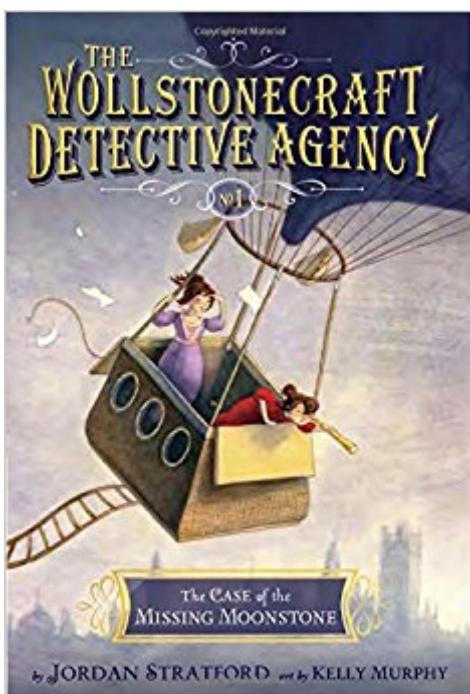


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# The Case Of The Missing Moonstone (The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency, Book 1)



## Synopsis

History, mystery, and science collide in a new series for middle-grade readers, perfect for fans of The Mysterious Benedict Society and Lemony Snicket! Jordan Stratford imagines an alternate 1826, where Ada Lovelace (the world's first computer programmer) and Mary Shelley (author of Frankenstein) meet as girls and form a secret detective agency! Lady Ada Byron, age eleven, is a genius. Isolated, awkward and a bit rude—but a genius. Mary Godwin, age fourteen, is a romantic. Adventurous, astute, and kind, Mary is to become Ada's first true friend. And together, the girls conspire to form the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency—a secret constabulary for the apprehension of clever criminals. Their first case involves a stolen heirloom, a false confession, and an array of fishy suspects. But it's no match for the deductive powers and bold hearts of Ada and Mary. Mystery fans will love this tween girl riff on Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. History buffs will be delighted to see all the real figures who play a role in this story and appreciate the extensive backmatter that helps separate truth from fiction. Parents and educators hoping to promote the STEM fields for girls will be thrilled to have a series where two girls use math, science, and creative analytical thinking to solve crimes. But most especially--emerging readers will love this series filled with humor, action, intrigue and wonderful artwork from Kelly Murphy. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0840 (What's this?)

Series: The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

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Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 66 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #121,273 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #999 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #4052 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • In 1826 London, two upper-class girls—Ada, a "perfectly ordinary 11-year-old genius" who's oblivious to social protocol and 14-year-old Mary, who is unusually perceptive and loves adventure—initially come together for joint tutoring. However, these resourceful misses soon decide to combine their remarkable talents and establish the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency. Mary and Ada take on a case to recover a valuable antique Turkish pendant, resulting in escapades that challenge their ingenuity and expand their abilities. The preface notes that Ada and Mary are based on the historical figures Augusta Ada Byron, commonly known as Ada Lovelace and believed to be the first computer programmer, and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, who's better known as Frankenstein author Mary Shelley. Although historical license is used to connect the protagonists, historical facts, places, and famous personages from the period are woven throughout this delightfully quirky and engaging novel and detailed in the end notes. Nicola Barber's capable performance provides the girls and an intriguing supporting cast with distinctive personalities and voices. This work could be used to complement an array of lessons from period and author studies to math and logic. VERDICT This first installment in what is sure to become a popular series is highly recommended. —Rebecca James, Nashville, TN --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“This is a winner.” • School Library Journal — “Smart and witty. The detectives in training use quick thinking, book smarts, and social know-how to find a stolen gemstone. Comical narration and dialogue will charm readers thoroughly.” • Publishers Weekly — “An enjoyable plot, resourceful heroines and fun writing.” • Wall Street Journal — “Equal parts laughs and adventure, this lively mystery will keep you guessing till the end!” • Discovery Girls — “Smart and clever girls who think they know better than anyone else (and probably do) will enjoy this refreshing mystery and the start to what’s sure to be an intriguing series.” • KidsReads — “A tale of two young girls facing down wicked plots and pernicious deeds.” • The Center for Fiction — “A must-read for fans of history, mystery, and witty young women, The Case of the Missing Moonstone is a charming first installment of what is sure to be a spectacular series.” • Middle Shelf Magazine — “Promises to be a classic for young modern sleuths.” • Portland Book

## Review

The two protagonists are based off real people and has a unique story line. The story is completely fictional but I loved that she used the real life experiences and real landmarks in the story. Lady Ada Byron is Augusta Ada Byron, the daughter of poet Lord Byron. She herself in real life was a mathematician. Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin was the daughter of the famous feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft and the political philosopher William Godwin. Mary Godwin is the author of the first science fiction novel, *Frankenstein*. The two girls are thrown together when Mary comes to Lady Ada's house to be tutored alongside her. Ada it seems, knows more than the tutor is and is quickly bored, but Mary hangs on every word. They do form a bond and then they form their own detective agency. Just wanted to add that Kelly Murphy did a wonderful on the art work.

Lady Ada Byron is a rather eccentric genius as the prodigious age of 11 doesn't really get along well with people. Things are especially awkward when a new tutor shows up along with Mary Godwin who is to be tutored with Ada. Ada doesn't want to be tutored and as a result does everything in her power to avoid and antagonize 'Peebs', the new tutor. Luckily, Mary is strong where Ada is weak, in people skills, and gives Ada a chance. Reluctantly, Ada allows Mary to become her friend and together they establish the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency, named after Mary's deceased mother, a novelist. When Rebecca, a young lady comes to them on behalf of her maid, who confessed to stealing her valuable pendant. But Rebecca doesn't think her maid is guilty and hires Mary and Ada to discover the truth. With Ada's genius and Mary's people skills the two girls set off to find the necklace. A visit to Newgate prison as well as confrontations with suspects and a chase in Ada's balloon give the girls plenty of adventure. One of the things I love about this new series is that it is based on two real people from the time period (Lady Ada Byron, considered to be the first computer programmer and Mary Godwin Shelley, the world's first science fiction writer). While the two girls were in actuality 18 years apart in age, the author has tweaked history a bit to bring these two fascinating people together. The story is entertaining and informative at the same time. The author does a great job of integrating Ada's math and science work with Mary's imaginative and adventurous personality, creating a delightful new series that stands out as a fun historical mystery.

Bought for my granddaughter, aged 9. She and her older brother, age 12, read it and enjoyed it. It has some "big" words, which are written in bold; I was afraid that would put off the nine-year-old, but she either knew the words or skipped over them.

In its own right the story was great, and I'm sure anyone within age would enjoy the smart detective work of two colourful youths. If you have any young women though, this would be especially great for them. I read it to my niece who loved Ada and inquired about building her own "Peebs Cannon" (in story joke) for a particular person. Like a young, female Sherlock Holmes, Ada Lovelace and Mary Godwin are written beautifully with the occasional illustration offering a foundation to base the imagination. I ended up sharing the real story of Ada Lovelace and think it struck something because I found analytical engine and difference engine in my google search history! Bought for Kindle. It costs less than a cafe breakfast, might as well give it a try.

My ten-year old daughter loves this book & wants to read the rest in the series. I picked this for her just from a recommendation on . My eight-year old son is going to read it, & I am looking forward to reading it myself!

Great story which does a good job of teaching kids (and adults!) about historical figures and some "big words" as well. It's appropriate as a read-together book for my 4th grader and me. Looking forward to reading the next few in the series!

A great story with a great mystery. This was so fun to read. Thoroughly enjoyed all the characters. Highly recommend!

Bought this for my seven-year-old daughter and she loved it. She reads on about a fourth grade level and really enjoyed the book.

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