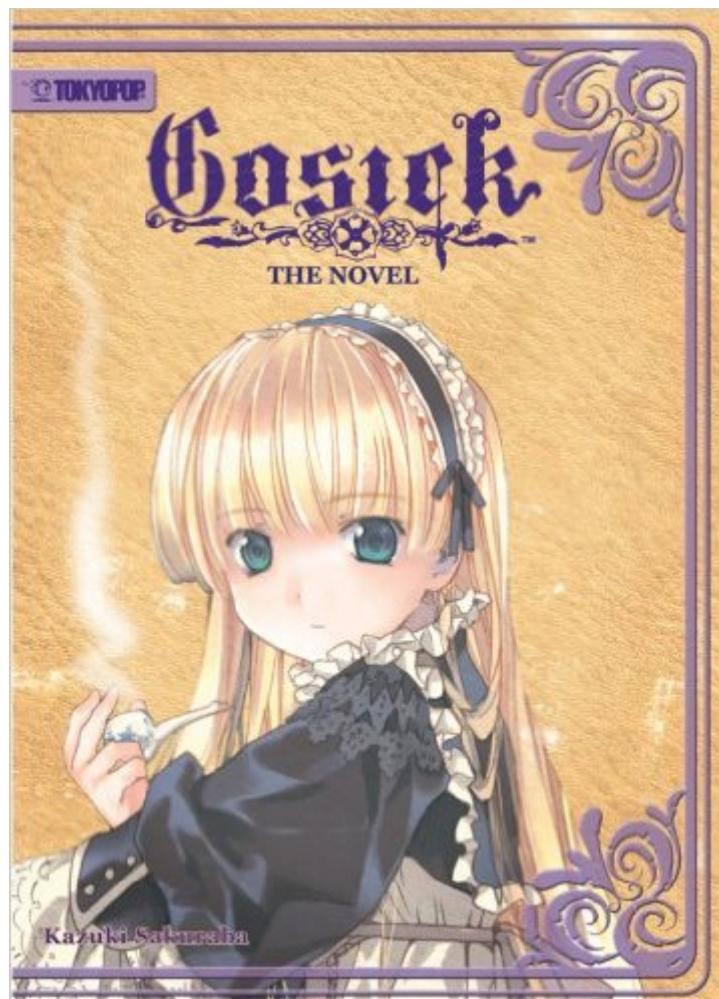


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GOSICK Volume 1



Synopsis

The year is 1924, the place, Sauville, a small European country neatly tucked beside the Alps... Kazuya Kujo has been studying abroad at the prestigious Saint Marguerite Academy, where urban legends and horror stories are all the rage. Most Kazuya ignores--but the story of the Queen Berry, a mysterious ghost ship, really gets to him. Of course, his brainy friend Victorique is much more intrigued by true stories, and she uses her unrivaled logic to solve mysteries even the town's famous detective can't. Ironically, it's Victorique's inquisitive nature that leads the duo to board a ship that matches the Queen Berry's description to a tee, a ship that might just hold the key to solving a sinister mystery... Kazuki Sakuraba's modern twist on Holmes and Watson--pairing Victorique, a wizened young girl with doll-like looks and her eager-to-please sidekick Kazuya--make this international bestseller a must-read murder mystery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For as long as many of us can remember, mystery novels have been given the shaft by the YA market. Passed over in favor of stories featuring sparkling vampires, spies and science fiction, the mystery genre has been viewed by many as a niche. As each year passes, it wavers dangerously close to fading into the background along with other recently forgotten YA genres such as Westerns. Though a number of recent paranormal YA have attempted to add mystery-like elements into their stories, they have usually fallen short of creating the iconic trademark that has defined the genre for so long. When asked why there isn't any focus on mystery in the current Young Adult

market, a number of book bloggers have proclaimed that the genre is just too difficult for the YA market to produce. When I randomly stumbled across a new YA offering from Japan while browsing the aisles of Barnes and Noble, I grew curious. Would a Japanese author be able to breathe new life into the genre? I was soon about to find out. Set in a small European country beside the Alps during 1924, the story follows Kujo Kazuya, a Japanese teenager sent abroad by his family to study at the prestigious Saint Marguerite Academy, and his adventures with the doll faced and inquisitive Victorique. When the young girl's investigative nature leads her to a cruise ship that matches the description of one of the school's local ghost stories, the two find themselves caught up in a life and death race against time that promises to pit their intellect against an unknown killer. Trapped at sea, the two discover a terrifying clue. This isn't the first time this has happened. If there was any worry that the mystery genre was too hard for the YA market, lay it aside now. *GOSICK*, in a word, is stunning.

Gosick is 232 pages long and I wish it was longer. This is a mystery novel that makes us question our very humanity. This story is on 3rd person. This story is described as a modern twist on Holmes and Watson even though it's set in 1924. **The Characters:** The novel has two main characters, and a large cast of well-developed side characters. Kazuya Kujo is the main protagonist, the story is mostly told from his viewpoint of view (but in a 3rd person perspective). Kujo is prideful, sincere, a good person with a pure soul. Victorique De Blois is the heroin of this novel. She is incredibly smart, and uses her brain to figure out who the killer is why the murdered certain characters. She is shown to have an eccentric attitude and abusive bluntness. She gets easily bored, which is when her more eccentric attitude shows up, otherwise she's actually quite serious. **The Mystery** There is a total of three different mysteries, each connecting to each other in an interesting way. My favorite thing about this book was that it is possible for you to guess how the mysteries fall out, unlike other mystery books that bring out their conclusions out of their butts. Here is one very big clue from the novel: We all introduced ourselves: names, ages, nationalities, how we had come to be on board. Only one thing was always different, nationality: England, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, America, Turkey, the Middle East, China and Suaville. There were a few like Ree who didn't speak any language the rest of us could understand, but it seemed like all eleven children were from different countries, like one if us had been gathered from each part of the world. And we all had one thing in common: we all were orphans. If we vanished, no one would ever look for us.

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