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Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery

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Abrahams, Peter. *Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery*. Laura Geringer Books, 2005. ISBN 0060737018. \$16.89. 375 p.

Reviewer: Pat Frade

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Significant Shortcomings

Genre: Detective and mystery stories;

Subject: Murder -- Juvenile fiction; Book--reviews;

Ingrid Levin-Hill, a typical 13 year-old, lives in the quiet little town of Echo Falls, which has no crimes and no excitement. She reads a lot of Sherlock Holmes and imagines herself as a sleuth. One day, as she waits for her parents to pick her up and take her to soccer practice, after her orthodontist appointment, Ingrid makes the decision to walk (so she isn't late for practice). She gets lost and ends up in the worst neighborhood in town where she meets "Cracked-up Katie" (a former movie star) who calls a cab for her. The next day Cracked-up Katie is found murdered. Ingrid had accidentally left her red cleats at Cracked-up Katie's house; she breaks in (to the crime scene) to retrieve her cleats at the same time someone else is breaking in. Ingrid is in over her head with no other choice than to tell a heap of lies and solve the mystery.

It is an average plot. Ingrid is not very bright and continually makes dumb choices. She is irresponsible: she runs around town in the middle of the night, puts herself in danger, and does not confide in her parents. Even for readers who figure out who the murderer must be, the multi-layered story will keep them interested. Ingrid's character is so compelling; readers will want to see how she will get out of trouble.