



The Mystery of the Green Ghost

Robert Arthur, Alfred Hitchcock (Editor)

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A green ghost oozes through the walls of a crumbling old mansion, leading The Three Investigators to an open coffin and a grinning skeleton wearing a string of priceless Chinese Ghost Pearls. When the ghost disappears--along with the pearls--the sleuths are off on their strangest case ever!

The Mystery of the Green Ghost Details

Date : Published July 12th 1985 by Random House Children's Books (first published 1965)

ISBN : 9780394864044

Author : Robert Arthur , Alfred Hitchcock (Editor)

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From Reader Review The Mystery of the Green Ghost for online ebook

Quinton Baran says

I remember liking this book quite a bit when I was a boy. It is still good, but not as good as I remember it. I associate it quite a bit with the early Scooby Doo cartoons - the ones with actual ghosts or phantoms (people in sheets) were my favorites, so I think that is why this book was also a favorite.

Re-reading it to my kids, I found it not quite as engaging as Terror Castle or the Stuttering Parrot. Lots of interesting characters though, with a couple neat locations and an engaging mystery as well.

Niki says

This book is one of my most favourites in the "Three Investigators" series. I love mystery stories in which not everything is rationally explained (meaning: there's only a paranormal "explanation" after all, or "The monster lived after all!") at the end, and this one does have that element.

So it gets a 5 star rating because I personally love it, not because it's a literary masterpiece or extremely complicated or highly recommended by me or anything. But 5 stars it is, it has a special place in my heart. More books in the series will get this rating for this same reason.

Mark says

2008 review - Starting with one of the better opening sequences of the series, this mystery maintains its initial pace and interest well. Splitting the team in a well-written fashion, all of the characters are given a chance to shine and show their strengths, right up to the climax. Well told and well put together, this is another sterling Robert Arthur effort (and nicely follows the timeline, with Bob having his brace removed just before the story begins).

2014 update - Bob Andrews and Pete Crenshaw decide to investigate Green House, an old mansion in Rocky Beach that is being torn down. Hearing a ghastly scream, they bump into a group of men from the neighbourhood, who are also there to look at the house. Together, they investigate and see a green ghost moving through the old, dusty hallways. After they leave, the ghost is spotted around Rocky Beach by several eye-witnesses, one of whom happens to be Chief of Police Reynolds. When the house is investigated by the police the next day, with the Three Investigators and Bob's father in tow, a hidden room is discovered, which contains a skeleton - the remains of Matthias Green's wife - and a string of ghost pearls. Bob & Pete are then invited to the Verdant Valley winery, near San Francisco, which is run by Matthias Green's only living relative where, very soon, they encounter a mysterious aged Chinaman called Mr Won, people who aren't who they appear to be, scary caves and the re-appearance of the green ghost.

This has one of the better opening sequences on the series and manages to maintain the pace and intrigue well, with a good supporting cast and excellent use of location (the 'haunted house', the desolate canyons, Chinatown). Splitting the team is a masterstroke, giving each character a chance to shine and show their

strengths, right up to the climax and the interplay between the three lads is well handled.

Well told and constructed, this is one of the better Arthur novels and follows the timeline nicely (it mentions Bob having his brace removed just before the story begins and this is the book where the Investigators get their 'Volunteer Junior Assistant Deputy' cards from Chief Reynolds). My only niggle is the final chapter, which can't seem to decide if it's part of the story or just a simple catch-up of action, though it does end on a high in Hitchcock's office.

Good fun, with a cracking pace, this is highly recommended.

Kathy Worrell ? says

What a great young adult story....written in 1965.

The Mystery of the Green Ghost had a strong plot, excellent characters, and overall was an engaging story.

Loved this story when I was 12 and love it now forty years later.

Mark says

2008 review - Starting with one of the better opening sequences of the series, this mystery maintains its initial pace and interest well. Splitting the team in a well-written fashion, all of the characters are given a chance to shine and show their strengths, right up to the climax. Well told and well put together, this is another sterling Robert Arthur effort (and nicely follows the timeline, with Bob having his brace removed just before the story begins).

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or just a simple catch-up of action, though it does end on a high in Hitchcock's office. Good fun, with a cracking pace, this is highly recommended.

2018 update - completely agree with the above, an excellent read and it's worth mentioning that this is the story to introduce Chief Reynolds to the series. A cracking story.

Jesse says

This was a fun read and very entertaining, even fifty years after it was written. Definitely not Pulitzer Prize-winning material, but then it isn't intended to be. I debated whether to review this as I review most books – meaning, my thoughts and point of view right now, just having finished reading the book – or to look at it as my 12 or 13 year-old self might have done. To me, book reviews are best when I get my current thoughts and impressions down, so that's what I'm going with and why this gets 4 stars. If I had read this when I was 12 or 13 (as I did read some of the other Three Investigators books at that time) I probably would've given it a resounding 5 stars.

The adventure, the exploration, and the settings were totally top-notch. Great stuff there, all around, and this is the kind of stuff a preteen or teen kid would focus on (or, at least, I did when I was that age). Cool, slightly creepy “off limits” type places to explore are to be found on almost every page of this book, starting off with a bang in front of an abandoned, sprawling old mansion, and goes from one cool place to the next. Although it was given very little “screen time” (or, more appropriately, *page* time), the hideout/headquarters of the Three Investigators – a forgotten mobile home in a forgotten corner of a junkyard, hidden beneath piles of scrap, with an office, a laboratory, and a darkroom inside – wow. Totally the type of thing my 11, 12, 13 year-old self would have been over the moon about, and a thrill to read. And the rest of the settings were equally as awesome: (view spoiler) It is all completely the type of stuff that makes the best adventure stories and movies, and the stuff I used to fantasize about as a kid. *Loved* it.

The characters were decent, too. The focus in this book is on the excitement, the adventure, the exploration, which is exactly where it should be in a book for preteen readers. Characterization and plot pacing probably aren't first and foremost on their minds, though they do sit pretty high on my list. And in regard to the characters, they were OK. As this is a series, reading multiple books would, I'm sure, provide more insight and depth into the three main characters: Jupiter, Pete, and Bob. They avoid being too flat and stereotypical (something that tends to befall a lot of protagonists in young adult fiction, especially from that time period)...Jupiter is smart, but instead of being the nerdy type, he's more of the bumbling “stocky” type (think of Chunk from *The Goonies*, only having Data's mind and personality...and interesting mix of character and archetype); Pete is the tall, athletic, good-looking jock type, but with a touch more brains and more sympathy and empathy than usually present in such a character; and Bob is more of the nerd (and I say that lovingly, as I like nerds), the smaller kid who isn't quite as fast as strong, but who is very persistent and always ready and willing...his smarts are in more of a persistent, hard work type of way than the confident (sometimes overconfident) smarts of Jupiter that just come easily to him. I'm sure that Jupiter and Bob would both get straight As in school...but Bob's straight As would come from diligent studying, whereas Jupiter would just stride into the room to take a test without having studied a minute.

The secondary characters are for the most part interesting, as well. Chang Green being the most prominent of the secondary characters, of course; a boy the same age as our Three Investigators, one-quarter Chinese and three-quarters American, but having been raised nearly his entire life in China. That brings some interesting background and allows him for a much richer backstory than a secondary character might normally have had.

Chang is a nice guy, who forms easy, fast friendships with Bob and Pete, and isn't at all a "fourth" wheel; he blends seamlessly with the group and is a welcome asset. And the others, such as Miss Lydia Green, are also given a fair amount of backstory and personality, a bit more than in some other contemporary books/series. The background characters (assorted policemen, servants, employees, hangers-on, etc) are pretty flat and one-dimensional, but since they all have bit parts and appear only on one or two pages, that isn't really surprising.

Overall the presentation reminded me very much of a Scooby Doo episode (and I say that fondly) ...although the "thought pictures" in my mind were live action, it still felt a bit like a mystery cartoon from the 1960s or '70s, and I could almost hear the creepy orchestral music with strings and oboes and horns and all that. Pretty neat.

The pacing of the story and the logic behind the plot is what I found most lacking of all (again, it wouldn't be an emphasis for a preteen reader, perhaps, but it is for me.) The author's great ideas for the settings, events, adventure, exploration, and dangerous predicaments were written well, but trying to string them all together into a plausible and logical sequence of events...well, that left a bit to be desired. I didn't really feel like the story flowed smoothly all the way; it was more like jumping from one exciting event to the next, even when the prior event hadn't really finished. A well-paced story (in my humble opinion) intersperses moments of excitement and intensity with short periods of dénouement or reflection or just contemplative "down time." While this story had both of those elements, sometimes it felt like they were just rammed up against each other like a bunch of toy building blocks to string them up in an order but without much finesse in making the whole thing seamless. Having cool story elements is half the battle – but you also need to stitch them together in a way that makes sense.

However the mystery aspect of the writing was quite well done. I loved how clues were dangled in front of the reader's eyes at various points (though not necessarily *all* of the meaning of the clue), enough to make your ears perk up – sometimes you *really* had to be paying attention, as it was more what *wasn't* said, than what *was* (and I'm not just referring to the dog, here, but to several other things/events). (view spoiler)

I was a little amused and *bemused* by the whole Alfred Hitchcock connection thing. I know the anonymous editor also worked in some capacity on the Hitchcock TV shows, and that Alfred Hitchcock apparently blessed his name being used with this book series, but he really didn't have anything to do with the story or with the editing. The whole "introduction" by the editor sounded more like something you'd see on a TV show of that time period – why is it necessary to introduce characters in a book, when the introduction of characters is always part of the story itself? And the "summary/paraphrase" scene at the end, where the boys supposedly sat with the writer/editor and told him their story, was just a little gimmicky to me. Not really needed, in my opinion.

Overall, I had a blast reading this book, and I'm going to go back to my local used bookstore (who has several of the Three Investigators books for sale) and get some more of them. Really fun to read, and although written a half-century ago, they are just as exciting and entertaining now as they must have been back then.

Kaja_Bernat says

Z prvých 4 kníh o Troch pátra?och sa mi táto pá?ila najviac.

Lea says

Irgendwie musste ich mich zu Beginn des Buches ganz schön durchzwängen. Das liegt vielleicht auch daran, weil mir in den Hörspielen die Darstellung des alten chinesischen Mannes immer als leicht rassistisch vorkam und ich befürchtete, das würde in diesem doch recht almodischen Buch noch stärker so sein. Aber im Gegenteil, ohne die lächerliche Aussprache beschränkt sich das Ganze auf ein paar Stereotypen.

Der Fall selbst nahm für mich in der Mitte des Buches Fahrt auf und war spannender als er mir vom Hörbuch in Erinnerung blieb. Und auch gefährlicher - ich erinnere mich nicht, dass Peter & Bob im Buch so direkt und oft mit dem Tode gedroht wurde.

Ein ziemlich solider Klassiker.

James Joyce says

This series (and this book in particular) was one of those I remember ordering from Scholastic Book Club, when I was a kid. I remember getting the box of books, a couple times a year, like a little Christmas at school.

I re-read this for nostalgia's sake, The Three Investigators being among my most remembered youth reads. I dreamed of being a member of this group. Their clubhouse is an abandoned motorhome hidden in the back of the junkyard that Jupiter Jones's (the boy genius) family owns. And there are secret tunnels, covered by junk, that the boys use to get to it. It even has its own telephone line.

Not to mention the periscope they rigged, to see what's happening beyond their hiding space. Ahhh... the stuff of legends, for a young boy.

[image error]

Like in most of their investigations (that I can recall) they have an apparent supernatural mystery that they put their minds to and expose as a hoax, covering up a crime.

Basically, Scooby-Doo ripped them off. They would have got away with it, if not for Jupiter Jones, Pete Crenshaw, and Bob Andrews.

(as an additional amusement for fans of this series who may be interested in an ironic take on the concept, check out the Donald Glover film "Dream Team", which is basically what happens if the Three Investigators grow up, without changing a bit. Incredibly funny.)

And I'm not kidding about Scooby-Doo. The concept for that series was ripped from the pages of The Three Investigators.

Quentin Wallace says

Another good three investigators mystery, but they honestly are all ready getting a bit predictable. Although I suppose in a young adult mystery series, you will end up with several "Scooby Doo" type stories.

We have a haunted house, a spooky ancient chinese guy, some valuable Ghost Pearls, and a huge mystery for the boys to solve. Even when predictable, these books always entertain. I suppose some of them is the power of nostalgia, but the books are also pretty well written.

Charles says

I read a few of the "Three Investigators" books when I was a kid and remembered them fondly. A few years back I found a bunch of them at a book sale and picked them up. This is one of those and I really enjoyed revisiting my childhood. In this one, an old house is being torn down when a mysterious green ghost appears. Two of the investigators, Bob Andrews and Pete Crenshaw are on hand for that first appearance. Later, the third member of the trio, brainy Jupiter Jones, joins in. The boys solve the case, of course, after some adventures and close calls. I won't give the plot away here. I liked it. An easy, fun read.

Kevin Findley says

I read the original version (with Hitchcock in the final chapter) probably 40 years ago. This reissue from 1985 replace Hitchcock with Hector Sebastian, but little else was changed that I could see.

The actual mystery is quite good, and even a jaded mystery lover should have a surprise or two before the end. The ghost is explained without any suspension of belief needed, and the danger the boys are placed is clearly explained so even young readers understand. In fact, one or two lines should have parents really think about letting a child under ten read it.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this with my youngest child, and recommend it to other parents.

Find it! Buy it! Read it!

Khaled Talib says

One of my favs as a kid. Read the entire series.
How can I not give it 5 stars?

Nicholas says

The Mystery of the Green Ghost

There's a series of books called The Three Investigators by Robert Arthur. The book in the series I read was The Mystery of the Green Ghost. This story is about what the title indicates -- three investigators solving a mystery in Rocky Beach, California, around 1964, where they travel through a mansion and in tunnels under the city. Instead of calling them the three investigators, let's call them by their real names: Bob Andrews, Peter Crenshaw, and Jupiter Jones. They first come into the story going into a haunted house, not knowing what they would encounter in there. As they kept going through the house, they would hear strange noises, and they thought running for the lives was the best idea. As something was chasing them, they made it outside, where they encountered an old man leading a group, almost knocking them down.

“The old man asked, good heavens you almost knocked me down what's the hurry”.(6)

“The boys responded to hearing and seeing some ghost activity.”(6)

As Peter and Bob were so scared the old man and the group said “ let us go see what 's the problem you guys just go home and make sure to take care.(11)

While the was going into the house the Peter said“ we need to solve this mystery and find out what's going on”. (7)

As the story progressed on the boys kept finding out more and more clues. So they went into the house and saw this figure or the ghost. “ They went into an empty room and were glad that it was only a coffin, but the thing that surprised them was seeing a skeleton.”(30)

The plot revolves around finding the mystery of what happened to a Chinese princess and what she is hiding and doesn't want anybody to know.

The book's big conflict is that Bob, Jupiter, and Peter are trying to keep the secret of the pearls from the public while discovering where the princess hide them. Jupiter in this story is the brainy one who found the coffin and created the plan to find the pearls. Peter is the athlete, meaning he's there to do all the physical labor. Then we get to Bob, who is a researcher, finding out all the clues to what happened exactly to the princess. The book is a buddy book in the sense that it's a friend book, with the three investigators all solving a mystery as friends. The mood is excitingly mysterious -- it makes you never want to put down the book.

The tone of the book is that it's not too easy to read, but not too hard -- it's just right. The book is narrated in the sense that nobody uses personal experiences to explain the story.

In my opinion it was the peak in the book, because as they followed the figure or ghost they found a crucial piece of evidence that made this story all so more exciting. The mood of the book to me was being intrigued of what was going to happen next. Now the reason why I loved this book so much is because it was my first mystery and at first I didn't want to read it but my dad made me so I started to read it as the story got more exciting and Peter and Bob kept yelling about finding a ghost that's what made me keep reading. I hope that's how it'll intrigue you to reading this great book.

Arthur, Robert. The Mystery of the Green Ghost. N.p.: Random House for Young Readers, 1985. Print.

Dimitris says

Jupiter Jones,Pete Crenshaw,Bob Andrews what an awesome childhood we had!
