

Helping you choose books for children



opening extract from

Agent Amelia: Ghost Diamond

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The Case of the
Ghost Diamond



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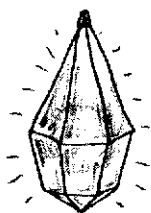


I'M AMELIA KIDD and I'm a secret agent.

Well, I'm not actually a secret agent. I don't work for the government or anything, but I've saved the world loads of times from evil geniuses and criminal masterminds. There are loads of them around if you know what to look for.

I'm really good at disguises. I make my own gadgets (which sometimes work), and I'm used to improvising in sticky situations - which you have to do all the time when you're a secret agent.

These are my Secret Agent Case Files.

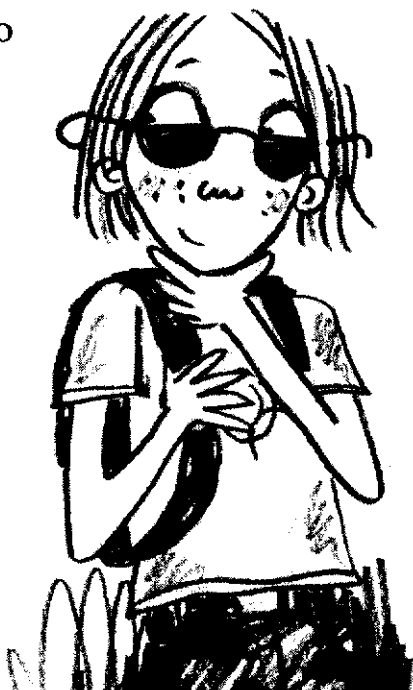


The Case of the Ghost Diamond

‘What on earth do you have in that rucksack?’ Mum said, leaning out of the car window as I heaved the bag off the back seat and onto my shoulders. It was pretty heavy but I tried to pretend it wasn’t.

‘Stuff,’ I said, peering over my sunglasses to gauge her reaction.

‘Stuff!’



Mum said, with a suspicious frown. And the way she said 'stuff' meant she wanted to know exactly what kind of 'stuff' and why I had so much of it.

'Just boring school trip stuff,' I smiled, and legged it for the school gates.

Being vague is the best thing to do when you're under interrogation. Mum would have to really want to know what was

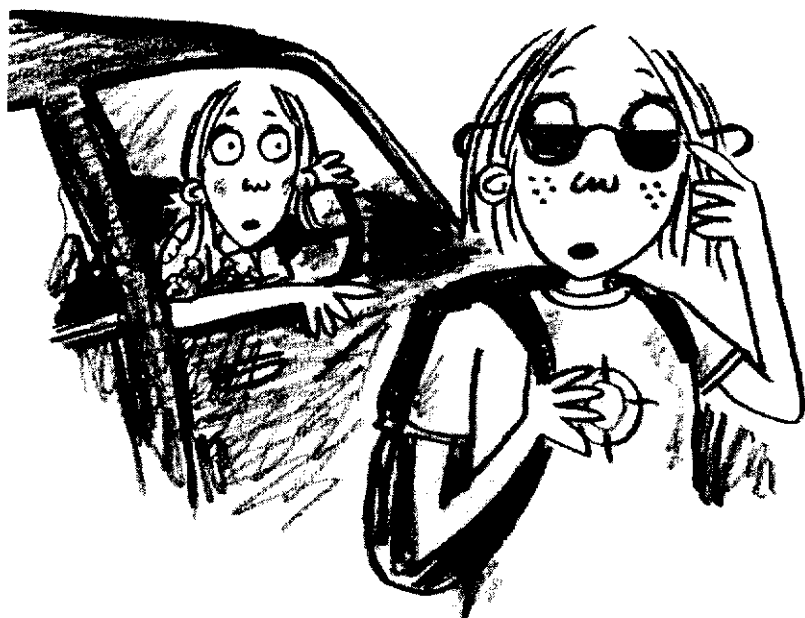
in my bag to come after me and continue the line of questioning, but I'd deliberately



dawdled back at the house so I knew she was already running late.

You have to think ahead when you're a secret agent.

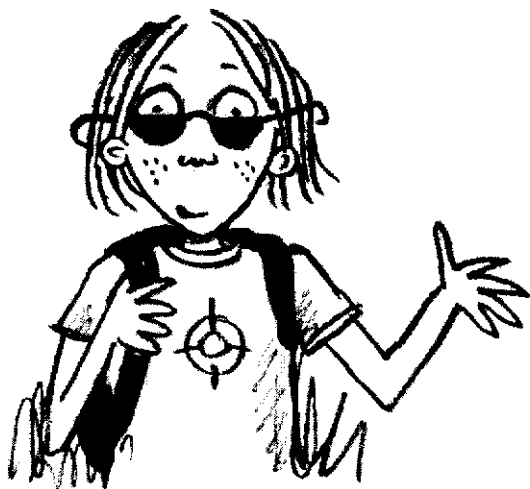
'Well, have a nice time then,'



Mum called out, and then quickly drove away.

Phew!

I couldn't tell Mum my bag was full of secret agent stuff or she'd think I'd gone bonkers. When you're a secret agent you can't tell anyone or else they'd worry when you're off saving the world all the time.



Especially my mum, who gets her knickers in a twist whenever I go to the shops on my own!

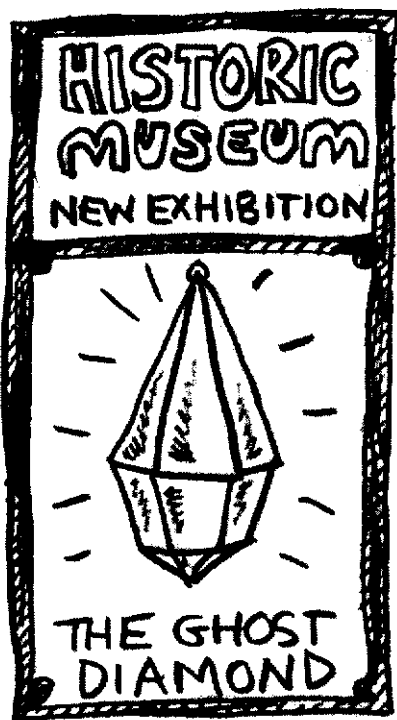


My class were
already boarding
the bus to take us
to the museum,
so I stayed at the

back and watched our teacher, Mrs
Granger, ticking everyone off her list.

Mrs Granger had been under
my surveillance for a week and I
was pretty sure she was a criminal
mastermind posing as a teacher. I was
also pretty sure something dodgy was
about to go down at the museum.

Mrs Granger had planned the museum trip so our class could see a famous treasure called the Ghost Diamond, a pendant containing the biggest diamond in the world. Usually school trips are educational, but the Ghost Diamond had nothing to do with our school work so it didn't make sense. Then I snooped around the school library records and discovered Mrs Granger



had recently checked out two very suspicious-sounding books.

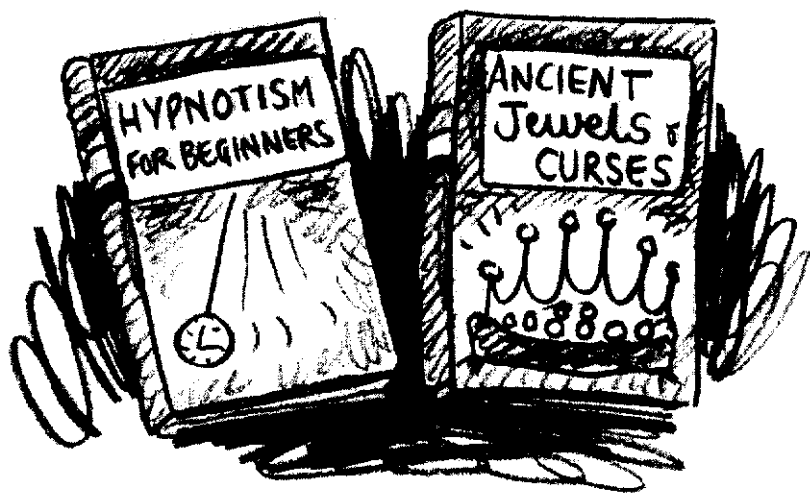
One was called *Hypnotism for Beginners* and the other was called *Ancient Jewels and Curses*.

The second one was a very strange subject for a book and bit too much of a coincidence if you ask me!

My teacher was definitely up



to something and I had to get to the bottom of it.



When it was my turn to board the bus Mrs Granger blocked my way with her clipboard.

‘Amelia Kidd, will you please take off those ridiculous sunglasses!’ she shrieked, and she shrieked it loud enough for the whole bus to hear, so

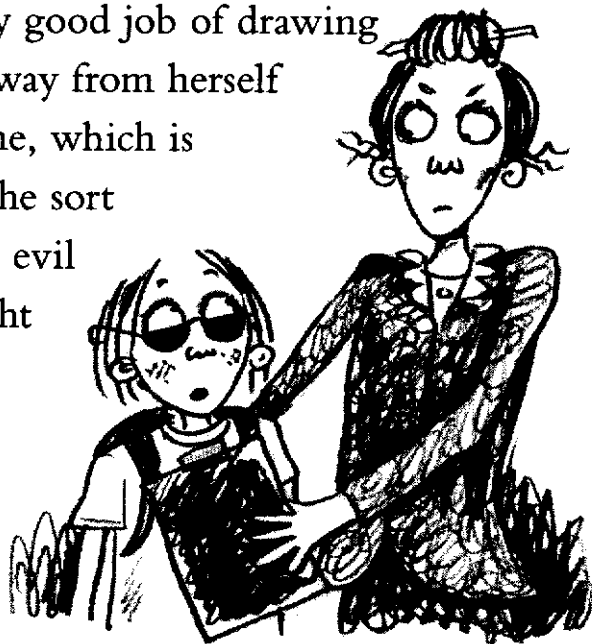
everyone started giggling.

If Mrs Granger suspected me of being a secret agent then she'd just done a very good job of drawing attention away from herself and onto me, which is definitely the sort of thing an evil genius might do.

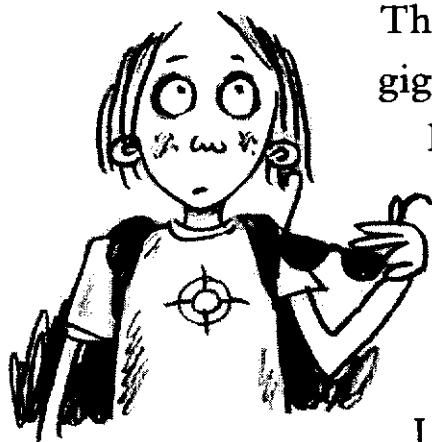
I took off my sunglasses and Mrs

Granger

prodded my rucksack with her clipboard.



‘And what do you have in the bag?’ she said. ‘The kitchen sink?’



The whole bus
giggled again, but
I didn't lose my
cool.

'My packed
lunch and my
big winter coat,'
I lied. Well, I did
have my packed
lunch, but not my winter coat. 'Mum
said I have to take a coat because it
might turn chilly.'

