



## ***Friday Barnes Under Suspicion*** **by R.A. Spratt**

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**RRP \$19.99**

Friday Barnes makes a welcome return in her second crime-solving adventure novel. The clever 11-year-old lives at the private Highcrest Academy amongst wealthy students who look down on the shabbily-dressed girl. The young investigator pays her own school fees by solving crimes and her classmates' problems.

Friday's brilliant, absent-minded parents have left her to her own devices since she was very young. Their intelligent daughter has developed extraordinary coping skills and a wide-ranging store of knowledge through reading her way through her parents' academic library. She's a mature young woman, wise beyond her years.

Crime novels are Friday's passion and, with some guidance from her private detective uncle, she has developed acute powers of deduction to equal Sherlock Holmes. Her one good friend is dreamy Melanie who trails along after Friday, helping her whenever there's not too much effort required.

Friday is presented with a variety of challenges ranging from the petty problems of her irritating classmates, to larger mysteries such as the numerous holes appearing in the school field. She's also surprised by the competitive attentions of two good-looking students who may not have good intentions.

The novel moves along at a fast pace with excellent dialogue amidst the dilemmas of the entertaining characters inhabiting the boarding school. An enjoyable read.

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**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**

