



Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries)

By Elly Griffiths

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In the sequel to the "captivating"* *Zig Zag Girl*, DI Edgar Stephens and the magician Max Mephisto hunt for a killer after two children are murdered in a tragic tableau of a very grim fairy tale.

**Wall Street Journal*

It's Christmastime in Brighton, and the city is abuzz about a local production of *Aladdin*, starring the marvelous Max Mephisto. But the holiday cheer is lost on DI Edgar Stephens. He's investigating the murder of two children, Annie and Mark, who were strangled to death in the woods, abandoned alongside a trail of candy—a horrifying scene eerily reminiscent of Hansel and Gretel.

Edgar has plenty of leads to investigate. Annie, a surprisingly dark child, used to write gruesome plays based on the Grimms' fairy tales. Does the key to the case lie in her unfinished final script? Or does the macabre staging of Annie and Mark's deaths point to the theater and the capricious cast of characters performing in *Aladdin*? Once again Edgar enlists Max's help in penetrating the shadowy world of the theater. But is this all just classic misdirection?

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Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries) By Elly Griffiths Bibliography

- Rank: #98475 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-10-18
- Released on: 2016-10-18
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Tweens Annie and Mark are missing, and DI Edgar Stephens is charged with leading the search in Brighton, England, in the winter of 1951. It is just before Christmas, and that means pantomime play season in England. The "panto" plays are intertwined with the grim fairy tales that young Annie writes and stages in a lonely neighbor's garage. The girl has been mentored by her primary school teacher, and she enlists the help of her many brothers and sisters and her best friend Mark, who shares a working-class upbringing. It's lucky for DI Stephens that it is play season, because that means his close friend from the war, magician Max Mephisto, is in town performing. Though very different, Max and Edgar forged a tight friendship during World War II, when they were assigned as "Magic Men" in a covert operation. There are so many trails to follow and so many possible suspects, and as time runs out for the missing children, another victim emerges. While the British colloquialisms about the "panto" will be new to American readers, the focus on child victims; the dark, fairy-tale aspects; and the engaging characters will draw students into this second in the series. Hand this one to fans of Mary Higgins Clark. VERDICT An excellent addition to larger mystery collections.—Jake Pettit, Enka Schools, Istanbul, Turkey

Review

Praise for the Magic Men Mysteries

"Absorbing . . . Another great series." —*San Jose Mercury News*

"Thoroughly enjoyable." —*The Guardian*

"Clever, immensely likeable." —*Wall Street Journal*

"Enormously engaging." —*Daily Mail*

"Original, lively, and gripping." —*The Independent*

"A wild ride full of mayhem, magic, and murder." —*The Absolute*

"Excellent . . . Evoking both the St. Mary Mead of Agatha Christie and the theater world of Ngaio Marsh." —*Booklist*

"Suspenseful." —*Publishers Weekly*

From the Inside Flap

In the sequel to the captivating * *Zig Zag Girl*, DI Edgar Stephens and the magician Max Mephisto hunt for a killer after two children are murdered in a tragic tableau of a very grim fairy tale.

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* *Wall Street Journal*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Pearce:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book allowed Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Bernard Lewis:

The feeling that you get from Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries) is the more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries) giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. That book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this kind of Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries) instantly.

Maria Peterson:

This book untitled Smoke and Mirrors (Magic Men Mysteries) to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book shop or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

Theresa Kuykendall:

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