



The Unfinished House

Margaret Sutton

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Judy Bolton and her friend Peter work to expose and outsmart a group of real estate swindlers. The Piper family has won a piece of property in Roulsville which is 15 feet by 100 feet. Since the property is not wide enough for a house, Mrs. Piper must purchase the adjoining property at a much higher than usual price so that she can build a house. Peter is determined to help Mrs. Piper, so the young people design a home that can be built on a narrow lot of land and hire men to begin building the home. Soon after construction begins, the young people are warned to beware of the Red Circle. Strange sounds are heard at night as the Piper home is built. Several people become sick with a strange illness apparently caused by the Red Circle. Judy's search for the mysterious culprit becomes even more desperate when her beloved cat Blackberry falls ill!

The Unfinished House Details

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Nancy Bandusky says

This is one of many delightful Judy Bolton mysteries. I read this one many times during my childhood and picked it up again for a quick read. It is family friendly and, of course, a little old-fashioned.

For fans of Peter Dobbs this story allows the character to play a bigger role and even allows for a misunderstanding between him and Judy. Since time does have an impact in this series, this book sets the stage for Peter's law office and Judy assisting him.

Jane Irish Nelson says

Judy is confused and disappointed when it seems like Peter is not keeping his promises to her. But Peter's sister Honey convinces her to have faith. The town of Roulsville, where both the Bolton and Dobbs family lived before it was destroyed in a flood, is being rebuilt, and Judy's friend Arthur's company is building many of the houses. But when another company gives away narrow lots, Judy takes up the challenge, first to design "half-houses" to fit these lots, and then to expose the company for the swindlers they are. In the process she befriends the Piper family, and eventually discovers their connection to Peter's absences.

MARLENE RANTZ says

Like Genette Kates, I also read Nancy Drew mysteries, but so many years later, I have discovered Margaret Sutton's books, and I am really enjoying them. The only problem might be that they are hard-to-find in the library.

LuAnn says

While again Judy's reticence about discussing her feelings with a significant guy in her life (this time Peter) that carried a misunderstanding throughout the whole story were both puzzling and irritating, this was an interesting story that saw Peter begin his law practice and Raulsville being rebuilt. It would be interesting to know which events of the story are based on true incidents.

Mikayla says

The mystery was nice a fun. I enjoyed Judy's inventive way to get around problems, but for the second time in this series Judy misconstrued a Bible verse. Also the series beginning to get a little too predictable: Judy has a mystery to solve, Judy quarrels with someone and she goes off in a huff, it turns out Judy was all wrong about the person and they have a key part of the mystery she needed but she was too stubborn to ask forgiveness in the first place so she could have it. I wish the authors would have switched things up for a bit. But, I still enjoy this series.

Genette Kates says

Much more realistic portrayal of a teenage girl. Sadly as a child I grabbed the latest Nancy Drew on the shelf. 40 years later I am finding a thoroughly enjoyable read.
