



The Stranger Next Door

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Pete's not afraid of anything. If there's a mystery to be solved, he's your cat. Pete is Alex's cat. And since Alex and his family moved into the new housing development, Pete is Alex's only friend, too. Things start looking up for Alex and Pete when Rocky, a boy Alex's age, moves in next door. But Rocky isn't very friendly, and Alex starts to suspect he's hiding something. And when the neighborhood is terrorized by a rash of fires and vandalism, Pete knows that he's got to investigate.

The Stranger Next Door Details

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From Reader Review The Stranger Next Door for online ebook

MacKenzie Z says

This Is the Strangers Next Door. I rated this one star because it is kinda boring and it just seems original like any other books. This book takes place in modern time. The setting takes place in a neighborhood called Valley View Estates. It used to be a skateboard park but they changed it to this. The "bullies" in this book are Henry and Duke. The main characters are Alex, Rocky, Benji, Mrs. Kendrick, and Mr. and Mrs. Morris. Rocky and Mr. and Mrs. Morris are new to Valley View Estates. So is Benji, Alex, and Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick but not as new. Henry and Duke always bug Alex about living in Valley View Estates because they say "only stuck up rich kids" live there. So Alex is new and doesn't really have any friends. So then these people from New York come. That is Mr. and Mrs. Morris and Rocky. They changed their names because they don't want anybody to know who they are. So nobody knows their real names. Before they moved they also got new birth certificates. Later in the book somebody takes down one of the street signs. Which is illegal. So the Kendrick family are trying to figure out who it is. Alex thinks it is Henry and Duke because they hate him. Benji thinks it is the new people because they are trying to terrorize the world. (because he is a little kid and has a big imagination.)

Kat (Lost in Neverland) says

I liked Spy Cat a lot better. Rocky just moved into a new housing development, but he had to leave behind all his stuff, his house, his dog...and his name. His real name is Clifford, and a gang of drug dealers are after his family, so they had to change their names, they had to move to a new house, and stay low until his mother's testimony against the drug gang is done. Meanwhile, a mysterious arsonist is threatening the neighborhood where Alex, his cat Pete, and his family live. Rocky's house is burned down by the arsonist, and Pete knows who did it. Now, Pete must find a way to bust the arsonist, and save Alex from being burned out by the fire for good.

I thought it was a nice, quick read. But for a children's book, it was a bit rough. I mean, drug dealers who smuggle drugs in cars to carry across the country? What are drugs doing in a kid's book? But all in all, a very good book, but as I said before, Spy Cat was much better.

Carol Caldwell says

I liked the story. The plot moved well. It didn't get stuck anywhere. You get a good idea of the main characters, what they think and feel. The author has won numerous awards for her children's books.

As a writer myself I try to pay attention to construction, point of view and showing vs. telling when I read. That way I can learn from successful authors. This writer changed points of view in the middle of chapters and changed scenes without an indication. I was able to follow the story well because I had a sense of who was who. But I've been told that multiple points of view are difficult and changing them on the same page is to be avoided at all cost. However, there were two story lines that came together with one main character per story line. That makes it necessary to have two points of view and then she added the story as seen by the cat, who moves in and out of the plot.

I'm still learning what makes a good story and what doesn't. Obviously bending some rules worked in this book.

Alli Nash says

I have read this book before but I liked it so I decided to read it again. It was over a year ago though so I forgot some stuff and was surprised a second time. I was surprised with the way some characters acted towards Alex. I also loved the way the author added in Pete the cat's point of view. I thought that was a fun way of adding some "spice" to the book. The background of Rocky I thought was also a good addition. I like mysterious books and that was this one was kind of. At first this book was kind of just a book to read so I could get the review done. But I'm glad I read it again. It was also somewhat of a short read so I was able to get it done quickly which I liked.

Jim says

I never saw *The Cable Guy*. Knowing the premise of the film was enough to put me off. *The Stranger Next Door* is very similar, a couple move to a little retirement cottage where they hope to live quietly until they die. All is fine for a week until their next door neighbour, the monosyllabic Mr Bernardin, comes calling. This visit is uncomfortable, he seems to want to do nothing but sit in silence, but at least he finally leaves only to come back the next day and then the next and then the next.

Who is he? What does he want and why does no one ever see his wife? What's wrong with her? You can't help but get dragged along. And when you start to see the horrible bigger picture it's hard not to keep looking even though you don't really want to know what's going on.

If this hasn't put you off then go for it. It really isn't a bad book, its just the subject matter. Strange book, very strange.

Kathy says

A mystery told from two points of view, so that the reader knows about Rocky's past and understands his reluctance to make friends, even as Alex grows to like Rocky and to wish that they could get to know each other better. Bullying juvenile delinquents confuse the issue, so that the climax comes as a surprise, and all's well that ends well. Not one of Peg Kehret's best, but a suspenseful story that will appeal to mystery fans.

Michelle says

Highly enjoyable children's book featuring the clever, courageous, and capable cat Pete. Some of the story is told from the cat's point of view in what to a cat-lover seems like a highly authentic and humorous voice. The plot's not bad too.

Janete says

The principal character is Alex who is been bullying at the school for being the new kid and he has a cat named Pete. Pete is a very clever and sarcastic cat who "investigates" two arsons in the neighborhood and saves Alex from die in one of the arsons. The other character is Rocky whose family participates in the US witness program and moves in for the Valley View States condo, where Alex, his family and Pete live, and where there are a lot of houses empty. Pete the cat is really cute and fun!

American says

Peg Kehret is one of my favorite children's mystery authors, though they are never usually 'scary', more what I call 'spooky', but I like the spooky atmosphere. They usually all teach a moral lesson, which I do like about them, and they sometimes show what to do in a dangerous situation and what not to do. The books by her and 'Pete the Cat' are some of my favorites by her, but I like the 'Ellen and Corey' series a little better. I also like some of the single books like 'Stolen Children'. I've never read the 'Frightmares' or the 'Disaster' books by her.

Strangely, I didn't read this until after the sequel, because I didn't what order they went in, but after reading it, I did like it. I did enjoy this more than the sequel, because of the mystery and suspense, but all three in the series are well written.

When Alex, a 12 year old boy, Pete the Cat, and their family move into a new house and new town, they meet their neighbors, Rocky, a boy Alex's age, and his family. But when Alex tries to befriend Rocky, he acts strange and mysterious, and one night Rocky's house is on fire! What could be happening with Rocky's family that they don't want anyone to know about?

If you enjoy suspense, mystery, and humor you should read 'The Stranger Next Door', then read the rest of the 'Pete the Cat' series, or read my favorite books by Peg Kehret, the 'Ellen and Corey' books.

Sophia says

This book is about a boy named Alex and his cat named Pete. His next door neighbor is a boy named Clifford and later in the story his names turns into Rocky. In there neighborhood there are fires that keep on happen. Pete the cat was roaming around there neighborhood when he saw the same black car that started the last fires. Alex called for Pete to come but he still couldn't fine him. Later he saw a bright light by a house went towards the light and the house was on fire. He also saw the same black car that started the last fires. He wanted to call 911 but by the time they got there he would be gone. So he decided to get his licences plat number. The car was driving of so Alex had to get it quick. Alex almost got all of it but the light shined right into his eye. So he standed up and tried to get the back of the cars licences plat he got all of it. But the car slammed on the brakes turned around and faced a gun right towards him.

Lady Delacour says

Pete the Cat is
a nice mystery
with kid action,
adult suspense
and humor.

Listened with TTS.
100% Clean.

Linnaea says

Pete the jungle beast is a heroic cat - he saved his person! I need a cat like that.

Joe Cee says

An exceptional work of literature. This book is also a quick read.

Kelcey says

This book is a fast paced read and great for readers with short attention spans. There is always something happening and the constant additions to the text from Pete the cat keep things lively and fun. There is a wide variety of subject material in the book and there was more going on with the plot than I ascertained from reading the summary on the book. The evasive young boy who moves in next door is actually trying to deal with being in the Witness Protection Program because his mother is testifying in a major drug trial. I think the author does a good job portraying the mixed feelings and difficulty in adjusting that a boy this age would have with the whole situation. He doesn't just passively accept his life being turned upside down, he is mad about it!

Most of the mystery element in this book revolves around Pete the cat. The reader can see Pete's thoughts and understand his "words" and follows his actions when Pete is not with Alex. Pete turns out to be the main investigator in this book: he watches the different suspects in the neighborhood, finds clues and leads the human investigators to them, and saves Alex when he is trapped in a house fire by alerting the neighbors. It is a lot of fun to watch Pete's brand of mystery-solving where he is literally sniffing out clues and using scents to identify criminals. This is humor, mystery and realistic fiction all bound up into one fast compelling little read.

Reagan says

Pete is Alex's cat. A boy names Rocky moves into Alex's neighborhood. Alex wants to be his friend, but Rocky doesn't want to be his friend. Later there are fires in the neighborhood. Will they catch the person who set the fires? Read this book to find out!

I really like this book. You have got to read it!
