



Spy Dog

Andrew Cope

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Spy Dog by Andrew Cope is the first book in the brilliant series about the loveable Lara - Spy Dog extraordinaire!

Forget 007, It's time to meet GM451: a Spy Dog - the first of her kind!

Agent's ID: GM451 or LARA or Licensed Assault and Rescue Animal or that pesky mutt

Distinguishing Features: Black and white mongrel, appears ordinary when working undercover, one black ear sticks up and the other flops down over one eye.

Skills: Whistling, computer skills, unarmed combat, five languages, PlayStation grandmaster and many others . . .

Employer: The Secret Service

Hates: Villains, injustice and crime

Current Mission: Escape an evil drug baron, go undercover, await retrieval by the Secret Service and try not to get too fond of the family she has chosen to look after her . . .

Fun, exciting books for boys and girls aged 7+

'We love Lara! ****' - *Kraze Club*

'An imaginative, creative feast' - *Radio Times*

Andrew Cope was born in Derby in 1966. He is a teacher, writer and a huge fan of Derby County football club. He really does have a dog called Lara who has one sticky-up ear and came from the RSPCA, but he's not sure if she is actually a highly trained secret agent. Andrew lives with his wife and two children. This is his first book.

Spy Dog Details

Date : Published August 4th 2005 by Puffin (first published January 1st 2005)

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Author : Andrew Cope

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From Reader Review Spy Dog for online ebook

Shonna Froebel says

I bought the first two books this series for my 6-year-old nephew, and I'm sure he'll find it great fun. The series centers around a very special dog, trained by the British Secret Service and now a family pet. The dog, Lara (Licensed Assault and Rescue Animal) has many skills unheard of in dogs. She can whistle, understand several languages, and use a computer. She has been trained to act normal and get taken in by the RSPCA and choose a family for adoption if she gets separated from her masters. In the first book, she does this, and while the Secret Service is looking for her, so is the drug kingpin she just foiled. She finds it difficult to behave like a normal dog, but her affection for her family becomes strong.

I must admit that while this series is great fun, I originally bought it as a family joke, as my sister's name is Lara, and I thought my nephew would find it funny to have his aunt's name the same as this heroic dog. After reading it, I know he'll enjoy it on its own merits as well.

Laila says

It was nice. My favorite part was when the bad guy found Lara. I like dangerous parts of books because they are cool. Pretend fighting is good. I didn't like when the man wanted to take Lara away from her family. It is bad to take some people's dogs away from their family. It makes them sad. I want to read more books about Lara the spy dog.

Cathy says

Bought this son's 6th birthday and he really loved it. It took him a while to get used to the fact there wasn't pictures on every page, but we read a couple of chapters every night and he loved Lara and her super-dog antics.

Lara says

when i found out that this dog was called lara, i had to have the series. because lara is my name :D

Junseo Lee says

A dog that could whistle? Do karate? And even go to the toilet? When those things adds up, that makes a SPY DOG. This is about Lara the dog joining the cook's family out of the Secret service that she used to work in. If you want to try it out, make sure you check out the other books from the spy dog series too!

Daniela says

This book was a birthday present from my brother when I was a kid. (I think.) As a kid, loved it. As a young adult, not so much. But it's aimed at children, so three stars it is!

Tash Berbank says

This book is simply another churned out best seller that is let down by its lack of characterisation. Most of the characters are just one dimensional stereotypes which makes the story quite dull. I was also quite disappointed by Lara's character, as she finds things too easy and not challenging, and I'm not sure many children (or adults!) could relate to this character.

What surprised me about the book was its large reference to drugs, namely 'a bag of white powder', and not only the presence of guns, but also that Lara gets shot! Bear this in mind if you buy this book for your child! There is however, a good amount of action which keeps the pace off and shouldn't get too boring for any child.

Tammy Wooding says

Spy Dog: Captured! by Andrew Cope is part of the brilliant Spy Dog series about the loveable Lara - Spy Dog extraordinaire!

NEVER MIND JAMES BOND, LARA, THE WORLD'S ONE AND ONLY SPY DOG, IS BACK!

AGENT'S ID: LARA - Licensed Assault and Rescue Animal. Also known as the Cook family's favourite mongrel

SKILLS: Goal-keeping legend, language skills including Advanced Cat and Basic Dolphin, ace surfer and champion juggler

EQUIPMENT: Two new secret weapons!

LATEST MISSION: Even in retirement, Lara's sharp spy instincts always give her a nose for mystery. There's more to the Cooks' holiday island than meets the eye, and it's down to Lara to sniff it out . . .

*Please note this book was previously published as *Spy Dog 2*.*

Fun, exciting books for boys and girls aged 7+

'We love Lara! ****' - *Kraze...*

Annie says

Really funny book about lara and her puppies going on different adventures!! :)

Elaine says

Puggy isn't an ordinary dog. He is observant and when he notices that his next door neighbor seems to be acting strange, he starts to investigate. He finds out that many of the neighborhood dogs are missing and this gets him to thinking. Is there a connection between the stranger and the missing dogs?

A very cute little tale that children (even an overgrown one like me!) can enjoy,
A nice mix of doggie wisdom and fantasy!

Olivia says

It's a great book!

Imogen Howe says

I actually ADORE these books and I'm 15! I mostly read more mature books, but I decided to pick up this as a pastime on a short train journey. And I am so glad I did. Surprisingly creative, Andrew Cope made me weep for joy at the end and I couldn't wait to devour the next one. So read it! It doesn't take long and you won't regret it!

Lisa Faye says

I just finished reading this with my 5 year old and it really wasn't that good. The last few chapters had her pretty excited to find out what was going to happen, but most of the story just had us plodding through. We will be more particular in choosing our next chapter book!

Also to be aware, there is a lot of British slang in this book, so if your kids not British there is a lot of explaining to do!

Carrie says

A great series for reluctant readers!

Jenni says

So often the word that comes to mind when I'm thinking about Middle Grade fiction is fun. I feel like it's something I end up saying a lot, but that doesn't make it any less true. So many great Middle Grade books are fun and highly engaging, it's one of the reasons I enjoy the age grouping so much. Spy Dog, actually aimed a little below the lower end of the 8 – 12 age band lives up to this idea of fun really, really well.

We're first introduced to Lara, the Spy Dog from the title, when she's hiding out at the RSPCA's rehoming shelter. This is part of her training – if she gets split from her handlers she should go undercover as a regular pet until they can come and get her. The process of Lara getting rehomed is very entertaining, she's a highly skilled dog so there are all sorts of extra things she can think of to do in order to get herself, or one of the other dogs selected.

I really enjoyed learning about how Lara had become this canine special agent, and laughed lots as she tried to integrate herself into the normal family life. The illustrations by Chris Mould that go with this work really well and add to the humour, there are some things that are a little difficult to imagine – he captures these really well.

There's plenty of action within this story, keeping the read pacy and engaging. The chapters are short which I would imagine will work in the favour of young children who ask for "just one more..." to be read at bedtime! The tone is appropriate for the intended young audience, the big villain being a drugs baron could perhaps have been a little much but it's well done with the focus being on the fact he's the baddie rather than why he's the baddie.

A fast, fun read that I'm sure young readers will lap up. If they do there's plenty more waiting for them, there are currently 20 books involving Lara, her pups and most recently Shakespeare the spy cat.
