects that there's something not-too-funny going on under the big top. Is one of the clowns really a criminal?

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### **Shaylee Marshall says**

This book is so good for students who are starting to read chapter books. It is very simple to follow along. This book is very enjoyable with the mystery behind the circus clown and what clues they come across to solve the mystery. This is a great book for children! I highly recommend this!

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### **Anna J. says**

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Circus Clown by David A. Adler is book number seven in the Cam Jansen Mystery series. This book is about a girl nicknamed "Cam" because of her ability to solve mysteries with her photographic memory. When Aunt Molly's wallet goes missing at the circus, Cam Jansen must solve the case. This book is intended for third grade through fifth grade students, according to Scholastic. This is a short chapter book that will help introduce or reintroduce the mystery genre. This story will leave students pretending to be Cam Jansen and saying "click" as they quiz each other on their memory.

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### **Liam Casey says**

I read this book when I was in second grade and I saw it on my book shelf, and thought "what the heck I'll read it." It was action packed and a fun read! I would definitely recommend this book to a little kid (7 or 8). MUST READ.

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### **Stacy says**

Cam solves the mystery of what has happened to the lost wallets at the circus.

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