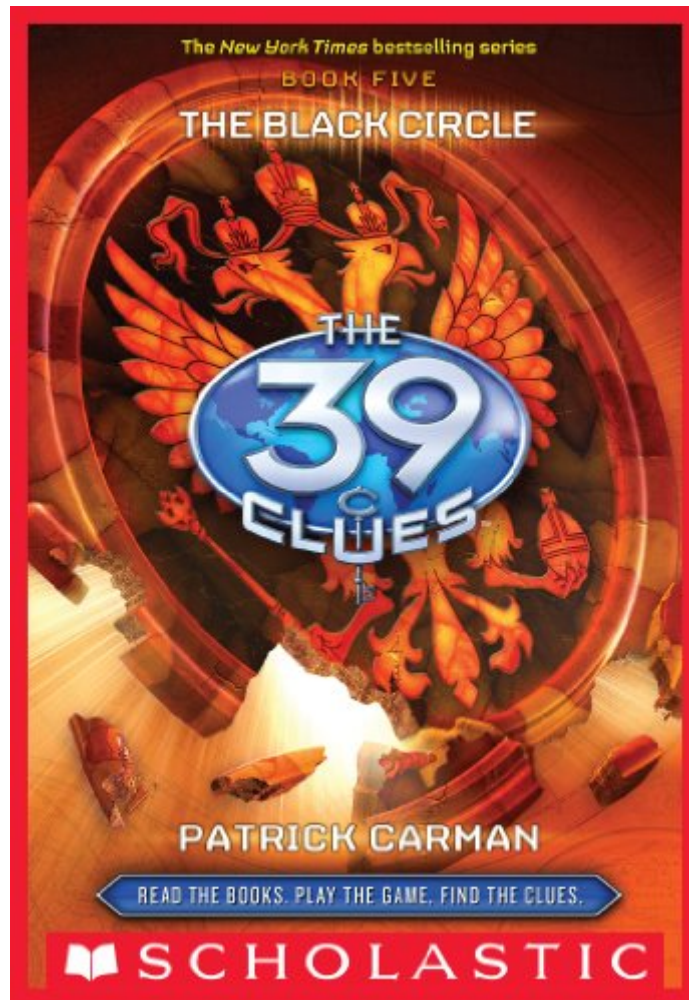


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The 39 Clues #5: The Black Circle



Synopsis

The highly anticipated Book Five of the #1 bestselling The 39 Clues series. A strange telegram lures fourteen-year-old Amy Cahill and her younger brother, Dan, deep into Russia and away from the only trustworthy adult they know. Signed with the initials NRR, the telegram launches a race to uncover a treasure stolen by the Nazis and the truth about the murder of the last Russian royal family. All too soon, the treasure hunt starts to smell like a Lucian trap. But the bait might just be irresistible . . . what will Amy and Dan risk to find out what really happened on the night their parents died?

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Customer Reviews

Out of all the five books, this is by far the best in the series. Carman brought the series back to where it should be, it had the feel of the first two books. Dan and Amy are in Russia gathering clues, and they have to make an alliance with a team they don't want to, but need to. As the story unfolds

we learn something about the character of Irina Spasky. I hope we learn more about her, and the hint that is dropped is explored more. I really like what Carman did with her. He really developed her and made her an interesting character. I hope we can learn more about her and her past. I also like how Carman got away from Amy and Dan bickering all the time. In books 3 and 4, that was a major draw back for me. Dan and Amy are in the race for their lives, and they have to battle different members of the family tree, and they have to fight? For me, that never worked, and took away from the story. Glad to see that Carman didn't do that in this book. It was such a pleasure to read. Dan and Amy have to face something in this book that they never had to face in the past. They have a time limit. Amy and Dan get a mysterious card saying that they just have a set amount of hours to do what they need to, and if they don't, all will be lost. I also loved how Carman kept the story in Russia, and let the reader in on some of the history and interesting facts about Russia, I felt that this aspect was missing from books 3 and 4. The reader gets drawn in and doesn't stop reading to the last page. This book has a lot of Russian history, and it was presented in such an interesting way. One more thing I'll say that made *The Black Circle* such an interesting read..... while Dan and Amy solve puzzles and clues, they have a chance to learn more about their parents.

When Amy and Dan receive an early morning telegram, they sneak away to the airport to find out just who exactly knows where they are and secrets about their past that only Grace would know. What they discover are two plane tickets, passports and disguises as well as a clue to discovering who send them and why. With a flight that leaves in an hour and a thirty six hour deadline to find clues in six different cities Amy and Dan head off to Russia leaving Nellie and Saladin behind. The task before them is impossible and they have no choice but to enlist help. With limited option they choose to put their trust in Hamilton Holt. The two teams split up passing information back and forth as they race to meet the deadline, but will they make it in time? Who is the mysterious N.R.R. - a friend helping them locate a clue or a foe leading them into a dangerous trap? And will the Holts double cross them as everyone else has? Carman adds an extremely interesting installment to the 39 Clues series with *The Black Circle*. In this fast paced, well written novel readers are immersed in information about Rasputin, the Romanovs and multiple other notable Russian figures. The information for the most part follows with the rest of the series and I didn't notice any discrepancies. If there are any they aren't obvious. While the novel answers some questions from previous books, it also raises many others and you're left wondering yet again just who can be trusted. You learn more about the Madrigals, but still don't exactly understand who they are or what their purpose is. You're brought back into Lucian territory with Lucian leaders and suspicion is cast on different

characters. The book is written mostly in a close third person offering a variety of point of views.

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