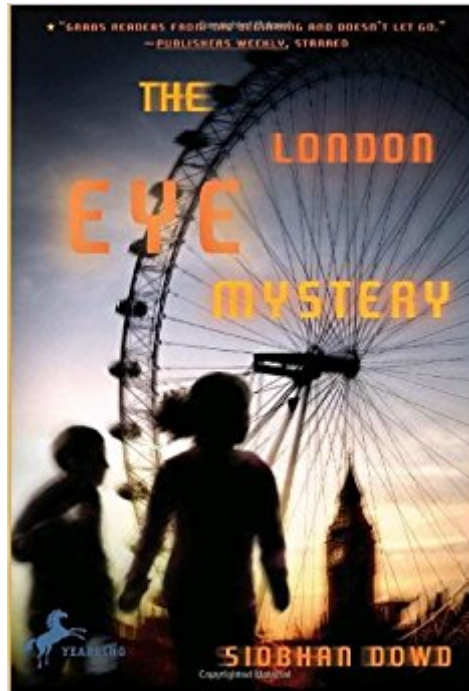




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# The London Eye Mystery



## Synopsis

A five-star mystery now in paperback! Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery. This is an unput-downable spine-tingling thriller—a race against time.

Everything rings true here, the family relationships, the quirky connections of Ted’s mental circuitry, and, perhaps most surprising, the mystery.

Booklist, Starred “The best mysteries have at their centers gifted but very human sleuths—their abilities balanced by equally significant flaws or idiosyncrasies. This one is no exception.”

The Horn Book Magazine, Starred

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0640 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (May 26, 2009)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 88 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,527 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #131 in Books > Deals in Books #195 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** The facts seem simple enough. While their mothers have coffee, Ted and his older sister, Kat, and their cousin, Salim, wait in a queue to ride the London Eye, an observation wheel that allows those locked in the glass-and-steel capsules to see 25 miles in every

direction. A stranger from the front of the line offers one free ticket, and since Salim is the visitor, stopping in London before moving with his mum to New York, he takes it. Ted and Kat see him enter the capsule and follow his ride, but to their shock, he doesn't exit with his fellow riders. This book, very different from Dowd's searing *A Swift Pure Cry* (2007), is much more than a taut mystery. In Ted, Dowd offers a complex young hero, whose "funny brain . . . runs on a different operating system" (seemingly Asperger's Syndrome) and who is obsessed with shipping forecasts and with his inability to connect well with others. After several long days have passed with no sign of Salim, Ted must use the skills he has and overcome some of his personal challenges to find his cousin. Everything rings true here, the family relationships, the quirky connections of Ted's mental circuitry, and, perhaps most surprisingly, the mystery. So often the mechanics of mystery don't bear close scrutiny, but that's not so here. A page turner with heft. Grades 5-8. --Ilene Cooper

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred review, Publishers Weekly, December 3, 2007: "Grabs readers from the beginning and doesn't let go." Starred review, Booklist, January 1, 2008: "Everything rings true here, the family relationships, the quirky connections of Ted's mental circuitry, and, perhaps most surprisingly, the mystery." Starred review, Kirkus Reviews, December 15, 2007: "This is a well-constructed puzzle, and mystery lovers will delight in connecting the clues." Starred review, School Library Journal, February 2008: "A dense mystery tied together with fully fleshed out characters and a unique narrator." Starred review, The Horn Book, May/June 2008: "The best mysteries have at their centers gifted but very human sleuths whose abilities balanced by equally significant flaws or idiosyncrasies. This one is no exception." From the Hardcover edition.

**The London Eye Mystery** What intrigue, fun, and amazing depth in *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd! What's the book about? Aunt Gloria and her son, Salim, come to London to say goodbye to Ted and Kat's family before heading for a new life in New York. The sisters and kids decide to take in a final day of sightseeing. Salim ends up on the Eye by himself but he never gets off! What happened to Salim? Told in first person point-of-view by Ted, a 12 year old on the autism spectrum, this book is a gem for many reasons. As a read-aloud or for kids in upper elementary and older, this book is loaded with enough material to satisfy readers and teachers alike. All the

characters in the book are well-developed. Themes abound. The clues are intriguing, the mystery is a real page turner, and the shattering reality of a missing kid is not glossed over. The portrayal of the thoughts and actions of a kiddo on the autism spectrum is a primary accomplishment of this book. Seriously, that is no mean feat. Ted talks to us about his brain with its different operating system, relates his never-ending and complex thoughts on weather systems, and lets us know when he's stressed, including habitual hand shaking and occasional banging and kicking walls. Poor Ted. I'd bang walls in his position, too. If ONLY his family would listen to Ted! Ted's sister, Kat, is a tweener in rebellion against her mum, secretly smoking and often lying, and cursing several times in the book. While reading this aloud, I left out most of those words. On the other hand, I appreciate the author's authentic description of Kat's struggle to find her way while grappling with agonizing guilt over Salim's disappearance. As a special ed teacher, I'd use this book to develop empathy among neurotypical learners for those whose brain are on IOS-Autism. Kids on the spectrum are at risk for bullying and this book would be a terrific tool for countering those prejudices. The London Eye Mystery could also validate kids who have been made aware of their diagnosis of ASD. I was grieved to discover that Siobhan Dowd passed away in 2007 at the age of 47. She had devoted much of her life's energy to "tak[ing] stories to children and young people without stories." In the days before her death, she established The Siobhan Dowd Trust, a worthwhile project to supply books to those who otherwise couldn't access them. Siobhan Dowd definitely achieved her goal of giving a voice to kiddos like Ted. I encourage you to read the book and check out her foundation, where all royalties and funds from overseas sales provide hope for the voiceless.

Ted is a very interesting and amusing main character. He has Asperger's Syndrome and has trouble deciphering emotions. However, he is very clever at deciphering the clues that turn up along the way in the search for his lost cousin. I think Ted is a great main character in that he shows how a person with a mental disorder thinks differently yet has the ability to see things from a unique point of view.

This book is entertaining, action packed, and filled with many unexpected outcomes. There is great character development, as well as many funny moments with the main character dealing with others. It's with his advanced knowledge because of a syndrome.

I don't really remember how I found this book, but I'm glad I did. I just loved the plot! Although I love The Count of Monte Cristo (the plot) more, I just enjoyed how I couldn't guess what would happen

until the very very end. I also enjoyed the characters... Especially Kat, especially when she speaks. I can easily imagine her scoffing and eye rolling at literally... anything. Ted ... well let's just say that he wasn't my favorite character when I started reading. Don't worry, there is a but coming. I don't really know how difficult it is to be different from other people, but I believe that Ted is one example of a person who uses his uniqueness to help solve a problem... Who knows? Maybe people like Ted have more potential to find clues that normal people don't see. After I read the book, I had a new fondness for Ted, and I hope his parents can see his potential more. Finally, I really recommend this book to those who like mysteries, and to those who want to gag at "flawlessly perfect" "has everything they want" "and in the end, get their 'Prince Charming' or whatsoever books. Well, maybe not the latter, but come on... Who doesn't want a bit of humor? By Caterina aka Cat

When I started reading, I thought that it was the worst book in the world, but since I got it for my summer reading list I had to keep reading. It got better at the end because I could understand it a lot better.

Whipped through in one sitting as I had to know what happened. Well crafted, insightful story that kept me reading (not skipping) to the last page.

This book was amazing and you would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a great mystery. It was very surprising

I'm 61 and purchased the book in error -- not knowing that it was for "young adults." However, I have to say that it is one of the most enjoyable things that I have read in a while. Character development for Ted was excellent and the plot kept my interest. I just regret that after only 3 days, I am having to look for another mystery -- but, I will definitely look for the same author.

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