



Rescuing Seneca Crane

Susan Runholt

Download now

Read Online →

Rescuing Seneca Crane

Susan Runholt

Rescuing Seneca Crane Susan Runholt

When Kari and Lucas first see Seneca Crane up on stage, playing the piano in front of hundreds of people, they are in awe. She is beautiful. She is amazingly talented. And she is only thirteen! But then they get to know her at the Edinburgh Arts Festival and realize that she envies them. Soon the three are becoming friends . . .until Seneca disappears. There's no stopping Kari and Lucas from jumping on the trail and tracking her down. Even when it leads to the heart of the Scottish highlands! Following in the spine-tingling tracks of *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, Susan Runholt's second book featuring super sleuths Kari and Lucas is just as smart and fast-paced as the first!

Rescuing Seneca Crane Details

Date : Published August 20th 2009 by Viking Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780670062911

Author : Susan Runholt

Format : Hardcover 276 pages

Genre : Mystery, Young Adult, Audiobook, Teen, Childrens, Contemporary

 [Download Rescuing Seneca Crane ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Rescuing Seneca Crane ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Rescuing Seneca Crane Susan Runholt

From Reader Review Rescuing Seneca Crane for online ebook

Robert Kent says

Do you like a good mystery, Esteemed Reader? A hint of danger and some heart-pounding adventure? Unless you have some sort of special heart condition or a neurological disorder, I'll assume that you do. And therefore you are going to love Susan Runholt's Kari + Lucas Mysteries. The ninja loves them and is looking forward to future additions.

So we're going to change things up a little bit this week. Instead of reviewing one book, I'm going to review two books in one post. Why? Well, I don't review every book I read and I enjoyed the first book in the series, *Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, on audio book. I highly recommend that version, by the way, as the reader is fantastic. I wrote to Susan Runholt to ask her to appear here (she will, this Thursday!) and guess what? She sent me a signed copy of *Rescuing Seneca Crane*! God, I love being a ninja!

Here is perhaps the finest praise I can offer a series: when the third book comes out, I'll be all over it even though I probably won't review it here. There are plenty of other books for us to chat about, Esteemed Reader, but I'll be listening to book three, *The Adventure of Simba Hill*, just for me. I want to know what happens to Kari and Lucas and I want to see what Runholt's going to do to top these first two wonderful books. If you haven't read Runholt's mysteries yet, get started now and we can wait for book three together.

That officially concludes the review portion of this review: buy these books. Now let's talk craft. A good series is hard to pull off, yet so many writers have ambitions for one, including the ninja. As a writer, part of the appeal to the series is a multi-book contract. But more, I suspect the joy in writing a series is the same joy the reader has in getting to spend more time with the same characters and experiencing a story larger than one book can contain. Whether that series is a Harry Potter story that is interconnected and building parts to a larger whole, telling one story over seven books. Or whether, as is the case here (so far), the books in the series are each self contained adventures like Batman stories or a television show. I like both kinds of series, but my preference is for episodic tales so that if one book sucks (not the case here) it doesn't drag down the rest:)

Regardless of the type of series, the pressure is on the writer to create fantastic characters. This is a pressure the writer always feels as we've got to create fictional people interesting and likeable enough that the reader wants to spend a whole book with them. In a series, the reader may be spending seven books or more with these characters. So take the pressure of creating one book's character and multiply it by seven, I suppose. Kari and Lucas, two 14-year old girls from Minnesota, are definitely likeable enough for the reader to want to spend four books with them. Heck, I'll spend more books with Kari and Lucas if Runholt is up to it.

More, Kari and Lucas have the sort of qualities that will make them compelling protagonists regardless of the mystery facing them. They are curious about the world and the motivations of people. This is an essential quality for any detective to have, but Runholt doesn't just tell us this (perish the thought!). She establishes the girls' curiosity in *Mystery of the Third Lucretia*. At an art museum in Minneapolis, the girls are treated rudely by a man copying a Rembrandt. When they see him later wearing a disguise, they decide to follow him and from this action flows the entire adventure that follows. What a masterful stroke this is! Though the girls remain very curious in *Rescuing Seneca Crane* as well, the subject of that book is a kidnapping of their friend, which one hardly need be curious to notice and be concerned with. But in the very first book of the series, this essential character quality of Kari and Lucas is forever established throughout the series because it is essential to the plot (and the plot comes from character, so bonus). The girls are insufferably curious, which might just get them killed were there not a third book on the way:)

In fact, most of Runholt's world building in *Mystery of the Third Lucretia* is clearly being built to last. Various parts of the plot, though they tie in to the first adventure, go out of their way to establish the set up for future novels. Minor spoiler... Kari's mom gets a job writing about international fashion for a magazine, which means she'll need to do a lot of traveling, dragging the girls around Europe with her. As these are international mysteries, you can bet that will come in handy. Also, we're introduced to Lucas's father, a workaholic who never makes time for her, and her mother, who would much rather be free of her child so she can spend more time shopping with friends. While this sucks for Lucas, it's great for Runholt because it means Lucas will always be free to go globetrotting with Kari and her mother.

The Kari + Lucas Mysteries are considered upper middle grade, or tween, which presents an interesting challenge to writers. On the one hand, the characters are old enough to have been exposed to many of the less savory aspects of the adult world. On the other hand, kids read up, and it's likely a given that kids as young as ten or even eight will be reading in addition to fourteen-year-olds and adult ninjas. And the covers of these books, not that a writer always has a say in that, are bright and colorful and likely to attract readers of all ages.

What then is a writer to do? How does she acknowledge the age of the protagonists, who would probably swear and talk about naughty things at fourteen (or maybe I was just warped) without risking a younger readership? One of my favorite of Runholt's inventions to get around this is her giving the girls their own way of swearing. When the girls want to swear, they insert a "meep" for the swear, as in "Oh meep," "I feel like meep," and my favorite, "Alan The Meep." It's important to remember that it is the age of the reader, not of the protagonist that determines content. After all, the protagonist in Amy Reed's *Beautiful* was only thirteen.

A common complaint of mine is that too often in middle grade books the horror is not really scary, the danger isn't really all that dangerous, and the mystery isn't much of a challenge. As a ninja, I keep reading, but when I was kid I put a book down as soon as I felt its writer was being condescending (i.e. trying to convince me a rabbit sucking carrot juice was scary, though I loved that book). I wouldn't have put Runholt's book down. There is a reason Kari and Lucas are fourteen instead of ten. They're dealing with some pretty serious stuff, and though Runholt keeps the story light and fun, she deals rather realistically with the world around it.

If Lucas and Kari were younger, they might be dealing with the mystery of the stolen cookie jar. But Runholt has loftier plans. In the first book, the girls are hot on the tail of an international art forgery that would be at home in a Dan Brown thriller (assuming there were a pseudo-religious twist), and in the second book, they're chasing after kidnapers that might make William Kent Krueger proud. The girls censor themselves, but the villains don't behave as though they know they're in a story written for younger readers. There are murders and discussions of rape (all tactfully handled, I promise). In one scene, the girls tour Amsterdam's Red Light district and are mistaken for, ahem, madams of the evening. Some parents may object to this, and if that's you, go ahead and object. I, for one, was thrilled to have found a mystery that was truly exciting involving dangers that were actually dangerous.

I see we are past our maximum word count and I haven't really told you the plot of either book, but that's a good thing. The less you know going in, the more pleasantly surprised you'll be. But I will say how much I appreciated the pacing at the beginning of *Rescuing Seneca Crane*. We know who the characters are and how it is they come to be able to travel overseas, so Runholt is able to start the adventure and keep it going to the last page.

And that wraps us up. Two big thumbs up for the Kari + Lucas mysteries!

To read an interview with author Susan Runholt, log onto my blog, www.middlegradeninja.blogspot.com.

Carolyn says

I read this third quarter:

I like this book as much as the first one. Except there is a new character. I think this one was a little better because the new character was awesome. This was a very good book.

In this book Kari and Lucas befriend Seneca, a famous piano player. They are all good friends by the time Seneca got kidnapped. Every one was in panic. But no one was paying attention to Kari and Lucas even though they were pretty sure who did it. So they set off on an adventure to find Seneca. Parker, who is six, is an unknown witness. He tells them where the kidnappers took Seneca. They go there and save Seneca using a fly, a rope, and a rope. Seneca's step dad and tutor were the people that kidnapped her.

This reminds me of, again, Harry Potter. This is because Harry and his friends go on adventures and so do Kari and Lucas. Also it reminds me of the first book. Because, well it was the first book. They were in the same series.

Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says

The second book in the Kari + Lucas Mystery Series (The first book being "The Mystery of the Third Lucretia") and it doesn't disappoint. This time their adventures are set in Scotland. There they travel around the country, following clues to try to rescue their friend, Seneca Crane.

It is great to see a book written for girls at that difficult tween age and it be about something more than just boys, dating, and other superficial things. Kari and Lucas are smart, innovative girls who use their wit and sometimes unique skills to do what they think is right. I recommend this book for anyone who likes Nancy Drew and think that it is a perfect book for any middle school aged girl.

Barb Middleton says

Kari is tired of hearing her best friend Lucas talk obsessively about her boyfriend, Mr. Makes Me Want to Gag. Kari and Lucas are traveling to Scotland with Kari's mom, a magazine reporter, who is interviewing Seneca, a teenage pianist prodigy. They make friends with Seneca who is kidnapped after a concert. Thus begins the mystery where the two unravel the clues to figure out Seneca's kidnappers. Along the way Lucas rethinks her relationship with her boyfriend and Kari discovers she's not as cowardly as she thinks in the beginning of the story.

I thought this was your average mystery book. The writing wasn't super descriptive and the plot was predictable. However, the author focuses on the girls and their friendships which young readers will like.

Rather than use swear words the girls use the word "Meep." It sounds like a baby kitten. I think the author was playing on the sounds of people who are beeped on television when they swear. It was cute at first but got annoying by page 288. But I also read the book in one sitting. Maybe it wouldn't be annoying if I had picked it up and set it down more often.

Rebecca says

I picked this up because it's partly set on the Isle of Skye, which is one of my favorite places, and because it's a mystery, a favorite genre. I actually tried to read the first book in this series, *Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, but just couldn't get into it for some reason. Reading this one, I think it might be that it just feels a little off in the characterization--as if the author is trying to think like a teenager but make the book appropriate for younger kids and also get a few messages in there, and it doesn't quite come together. There's nothing wrong with the plot and the settings are done really well, but I guess I just didn't buy the characters. One thing that particularly threw me was the main character reflecting on how teenagers behave while making new friends. Sounded like a 40-something reflecting on how teenagers make new friends.

Wendy Hines says

Kari and Lucas are staying in Edinburgh, Scotland with Kari's mom. She writes for a magazine that wants her to do a piece on Seneca Crane. Seneca is only fifteen years old but a renowned concert pianist.

Kari and Lucas spend some time with Seneca and the three quickly become friends. They are glad that Seneca is just a normal girl like them without any celebrity airs. But when Seneca talks about her life, she says she isn't normal. She doesn't have a life; she has a schedule. With that in mind, Kari and Lucas try to do normal things they think Seneca will enjoy.

When Seneca disappears after a concert performance, Kari and Lucas are stunned. The perpetrators left a note; Seneca has been kidnapped and the ransom is high. When Kari and Lucas are babysitting a young boy that same evening, they get their first clue. Parker, the young boy, saw two men take Seneca and overhead them saying she was going to the dollhouse castle in the sky.

Lucas and Kari want to help and they know they can't call the police. The ransom note said any police interference, and Seneca would die, so they start their own investigation. With Lucas's credit card, and Kari's organized thoughts, they find themselves in danger, Scotland Mist, and a mystery about to unravel.

RESCUING SENECA CRANE is an enjoyable and entertaining read. Kari and Lucas are very mature teenagers, but yet we get a glimpse of their innocence of youth as well. The mystery surrounding Seneca is tenacious, and the pages just fly by as you take part in their adventure. A wonderful read for children and young adults.

Sandra Stiles says

My students who say they love reading a mystery will love this book. Kari and her best friend Lucas are off on the adventure of a lifetime to Edinburgh, Scotland. Kari's mother has the pleasure of interviewing the child piano prodigy Seneca Crane, for the magazine she works for. Kari and Lucas had gone to see Seneca when she play with the Minnesota Orchestra. They learn several things about Seneca. First her parents are domineering, second she is very lonely, and third, she can seem to fit their friendship into her very busy schedule. They become very good friends. When Seneca is suddenly kidnapped, Kari and Lucas start looking at the clues in hopes of rescuing their new friends. This was a first read of this author for me. I will definitely

look into her other works.

Phoebe says

Runholt's second novel about her two 14-year-old sleuths, this time visiting Edinborough and befriending a 15-year-old piano prodigy, Seneca Crane. When Seneca is abducted during the intermission of one of her concerts, Lucas and Kari find themselves quite alone, unable to contact Kari's mother, (who is on an excursion to Inverness) and possibly in great danger from Seneca's stepfather and her tutor. They plan and execute a daring, edge-of-the-seat rescue pretty much on their own. My two quibbles with the book: Runholt talks down to her readers, with often overly-simplistic explanations and she could use a good editor to trim down some scenes. Readers may be put off by this, which tends to bog down the plot a little. Junior high and up.

Laura says

I was privileged to be provided with an advanced readers copy from the publisher. This novel is the follow-up to the Third Lucretia, once again featuring the sleuth fighting 14 year olds, Kari and her best friend Lucas. The entire novel takes place within one week and centers upon their friendship with a piano prodigy, Seneca. The setting of this one takes place in Edinburg, Scotland, where Kari's mother follows them. They are in Edinburg for the Orchestra festival in which their friend Seneca is performing. While there, they befriend a three year old Asian child named Parker who is familiar with Seneca and who later provides some valuable clues.

The girls meet Paul and Edie who were acting strangely at Usher Hall where Seneca is performing. After her performance, Seneca is nowhere to be found. With the help of Parker, the girls discover that she was kidnapped. Luckily, Seneca left the Queen of Sword Tarot card in her dressing room. This becomes another valuable clue. Parker actually witnessed the two kidnappers and it becomes almost a game trying to get information from him. He tells them that one of the men looks like a character from the children's novel, My Neighborhood Book. Parker told them that she was taken to the dollhouse castle in the sky.

With the help of one of the locals, Kari and Lucan learn this location is the Old Dalhousie Castle on the Isle of Skye. The trek out by train and finally find their destination and see Seneca high above one of the windows throwing bread to the birds. Kari devises a plan involving her fly fishing casting skills where she will cast a line to the window with a cork and a note attached to it on how they will rescue her. Finally, after several attempts, Kari finally makes it to the window and the girls are able to escape. They quickly are discovered and are running through the woods and thought their luck ran out. To their surprise, it is a couple of men from the hotel who rescue them and are able to get the police to arrest them men.

Finally, Seneca is safe and sound and is able to put on a farewell concert and invites the girls to watch. This novel was a perfect follow up from the Third Lucretia and I found myself not wanting to put it down. Just like with the last one, it is a very quick read that young and older people can enjoy.

Caitlin says

I pretty much inhaled this book, the second in the Kari & Lucas mysteries due out in August. I was enjoying

it so much, in fact, that I read it through eating my lunch & then sat in Snow Park across from my work & finished it before going back inside. It was very pleasant, but then I had to find something to read on the BART on the way home. Fortunately, my floor at work has a small lending library & I scrounged something to keep me company on my way home.

I love these books! The plotting is excellent. The writing is intelligent. The characters are believable &, best of all, competent. How nice is it to read about female characters of any age who can problem solve their ways out of a tight spot?

The *Mystery of the Third Lucretia* has art history thrown into the mix to make things more interesting. With *Rescuing Seneca Crane*, it's music, Scotland, & medieval castles. How cool is that?

This series is highly recommended for anyone with kids aged 11 & up. They'll thank you for it!

Lisa says

I really, really hope Susan Runholt keeps writing (if she wants to).

I'm giving this book, the second in Runholt's Kari & Lucas mystery series, five stars both because it was enjoyable and also because I really don't think the series should have been taken out of print!

The first book in the Kari & Lucas series, *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia* (which I think was also Runholt's first published novel), came out in 2008. It had its flaws--some of the events were just too unbelievable--but it was a fun and exciting art theft mystery. I liked how it centered around middle school girls who were capable, confident, and appealing as characters.

In *Rescuing Seneca Crane*, you can see how much Runholt has grown as a writer. The events of the story are still improbable (then again, the events of most adventure stories are improbable), but in her second book, Runholt has figured out how to make a reader willing to believe improbable events and buy into the story. I love how much girl power is in the book, I loved the daring rescue, and, just like in *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, Runholt made me care about the characters.

One more Kari & Lucas mystery, *The Adventure at Simba Hill*, was released in 2011--and then, as far as I can tell, all the Kari & Lucas stories went out of print. I don't know why--one has to assume that maybe they weren't selling well enough. I think it's a real shame that we'll never get to find out how much more Runholt could grow as a writer in this series, or what happens to Kari & Lucas.

I've read other books that were nowhere near as good as this series that are still in print (unfortunately), and I don't think that Runholt deserved the axe. I really hope that if Susan Runholt has any interest in continuing to write that she does so. I'd buy whatever YA novels she wrote just to support her, because I think there's something really appealing in her writing and I think she should keep writing if it's something she wants to do.

Linda B says

BookDescription

When Kari and Lucas first see Seneca Crane up on stage, playing the piano in front of hundreds of people,

they are in awe. She is beautiful. She is amazingly talented. And she is only thirteen! But then they get to know her at the Edinburgh Arts Festival and realize that she envies them. Soon the three are becoming friends . . .until Seneca disappears. There's no stopping Kari and Lucas from jumping on the trail and tracking her down. Even when it leads to the heart of the Scottish highlands!

My Review

From the same author of *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, *Rescuing Seneca Crane* is another GREAT Kari and Lucas mystery. Again she has created an interesting and intelligent story for these two junior detectives. The characters display a friendship that is both touching and true-to-life. I enjoy the way the two girls complement each other and defer to each other's strengths when necessary. Boys enter the picture in this book, and Kari and Lucas are typical girly girls, but smart enough to know that some boys are too old for them.

This time their adventure takes them to Scotland, and I enjoyed reading the descriptive narration. The excitement never stops as the girls try to find out what happened to their new friend, Seneca. I can't wait for Ms. Runholt to come out with book #3, and I hope to see the character of Seneca again in a future book. Yes, this is a children's book – about ages 9-15, but I enjoyed it just as much as my grown-up mysteries.

Kat says

I really liked the first book in the Kari & Lucas mystery series, *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*. It was one of those books that held my interest the entire time I was reading it. This second book, however, failed to really grab me. I think because I was able to figure out the mystery pretty early on in the book, before the crime even happened. What I liked about the first book is that it kept me guessing.

Kari and Lucas, once again, come to the rescue and solve a mystery all on their own. They're strong young protagonists, and they have a solid friendship. They're intelligent and proactive. I think young girls could look up to girls like Kari and Lucas.

As in the first mystery in this series, we're taken to cool places outside of the United States. Here we find the girls in Scotland attending a festival filled with music and other types of performance arts. I enjoyed reading about the Scottish food, people and culture. And Runholt describes the way the Scots talk by having Kari, the narrator, point out to the reader how a certain character pronounces a word.

A good, clean mystery for kids to read, but I just wish it wasn't so predictable.

Lauren says

I liked this better than *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia* - Scotland, a piano prodigy, a kidnapping - what more could you want in a mystery. I love the fact that they solve mysteries all over the world. First Paris, France - then Edinburgh, Scotland. Looking forward to the next one, the only thing that kind of annoys me is the "meep". I understand they want to code a curse word around adults, but the average 13+ will curse normally when not around adults. They could've used a non-curse word like "Egads" or "OMG". and not have been a curse word. I liked the fact that there isn't any adult issues in these pre-teen books, anyone could

read these no matter what the age. Younger modern-day Nancy Drews who travel all over the world.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Andrea for TeensReadToo.com

Kari and Lucas love to solve mysteries and continue to do so in this second novel.

Seneca Crane is a thirteen-year-old piano player. But she's not just a normal piano-playing teenager - she's world famous! Kari and Lucas are in awe of her, but when they meet Seneca at a festival, they realize how jealous Seneca is of their normal life. Soon after they become friends, Seneca disappears, and it's up to Kari and Lucas to find her.

This was another great book in the Kari & Lucas Mystery series. Once again, I think the two friends are great and strong female young adult characters, and would be good role models for tweens.

I liked this story better than the first book, *THE MYSTERY OF THE THIRD LUCRETIA*. I enjoyed having Seneca as a character; she felt real and was another strong female. I think this book would be more interesting to tweens than the first one, since it deals with a kidnapping and a celebrity instead of a piece of art work. And there were more great facts in the story, this one about Scotland.

I would definitely recommend this series to tween girls who are looking for a good, light mystery.
