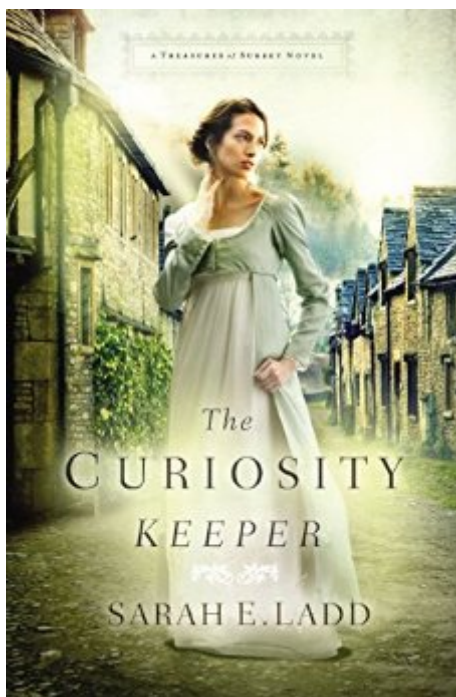


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The Curiosity Keeper (A Treasures Of Surrey Novel)



Synopsis

It is not just a ruby, as you say. It is large as a quail's egg, still untouched and unpolished. And it is rumored to either bless or curse whoever possesses it. Camille Iverness can take care of herself. She's done so since the day her mother abandoned the family and left Camille to run their shabby curiosity shop. But when a violent betrayal leaves her injured with no place to hide, Camille must allow a mysterious stranger to come to her aid. Jonathan Gilchrist never wanted to inherit Kettering Hall. As a second son, he was content to work as the village apothecary. But when his brother's death made him heir just as his father's foolish decisions put the estate at risk, only the sale of a priceless possession—a ruby called the Bevoy—can save the family from ruin. But the gem has disappeared. And all trails lead to Iverness Curiosity Shop—and the beautiful shop girl who may be the answer to his many questions. Caught at the intersection of blessings and curses, greed and deceit, these two determined souls must unite to protect what they hold dear. But when a passion that shines far brighter than any gem is ignited, they will have to decide how much they are willing to risk for their future, love, and happiness.

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Customer Reviews

Camille Iverness lives with her father in a curiosity shop [Iverness Curiosity Shop] on Blinkett Street in London. The daily minutia of Camille's life revolves around the operation of this shop while her father happens to vanish for days at a time, meeting with buyers. Camille is used to being firm and strong, a lot of the time dealing with those who are clearly unhappy with her father, a man who is known for his terrible reputation. James Iverness seems altogether to be a shadowy figure looming in the background while the dark-haired Camille is front and center. Elsewhere in England, there is a young man by the name of Jonathan Gilchrist and his family harbors a great secret. His own father, Ian Gilchrist has lost his most treasured possession, a great ruby known as the Bevoy. It is a controversial stone that is known for either cursing or blessing its possessor. Moreover, the entire Gilchrist fortune, which was so carelessly squandered by Ian Gilchrist in decades past, is now dependent on the great ruby. Jonathan, who is heir to the Gilchrist fortune and Kettering Hall, is charged by his father with the mission of tracking down the Bevoy himself. To add insult to injury, Jonathan's sister, Penelope Gilchrist hopes to wed her betrothed, Alfred Dowden. If Alfred discovers Penelope's family's penurious state, it is very likely that he will break things off with her and it will lessen her desirability as a potential wife. In short, everything is highly dependent on uncovering the Bevoy. In his search for the Bevoy, Jonathan enlists the help of Henry Darbin, an investigator who was a childhood friend of his deceased older brother, Thomas Gilchrist.

London 1812 Camille and her father, James Iverness, own and run the Iverness Curiosity Shop. It is filled with all kinds of unusual items that many collectors enjoy purchasing for their collections. Lately, James has been angering some of his customers who say he has been cheating them which makes Camille very frightened both for her father and for her own safety. Camille lived on a lovely estate as a child but when her grandfather died, her father sold the property and invested the money in the Shop. At the same time, Camille's mother left for Portugal to care for her ailing mother who is now better but her mother never returned. After eleven years in London, all Camille ever gets is an occasional letter from her mother and spends all of her time keeping the books at the Shop.

Fellsworth Surrey England 1812 Jonathan Gilchrist is the second son of Ian Gilchrist of Kettering Hall. His mother passed away four years ago and his old brother passed away two years ago leaving Jonathan and his sister, Penelope. Jonathan's passion is caring for people and is the village's apothecary choosing to live in his shop rather than at Kettering Hall. One place

where he volunteers his talents is at Fellsworth School. Ian Gilchrist has always been a huge collector of unusual items some of which he has purchased from James Iverness. When he discovers that a huge ruby known as The Bevoy has been stolen from his collection, he summons Jonathan and demands that he begin a search for it. Due to some bad financial decisions, if it is not found, the family stands to lose Kettering Hall. Thinking that James Iverness might be behind this, he ventures to the shop only to witness a robbery in place where Camille ends up being stabbed.

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