



Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy

By Wendelin Van Draanen

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Sometimes it's hard to tell the saints from the sinners...

Sammy was supposed to be in church to get *out* of trouble, not into more. But while she's at St. Mary's working off some school detention time, a valuable cross goes missing and Sammy becomes the prime suspect.

She knows she's innocent, and also what it feels like to lose something important. Her treasured catcher's mitt has been stolen--heartless Heather must have taken it to throw Sammy off her game in the upcoming softball play-offs. Trouble is, it's working. Sammy *needs* that glove back.

Throw in nuns in feather boas, a homeless girl in high-tops, a carrot-chomping dog, and a safe that needs cracking, and you've got just another week in the life of Sammy Keyes.

Praise for the Sammy Keyes series:

“Sammy Keyes is feisty, fearless, and funny. A top-notch investigator!” —*New York Times* bestselling author Sue Grafton

“The sleuth delights from start to finish. Keep your binoculars trained on Sammy Keyes.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Sammy Keyes is the hottest sleuth to appear in children’s books since Nancy Drew.”—*The Boston Globe*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-Actress Tara Sands narrates this third adventure in the series by Wendelin Van Draanen (Knopf, 1999). This time Sammy is serving detention at St. Mary's church where she find herself a suspect when Fr. Mayhew's gold cross is stolen from the safe. Intertwined around this main event are equally riveting ones: Sammy's relentless curiosity about Holly, who she notices while working at the Homeless Shelter; the junior high school rivalry between Sammy and Heather that escalates during baseball season; and the flamboyant manners of the Sisters of Mercy who descend upon St. Mary's. Sands retains the voices, evoking a continuity of images for the more familiar characters. Listeners can almost touch the soft, gray hair of Grams, with her gentle and caring voice, while Officer Borsch's gruff and gravelly one epitomizes the image of an overweight, street-smart cop. Adding to her repertoire of voices, Sands stretches her abilities with more subtlety. Meeting the homeless girl Holly, Sands is able to give her a feral-like quality, yet inflict a vulnerability that tugs on listeners' heartstrings. With the Sisters of Mercy, she offers just the right amount of lightness in tone, and her renditions of their singing will make listeners laugh out loud. Sands' voice personifies the Sammy Keyes character, with all its adolescent love, anger, and humor. Listeners who love baseball will delight in this novel, as the playoffs for the championship highlight this story. Mystery fans will enjoy this 1999 Edgar Award winner for Best Children's Mystery.

Tina Hudak, St. Bernard's School, Riverdale, MD

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4[^]-6. Junior-high sleuth Sammy, last seen in *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man* (1998), returns for a third adventure. This time out, she's serving detention time by helping out at St. Mary's church when Father Mayhew's valuable ivory cross is stolen. Although it seems at first as if all the suspects are members of religious orders, Sammy cuts through the disguises to uncover a heist of enormous proportion. In addition, she has to deal with dirty tricks from her old nemesis, Heather, all while helping her softball team win the play-offs. As always, quirky characters are Van Draanen's strength; the singing missionaries who live and travel in a bus nicknamed the NunMobile and Father Mayhew's slobbery, carrot-chomping dog are particularly memorable. Give this one to mystery buffs and fans of this humorous series. *Kay Weisman*

Review

Praise for the Sammy Keyes series:

"Van Draanen offers such an explosive combination of high-stakes sleuthing, hilarity, and breathlessly paced action that it's impossible to turn the pages fast enough." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"There's no stopping Sammy."—*Publishers Weekly*

"An intelligent, gutsy, flawed, and utterly likable heroine."—*Booklist*

"Move over, Nancy Drew—a new sleuth is on the scene."—*Girls' Life*

"Think a combination of Carl Hiaasen's *Flush* and Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum books and you'll be right on target." —*School Library Journal*

"A high-quality, high-amp mystery series." —*The Horn Book*

“This funny, clever series is NOT for kids only. I challenge the most seasoned mystery reader to guess ‘who done it.’” —*Cozies, Capers, and Crimes*

“Sammy Keyes comes armed with attitude.” —*Orlando Sentinel*

“Sammy doesn’t find mysteries to solve—they find her.” —*Arizona Republic*

“Humor, romance and adventure; this story is an absolute blast.” —*Chicago Tribune*

“If you haven’t met Sammy Keyes yet, now is the time.” —*Children’s Literature*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Colleen Holden:

Book is definitely written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can know everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy will make you to become smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think in which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

Rosa Johnson:

The reason? Because this Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Sonia Shipley:

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Dominique Rigney:

Some individuals said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt this when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the particular book Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading skill is developing when you like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the idea about book and reading especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to open up a book and go through it. Beside that the publication Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy can to be your brand-new friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of the time.

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