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The Mystery Of The Cupboard



Synopsis

In the fourth book in Bank's acclaimed INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD saga, Omri and his family move to an old farmhouse, where he finds an ancient notebook that reveals a family secret-and the mysterious origins of his magical cupboard.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

The Mystery of the Cupboard is one of the many sequels to the fabulous The Indian in the Cupboard. Omri, the main character, has moved into an Indian longhouse. When Thatcher's come to redo the roof, Omri finds a box and a diary. He reads it. It is about Jessica Charlotte, his Great-Great Aunt. She writes about her experiences, and she knew the secret of the cupboard. Omri learns a very important lesson: Do not steal because you feel sorry for yourself. Jessica Charlotte does this, and the results are not good. With a key that can unlock lots of locks, a thatcher with a secret, a person of whom The Secret of the Cupboard is revealed to, and two terrible injuries that result in one death, this book is a great read. It takes about two and a half weeks to read, and is a great book. You always want to turn the page! But, if you haven't read The Indian in the Cupboard, you should do it first, or else this great book by Lynne Reid Banks won't make sense. Also, for more adventures with Omri, buy The Key to the Indian, The Secret of the Indian, The Return of the Indian, and The Indian in the Cupboard. By Sammy K. 4th Grade

This series of books are classics for elementary students. I read them to both my 5th graders and then 3rd graders and both ages loved them, hung onto every word, were totally caught up in the magic of the cupboard. I have now started my 10 year old grandson on them and the first book has him hooked. I purchased this particular book to get him the complete series.

Omri's mother inherits a country house in Somerset, and the family is glad to leave the horrible district (especially after the events of books two and three). The house belonged to her second cousin, whom she's never met, and he inherited it from his mother (her great aunt) whom she'd never met either. For some reason, her family always hated her great aunt, but wouldn't say why. They move into the house, where Omri finds a hidden diary. A theme of *The Mystery of the Cupboard* is forgiveness. Omri's mother, who inherits the house, had all these relatives who she never met. Omri's mother was incapable of forgiving some unknown mistake, and since nobody would say what it was, she never thought about it. Not only does the secret diary reveal why, but it shows how the cousin's hate and anger gave the cupboard its magic. In some ways, the cupboard was created out of hate, and needed to be found by a kid who could make himself happy. It reminded me of Charles Dickens' "*A Tale of Two Cities*" where the villain (Defarge) is incapable of forgiving, and Dickens makes her the ultimate villain. Though she's a victim herself, he makes her look more evil than the people who killed her family. Dickens believed that grudges destroy people, as it does with Defarge, and that the power of forgiveness is a very strong one. In *The Mystery of the Cupboard*, Omri and Patrick have to make a choice of whether to reveal the cupboard's secret, or forgive the maker and move on. The first book in the series was great. The second had its funny moments (like the 1940's nurse and the corporal with the cockney accent). The third one was a bore. But *The Mystery of the Cupboard* is by far the best one. It has a more mature story than the previous installments, and the astonishing plot really pulls you in.

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This is really where the series should have ended. At the beginning. In this book, we learn about the origin of the key to the cupboard, and see the diary of its first user. It's a story about two estranged sisters, propriety, greed, and regret. While I understand that the sequel was there to wrap up the story of *Little Bull*, I wish it had been done in book 3. Book 4 just feels far more satisfying. Not only does Onri discover the source of the magic, but he also heals, to an extent, a rift in his family. Of course, if you've come this far, might as well finish...but just know, this is the high point. The next book? Not so good.

Now THIS is how an author is supposed to write an epicly twisted tale that the reader just can't get enough of. Omri continues his adventures with his plastic-come-to-life friends in "*The Mystery of the Cupboard*". There are so many individual elements that had to come together throughout time to create the story of "*The Indian in the Cupboard*" as we know it. This book pieces the puzzling history together in a fantastic and almost unbelievable way. But once you read it, you'll realize there truly was no other way that such a magical thing could happen. Plus, the ending is FABULOUS. Next up, I cannot wait to read the 5th and final book in the saga.

I have been disappointed 2 x with used books. My idea of Good and Very Good are miles apart. Both books were not satisfactory. Both had library stickers and several owner names in the books. Both books had visible damage to the covers. I cannot recommend buying used books. I was going to give these as a Christmas gift but I cannot give these I will try to find the books new at a reasonable price and donate these to a children's organization.

My nephews love this series. This is just one more book that offers them hours of reading enjoyment. Be sure to start with the first book, "*The Indian in the Cupboard*". That will get them hooked on reading (whether you read it to them or let them read it by themselves).

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