



2005

The Case of the Missing Marquess

Laura Wadley

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Springer, Nancy. *The Case of the Missing Marquess*. Philomel, 2006. ISBN 0399243046.
\$10.99. 216 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Detective and mystery stories; Adventure stories;

Subject: London (England)--History--19th Century--Juvenile fiction; Holmes, Sherlock--
Juvenile fiction; Mothers--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Enola Holmes' mother disappears on Enola's fourteenth birthday, and although her mother has always behaved in a rather casual and distant manner towards her daughter, Enola loves her still and is desperate to make sure she has come to no harm. Consequently, she contacts her two much older brothers, Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes, who arrive at Ferndell Hall convinced that their mother has left of her own accord in an excess of flightiness. When Sherlock leaves for London, Mycroft makes plans to ship Enola off to boarding school. She sneaks out of the house and makes her way to London, becomes entangled in a case involving a missing heir; and also unravels the puzzle of her mother's disappearance.

Enola is a bright and endearing character, whose growing self-confidence and courage make her the perfect heroine for a young person's mystery. Springer, like Anne Perry, fills her narrative with Victorian customs and lore so integral to the story that the reader learns much without ever feeling lectured. Enola's adventures are fast-paced and suspenseful. The book seems to wrap up a bit briskly, but one still looks forward with much anticipation to Enola's future adventures.