



The Ice Diamond Quest

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Together with their cousins, Liz and Tom Austen plunge into a dangerous mystery after they see a yacht off Newfoundland's coast. While they try to find out why the yacht's light was flashing, they have to get past a group of people called the Renegades and someone named Hawk. In *The Ice Diamond Quest*, Eric Wilson draws on Newfoundland's customs and explores the environment, redevelopment and women's rights. Wilson's Liz and Tom Austen mysteries are in constant demand among young people who have tapped into Canada's answer to the Hardy Boys.

The Ice Diamond Quest Details

Date :
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Author : Eric Wilson
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From Reader Review The Ice Diamond Quest for online ebook

Linda says

I don't know what it is about this series. The mysteries are good ones- rather inventive- and the kids travel to different interesting locations, but the writing seems so stilted. I think that it's mostly the dialogue. And do people really introduce themselves to kids whom they see somewhere in passing? Also, some of the story is advanced by a character talking out loud to him or herself. I find this a bit disconcerting. But this series has at least 16 titles, since the other title I own is #16, so editors, publishers, and the public must like them.

In this story Tom & Liz Austin travel with their mother to Newfoundland where their grandmother is dying. First mention of the Ice Diamond is on the plane when Tom tells Liz that their Newfoundland cousin Duncan saw a yacht in the bay signalling those words in Morse Code. He's overheard and from then on someone seems one step ahead of them in the quest for the "ice diamond", which the kids can't identify. What is it? This is a really nice mystery, although just the tiniest bit implausible. I wanted to like the book better than I did. Really.

C. says

Some descriptions call **Eric Wilson** "Canada's answer to the Hardy boys". Both are criticized for grossly-overblown danger, with cheesy, outmoded behaviour but I respectfully disagree. Series produced by the Stratemeyers achieved a lasting literary calibre. Their maturity extends to all readers, whereas **Eric** panders to the mentality of little kids. Many of them impress me. I am happily making my way through all his Canadian settings. "**The Ice Diamond Quest**" however, I deem the weakest. I was thrilled to learn about Newfoundland, however honouring a Grandma was too poignant to be embedded in a mystery. Grandchildren from Manitoba would not dine with strangers during her last days! That was disrespectful and farfetched.

This mystery shoved an absurd quantity of elements into it, instead of one well-crafted thread. A smorgasbord of explosive incidents were piled on, as if it were **Eric's** ambitiously-bulleted list of ideas itself, that was published! The novel ran amok with all of the following, as if it actually comprised **Eric's** brainstorming: "Let's have a boat chase, an explosion, a secret tunnel, a scary guy who says 'keep away', a missing document, and a thief at a safe"... This is a small sample of the preposterous over-shooting; which actually deigns to include a prince, hidden fifteen years, who regains his throne at midnight!

I believe perspective readers see what I mean when I exclaim: good grief! Be yourself, a compassionate teacher introducing our country with sympathetic adventures that are plausible. Liz, Tom, and their many relatives are wonderful characters. Valuable messages can be conveyed, without cardboard villains waving fists atop hot-button soapboxes. They are too lame to believe. An awful land-developer evicting impassioned tenants, was one of many stretches that induced groaning. All of his villains' dialogue is so stereotyped, it is beneath audiences old enough to read.
