



The Midas Box

G.P. Taylor

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Fresh out of school, young Mariah faces a new chapter of his life living in the Prince Regent hotel, built into the rock face of a cliff side. His job is to assist the magician in the stage shows held for the guests. Above ground, the guests are offered every form of luxury. Below ground, in the slimy, green-dripping walls of the basements, is where the magic show equipment is kept - and lurking in an Egyptian sarcophagus amongst scuttling sea-creatures is a secret that draws Mariah into the path of villainy, plots and possible death.

This gripping thriller from master of suspense G.P. Taylor is rich in fear, tension, plot-twists and adventure.

The Midas Box Details

Date : Published November 2007 by Faber & Faber

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Author : G.P. Taylor

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From Reader Review The Midas Box for online ebook

Phoebe says

Very good mystery and adventure book. Similar to books such as Echo Falls Mystery books and Harry Potter.

Jen says

Really liked this book with its mix of fantasy, history and Dickensian elements.

Mariah Mundi is an orphan who is sent to Scarborough at the end of his time at the Orphan's Home, to work in the Regency Hotel for Otto Luger.

Karl says

Weird atmosphere throughout the book, which really suits the story. Liked it so much that I read the other 2 straight after. I think I enjoyed the second book more!

Tyas says

The thing that I found strange about this book is the pacing of the story: the book is quite thick, but everything that happens in it happens only in two or three days. And they all start to happen as soon as Mariah Mundi set his foot for the first time in the Prince Regent Hotel, fresh from the Colonial School, ready to be a helper to the great magician Bizmillah. So I'd say, Mariah's days and nights have been indeed very, very busy.

I like the dark overtone of the book, although, well, so many things are crammed into it sometimes I wonder "Did Taylor really need to put this all in?" I have to admit that those things eventually cross ways and become clear in the end, but the way there is a bit tiring and a bit too full for my liking.

As for Mariah, at the beginning I thought he's a rather boring, flat character - but when he finally showed his true colours, I laughed so hard and fell in love with the boy. (Yes, if you have been noticing, Mariah is a *he*.) Closet badass!

Now I feel sorry I didn't buy the second book while I was in Singapore.

Ted says

I've suspended my reading of this book for the time-being, because I just can't get into the story. In fact, I can

never get further than a chapter at most at any given time (and I normally devour books; I stopped reading this on a bus trip in favor of another story, which I finished within a day).

To be blunt, this book is boring. From the description, you'd think it sounded okay - at the point I've reached, there's been the finding of a key, a secret room, a mysteriously moving toy doll and a strange death - and yet it all seems to drag. Perhaps it's the prose, or the pacing, but there's just nothing to compel the story.

Another problem is the lack of well-defined characters. There are perhaps five characters of any note who have appeared so far (with a few minors here and there), and they all seem to be lacking in substance. The worst-suffering in this department are Mariah and Sacha, the two twelve-year-old leads; as the designated main protagonists, I would expect them to have more depth to them. There is never any motivation given for their actions, and they experience little to no emotion, which makes it very hard to connect to their journey. It's also grating that their actions seem so contradictory: for example, Mariah may be dutifully cleaning when Sacha pulls him away for an adventure, and he protests, and the next minute she is exclaiming they should return to their work to avoid trouble while he coaxes her on. It's as though the author didn't bother to decide which of them was courageous and which was meek and simply had them alternate performing the required action to drive the plot forward.

I'm having a hard time getting through what seems like it should be an easy read, so I'm not sure I'm going to finish this, although a stubborn part of me wants to try since I have never left a book unfinished before. However, Mariah Mundi may just defeat me.

Alexis says

This book was very good and then I had to return it to the library and then my mom got it again and i finished it. Pretty slow at the end, but still worth reading.! LOVED IT!

Ayu Palar says

The cover is eye-catching. Well done illustration! Can't wait to meet Mariah (not Carey, ahem)!

Carly says

I am reasonably certain this is the only children's book in the world meant for boys and written by a British author that I was just unable to get through. I kept wishing something would happen. Honestly, ten-year-olds probably have more patience than I do, so it's possible I just gave up right before the author pulled out all the freaking awesome stuff, but no. It just didn't do it for me.

C.O. Bonham says

I picked this book up because of a movie that came out recently called *The Adventurer: the curse of the Midas Box* it claimed to be based on this book but like most movies it was completely unlike the book.

Surprisingly it was still an enjoyable movie and reading the book has not changed my opinion of it.

This book was full of great atmosphere and contained many mythological elements. More elements than were necessary, but they did all come into play during the climax of the plot and tied in believably.

This book is one of those that you need to really keep at it in order to get into. The first half is really just a random series of odd occurrences, and the character of Mariah is just reacting to everything. But about halfway things start tying together and Mariah finally earns his places as a Protagonist (the one who makes things happen).

So if you're looking for an adventure and you have the time to spend on it, then Mariah Mundi has plenty to tempt your imagination with.

Deviki says

Wow i don't know how this could happen to me
3 times in a row I've read a book that made me wanna cry.
and I don't mean that a good way.

This book looked awesome. I was browsing though the book sale and came across this book. Read the back and was like "OK sound awesome". MY BAD !

Honestly this book was very annoying because it was dragging and too descriptive over everything and anything. More than one occasion I ended up saying "OMG get on with the effin story already!"
It was that bad. It was too wordy in sense that the author decided to spell out in detail of everything that is going around the character rather than focusing on the story itself. And also i felt there was many part of the story in this book to be unnecessary! The poor character build up in this book had made me want to just put down the book and go to sleep.
It is suppose to be a adventure mystery but it was very poorly done. It did not grab my attention even after reading it until chapter 17.
Honest speaking even after up to chapter 17 it is still unclear as to what the kids are looking for. Too many yet too slow to build up my interest.
Sorry to say this book is not a book i would recommend for teenagers or kids, unless you want to put them to sleep.
This book has good plot, different look and feel to it, but too dragy.

Hidden Away says

8/12/08 it might be too early to make a judgment on this book because I have only finished the first chapter. But the character introduced here are not that interesting. I will keep on and then we will see.

Rick says

I don't get G.P. Taylor, but there is something about the author's style that makes me think of the London of

Dickens' era or that of a land completely inhabited by mystical pirates. As great as that might sound Taylor's story try very hard to be something they seem to just fail at reaching. Ok, but forgettable.

Brandie says

Somewhat slow start but stick with it! I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Target audience is young adult/teen but this is really for anyone who still appreciates a good fantasy mystery novel.

Jordan says

This book was a disappointment to me, the blurb sounded amazing and i started to read, the whole book just went downhill from there.

Helen says

Gave up about page 200. The plot is a mess, 200 pages in and it's still skipping between scenes in different places, about different things, with different characters. I'm not sure what the actual story is.

The main character has no personality, and though there seem to be some interesting villains they are getting very little page time.

My biggest disappointment is that I can't get a feel for the hotel. It should be an exciting, vibrant place full of character, but it feels a bit odd and random, with new rooms dropped in when the author needs them and then never revisited.

It's not holding my interest, and I keep picking up other books to read instead.
