

L'Etrange Cas de L'Assassinat de Katie La Felee By Peter Abrahams As auditions for the local Alice in Wonderland play roll up and a budding friendship between Ingrid and Joey the police chief's son gives Ingrid hardly enough time to solve the murder mystery. Example: after her family had gone to sleep she sneaks out in the middle of the night to walk through the woods into an unfamiliar neighborhood to break into a house where a murder had just taken place while the killer is still on the loose. She wouldn't think things through and would just go off with her head in the clouds thinking; I can solve this mystery! No the police are stupid; they'll never figure it out. 2226177906

When I think about the writing of Peter Abrahams I'm reminded of something the late film critic Roger Ebert said about actor Michael Keaton: "Michael Keaton is a fast-talking actor who may be the best in the business at showing you how fast he can think. Ingrid Levin-Hill may be thirteen and dealing with mundane things like braces and soccer and a first stumbling romance and an annoying older brother but in many ways she's a typical Abrahams character who stumbles up against murder and finds herself deciding even before she understands why that it's best that she keeps her mouth shut about what she knows because some primal instinct tells her that she's uniquely qualified to solve the mystery. Like Abrahams himself Ingrid bristles with intelligence beneath her placid surface and even as events seem to sprinting ahead of her she catches herself catching up to them often with a bit of Holmesian wisdom — "The more bizarre a thing is the less mysterious it proves to be. As a result interesting things are happening around her often because she acts on instinct and the product of those instincts — reckless and haphazard as they seem at the time — have a chemically catalytic effect on the plot and keep things moving even they might appear to be standing still. The plot? Ingrid racing to make it to soccer practice gets turned around in her hometown of Echo Falls Connecticut and winds up at the house of the town eccentric "Cracked-Up Katie. " Katie takes her in out of the rain lets her call for a cab and the next day Ingrid learns a) that Katie has been murdered; and b) that she left her soccer cleats behind in Katie's house. People get seriously hurt because of things Ingrid has instigated in her haphazard investigation and she has much to feel guilty about only she doesn't seem to feel bad or guilty about much of that because I'm guessing that would interfere with the lightly jocular tone of this middle-grade novel. One: More than almost any author I know his stories are infused with a smooth almost seamless sense of glide of sentences that slip into one another like velvet gloves onto manicured hands even as things—events and realizations—bump into one another beneath the surface of the prose. No character in an Abrahams novel ever says anything directly; and their evasions are so smooth that the other characters take a while to catch up to what they're really saying. They almost never say yes or no or exposit anything in reply to an inquiry; they're constantly saying things like "In a manner of speaking" or "Something like that" or "Nothing worth mentioning" or "Oh here and there. And the Ingrids of the world are uniquely well-positioned to expose them because they too are masters of the evasion game and Ingrid in particular is a particularly smooth liar even as the weight of those lies — to her parents her friends the police chief — pile up higher and heavier than a thirteen-year-old girl can reach or carry. Another thing Abrahams does well here is plant series-arc seeds: What explain the pockets of cold between Ingrid's over-striving parents? Why are they so determined to make "Grampy" sell off a piece of his farmland and why os Grampy so determined to resist? Why is Ty Ingrid's brother so quick to anger? What will happy between Ingrid and Joey the police chief's son? Like all good mysteries all will be revealed in due course. And so I'm on to the next Ingrid Levin-Hill mystery and I'm on to the next story about a thirteen-year-old girl as a man in late middle age because the writing and sentence-by-sentence storytelling is good that I cannot resist it. Throw in a murder of the town 'crazy-lady' who used to be a prominent actress a wealthy family who basically owns the town a wily grandfather and a town theatre club putting together an Alice in Wonderland play. Then when she realizes that she left her shoes at the victim's house what does she do? She sneaks into the crime scene and removes the shoes not realizing until later that the police just might find this suspicious. The other seven eighths included Ingrid: -Playing soccer/attending play practice-Hiding her secret from the cops-Wondering what is up with Vincent Dunn-Interacting with characters that didn't really add anything to the plot but were still featured a lot.)So I probably won't be reading the rest of the series since this book

failed to impress me but who knows? I didn't find this a great mystery book so I will not be recommending it to people interested in this genre. 2226177906 Το διάβασα όταν ήμουν περίπου 14 και το λάτρεψα! Οι μεγαλύτερες ηλικίες δεν θα ευχαριστηθούν το μυστήριο καθώς είναι αρκετά ξεκάθαρο το ποιος είναι ο ένοχος αλλά είναι πολύ καλογραμμένοι χαρακτήρες συμπαθητικοί και τα όποια ψεγάδια παρατηρώ τώρα δεν με ενόχλησαν τότε. But as things in Echo Falls keep getting curiouser and curiouser Ingrid realizes she must solve the murder on her own -- before it's too late! L'Etrange Cas de L'Assassinat de Katie La Felee For reasons I can't fully articulate the Echo Falls mystery series has become a favorite of mine. I found the book at Borders on a day when I had a 30% coupon so I snagged the book for like five bucks on a weekend when I wanted to read but wasn't in the mood for anything too heavy. A failed attempt to walk from the dentist office to soccer practice brings Ingrid into the swirling vortex of lost soccer cleats a stray dog the police chief's son and the dark history of a local theater company. I remember one of my students saying "why do we always have to read books with such messed up people in them? And why do we read so many books about slavery and the Holocaust?" The kid had a point. Many YA books read like after school specials or focus on fictional kids' experiences with historical tragedies...not very much fun and nothing most kids would want to read on their own. True on a practical level I benefited greatly from these daily silent reading sessions because well I could catch my breath but these stretches were also when I could tell the real readers from the students who saw these fifteen minutes as the most boring of the day. And if *Down the Rabbit Hole* were out then I could see the kids who wanted those fifteen minutes to last forever passing the book back and forth covertly under the radar from friend to friend with the message "Read this one. Thirteen-year-old Ingrid is afraid of being late for soccer practice so she unwisely decides to walk from her orthodontist's office to the field not knowing what a crappy part of town she'll be passing through. She sneaks out in the middle of the night to retrieve them and happens to be there at the same time that someone else is sneaking in to steal a playbill of *Dial M for Murder* from Katie's youthful acting days. When the police arrest two drunken neighbors of Katie's Ingrid is the only one who knows they weren't the ones who broke in but she doesn't want to confess to being there herself. I thought the strongest aspect of the book was Abrahams' depiction of the confusions and stresses of this age and the ways in which they are often misunderstood or underestimated by adults. Aren't upper middle class suburban white folks usually pretty trusting of the cops? Plus Ingrid is friends with the investigating detective's son which I would think would make it easier to confess rather than harder as depicted in the story. For instance grandpa has to add VO to his cup of tea and older brother in high school comes home late after football game smelling like grandpa (implying that he too was drinking) friend's teen brother has already had a DUI etc. Although it is a good mystery the details the author chooses to add to fill out the story does not serve to better the plot endear the reader to the characters or show teens or adults in positive roles. But last week I needed a book to read while doing the dishes and noticed *Down the Rabbit Hole* sandwiched between *A Game of Thrones* and *The Drawing of the Three* and since it fulfilled my doing-the-dishes requirements I decided to give it a go.

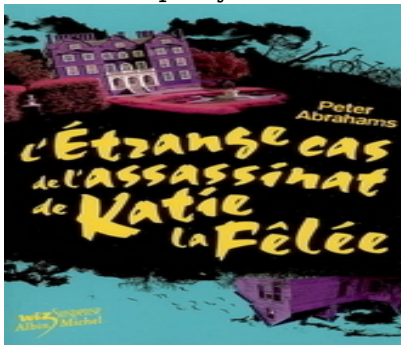
Dialing an operator for information and the good ol' answering machine Ingrid lies to people A TON in this book and usually doesn't hesitate or think twice about it. ————Overall: My mistake was going into it expecting an adult thriller and not getting it. It wasn't edge-of-your-seat or thrilling at all (maybe a little at the end). I did really like that Ingrid made an intentional effort to learn the streets of her town. There were so many scenes and tidbits thrown in everywhere that had no impact on the story whatsoever so it seemed pointless to include them. There was no real Alice in Wonderland vibes other than the planning of the play and the rehearsal scenes.

2: 5 Stars When Ingrid is late for soccer practice one day she decides to walk to it by herself: A woman by the name of Cracked-Up-Kate stops Ingrid and invites her into her house so she can call Ingrid a cab to get her to soccer practice. Leaving in a hurry Ingrid barely thinks twice about how strange Kate acted when Ingrid had mentioned her brother's team. However the next morning Ingrid

finds out that Kate was murdered only a few hours after Ingrid left her house: And another discovery leads to her remembering she left her soccer shoes at Kate's house. While getting them back a mysterious man sneaks into Kate's house and Ingrid believes he's connected to the murder: But finding out who he is puts her in even more danger, But my friend recommended it to me so I thought I'd try it: Okay first things first: I knew who the killer was from the very first page the killer entered: I'm dead serious (no pun intended) the minute the character walked in I was like; Oh there's the killer: I kept waiting for a twist to pop up and totally trip me up but. I was slightly satisfied that I knew who it was from the get go (not much because it was that obvious) and slightly disappointed the author didn't surprise me, Like her parents let her go wherever she wished even though a murder had taken place one neighborhood over. If I was her age I wouldn't have gone two steps out of my house at night especially if there was a fucking murderer on the loose, She seemed to have a fetish for sneaking out in the middle of the night to do something completely irrational, Or maybe TAKE HER GRANDFATHER'S FLIPPING CAR AND DRIVE TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE TO STEAL THEIR MAIL. I feel like I have to put in every review something that I liked about the book: I liked the relationship between Joey and Ingrid awkward as it was it was realistic: He projects smartness he sees all the angles he sizes up a situation and acts on it while another actor might still be straightening his tie, ... He knows he's right he knows he's late he knows what he has to do and he'll explain everything later: "I thought about that while reading DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE Abrahams' first novel for children, And it's not just because she's an admirer of Sherlock Holmes' methods of detection; it's just something she knows about herself, It is your commonplace featureless crimes which are really puzzling just as commonplace face is the most difficult to identify" — married to her own feral free-range intelligence: And in the course of dealing with 'b' Ingrid gets a little too invested in "a. DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE the first of three Ingrid Levin-Hill novels isn't perfect: I'll be honest: as much of an admirer I am of Abrahams coherent plotting isn't his strongest point. And I was more aware than I would have liked that Ingrid doesn't seem to have age-appropriate reactions to death and things death-adjacent. But what Abrahams does he does better than just about anybody in the crime-fiction game. And two: Abrahams is the undisputed master of off-the-nose prose, " These bits are delicious in the moment and even more delicious later when the Ingrids of Abrahams' works realize the secrets those characters are protecting with their evasions, Secrets that they are often willing to kill in order to protect usually with no small degree of dark theatricality, I mistook it for an adult thriller but it is definitely not [Ingrid is 13 with braces and jerk of an older brother. She is trying to figure out who she is and what she likes and doesn't like..., Language: 45 abuses of God's name 11 h 4 pi 5 a 12 dA few things that date the story: mapquest, com renting movies at Blockbuster and the Sherlock references were minor also: 2226177906 This review (and others) can be found on My Full Bookshelf Stephen King blurbed this: First I did not think that Ingrid was *ahem* particularly smart. She does not tell the police that she was talking to a murder victim right before they died: Because of this I had a hard time sympathizing with our heroine throughout the entire book, Second I was under the impression that perhaps well there would be a bit more Sherlock and a bit less soccer/play rehearsals throughout the book, Holmes is barely mentioned in the story even more of a shame when I considered that my copy was nearly four hundred pages. Sherlock Holmes really doesn't play that key of a role in the book at all when I think about it. I am not sure why they made it seem like he was a significant part of the story in the blurb, Third I didn't find there was much mystery in the plot when all was said and done: I didn't find there to be much suspense or major clue hunting until the very last 50 pages, That means that only an eighth of the book was spent truly investigating what happened, In regards to that last point way too much focus was put on these characters. I don't care about the rivalry with Chloe Ferrand if there is a murder I could be reading about: I don't care about Ingrid's whacked up brother if there is a murder I could be reading about, Not that it isn't good to have a wide range of characters instead of only featuring two or three in the whole book: It's just that they added next to nothing to the overall plot and nothing was really gained by learning about them. The reason it is getting two stars is because the ending was not totally expected, I saw a lot of it coming but there

were things that I didn't expect either, (Also if I am being honest I have read way worse than this book, I couldn't put it in the league of those books it wouldn't be fair. Για τις ηλικίες στις οποίες απευθύνεται είναι ότι πρέπει! 2226177906 Welcome to Echo Falls home of a thousand secrets: And getting them back will mean getting tangled up in a murder investigation as complicated as the mysteries solved by her idol Sherlock Holmes, With soccer practice schoolwork and the lead role in her town's production of Alice in Wonderland Ingrid is swamped. Some readers complain that the outcome is obvious failing to understand that this is a story of suspense--one appropriate for the age-level of its audience, (We so desperately need juvenile/young adult books that are neither horrifying or depressing)!The main character is present when a murder occurs: She tries to solve it before the police accuse her of the crime or the murderer discovers what she's doing: While she's focused on these problems she is blind to the problems taking place in her family: 2226177906 Ok I taught middle school on the south side of Chicago (with a brief stint on the west side to be completely accurate) from August of 1993 to June of 1997: I taught four years in the city and I think those are the right years, Anyway I taught fifth through eighth grade communications in ninety minute blocks. When I first arrived at the small parochial school down south I speed-read a slew of YA novels so I could teach them come September, In turn I associate most YA books with quick joyless perusal just before the next day's discussion: Come to think of it well that's probably how my students read the books too, Anyway I've had little desire to pick up YA books since the Hatchet Number the Stars Sadako and the Paper Cranes etc. Only in the last few years as my eleven and nine year old sons devour YA books has the prospect of reading these novels re-entered my consciousness, I can say without reservation that my first foray into non-required YA reading was a success. Down the Rabbit Hole's primary draw is the character of Ingrid, If Nancy Drew hated Math loved Sherlock Holmes and said things pissed her off well she would probably sound a lot like Ingrid, trying to figure out if a boy likes you) with humor and respect but not too much of either: The ancillary characters such as Ingrid's parents her brother the police chief etc, are drawn well enough to carry side stories without distracting the reader: running in the woods...no wonder Stephen King gives a glowing cover nod) and I'm not sure why the dog plays such a prominent role, Even if the entire book is strong but workmanlike the last fifty pages or so were of the "the world can wait while I finish" variety, I can live with that especially since Down the Rabbit Hole leaves the ponderous messages for other novels: But back in my classroom for a quarter hour every day after lunch (longer on Fridays) the kids read whatever they wanted, " So imagine dearest Goodreader friends all of us in the same sixth grade classroom: The teacher has declared we must read from 12:15 to 12:30 but the unwritten rule is "don't bother me and I won't bother you, " If I knew you liked to read I might pretend I had to throw something away and drop this book off at your desk as I passed: But in any case I'd mouth these words as I returned to my desk. 2226177906 The Wonderland references were disappointingly superficial but otherwise this was a fine mystery about a young girl connected by happenstance to a murder investigation, Cracked-up Katie notices her and brings her into her house so that she can call the girl a taxi: That night Ingrid hears on the news that Katie has been killed -- and realizes that she has left her distinctive red Puma cleats at the victim's house. She decides to investigate on her own and ends up being drawn into the old secrets of the town's prominent families. At the same time Ingrid has to cope with normal life: family disagreements unfair teachers first romance community theater a new dog sports: The weakest element was the initial plot point of Ingrid not calling -- and in fact lying to -- the police in the first place. But I guess one advantage of having a juvenile protagonist is that you can get away with having them show some poor judgment, Experienced mystery lovers may be a little disappointed; I found the murderer pretty easy to guess and didn't find any surprises in the plot: 2226177906 It was a good mystery but I had a hard time caring about the main character or any of the other characters for that matter. I love mysteries and I was really hoping to get hooked on this series because there is a lack of good mysteries for this age group. In my humble opinion there are too many references to alcohol for young teens, I didn't understand how these repeated references added to the plot: In one scene eighth grader Ingrid takes car out for a drive, Ingrid and car come back in one piece and no one is the wiser: 2226177906 Many months

ago I ordered some books online and when the box arrived I discovered Peter Abrahams' *Down the Rabbit Hole* had mistakenly found its way into my box. Being the anarchic thief that I am I decided to keep the book tossing it on my tertiary to-read pile and promptly forgot about it, it has to be a book that can get wet which means I can't care about it before reading; 2: it has to be something that doesn't require undivided attention (for instance Gravity's Rainbow wouldn't qualify); & 3. it has to be a book I can toss aside without guilt (a complex internal system I can't explain here) if I'm not enjoying the experience: *Down the Rabbit Hole* fulfilled those three requirements so I found myself reading this totally random book that's full of problems yet somehow manages to be a damn fine read, It is written in the third person but just screams to be written in the first: Its reference to Alice in the title creates some reader expectations (at least in me) that were never fulfilled. The end made me feel like a lemming who suddenly realizes he's falling off the cliff, I was invested I was excited I was looking for more and then it was over and the chapter to the next book was beginning: The Sherlock Holmes love fest was just too damn silly for me. Abrahams left too much hanging for future books making me want to find out about Grampy's farm how Joey and Ingrid develop as a couple and all sorts of other things, I really took to the characters in this book and I actually came to love Ingrid, Abrahams generated genuine emotion in me and I'm impressed by that: *Down the Rabbit Hole* was a nice diversion while scrubbing pots and glasses and toddler bottles: I am guessing it would be equally welcome when taking a poop showering or even lying on a beach: 2226177906



Librarian Note: There is than one author in the GoodReads database with this name: Peter Abrahams is the author of numerous novels including *End of Story Oblivion* and *Lights Out* which was nominated for an Edgar best novel award: He also writes the best selling *Echo Falls* series for younger readers: Peter Abrahams is also writing under the pseudonym {site_link} Spencer Quinn (Chet and Bernie Mysteries). Librarian Note: There is than one author in the GoodReads database with this name, Peter Abrahams is the author of numerous novels including *End of Story Oblivion* and *Lights Out* which was nominated for an Edgar best novel award, He also writes the best selling *Echo Falls* series for younger readers, Peter Abrahams is also writing under the pseudonym {site_link} Spencer Quinn (Chet and Bernie Mysteries). I should just stay away from murder mysterious in general. They always bore the living daylights out of me. Damn.it never came. Though considering it's a kid's mystery it was alright. The story itself was really boring. Slow paced and generally pointless. What really surprised me was Ingrid's complete freedom. You'd think her parents would be a bit more concerned. Not to mention Ingrid's total disregard for anything rational.to get her shoes back. She's 13 by the way. Ingrid had not one rational thought in her head. I'm the only one who can do the job for them. Well. I also liked Nigel. The dog. Before she really knows it." And with that the game's afoot. Various places. 2226177906 3.25□This is juvenile fiction.a typical new teen.I partially predicted the big reveal.For the target audience it would probably be good. And then compared it to Harry Potter. This book is not comparable to Harry Potter. Oops. Alas Mr. Again this is a 400 page book. I don't care about Ingrid's crush if there.well I suppose you get the point. It wrapped up nicely. Ingrid is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Or at least her shoes are. Stephen King calls it astonishing. Still loving the book on my third read. I don't have my resume in front of me. My bad St. Ailbe's classes of 93 through 97. years.Enter *Down the Rabbit Hole*.Why this book?1. The storyline seems like one my kids would like.2. The storyline seems like one I would like.3. People I know have spoken highly of the book.4. An Alice in Wonderland theme threads

through the book.5. Abrahams handles the typical teenage girl issues (e.g. Of course the book is not without flaws. Some of the scenes are stock horror novel conventions (e.g. It's cool. If you were a cute girl I'd probably be nervous. If you were a guy I'd be less nervous. Read this one. It's cool. Still a fun read overall. Not rushing to pick up more by this author though. etc. My doing-the-dishes requirements are: 1. Problem 1. Problem 2. Problem 3. Not good. Problem 4. Problem 5. Clever bastard! So yeah there were problems. But I actually DO want to read on. I even felt worried for her. Take your pick. He lives on Cape Cod. He lives on Cape Cod. {site_link}.