



Kaleidoscope Eyes

By Jen Bryant

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Will Lyza's 1968 summer mystery lead to . . . pirate treasure?

When Lyza helps her dad clean out her late grandfather's house, a mysterious surprise brightens the sad task. In Gramps's dusty attic, Lyza discovers three maps, carefully folded and stacked, bound by a single rubber band. On top, an envelope says "For Lyza ONLY." What could this possibly be? It takes the help of her two best friends, Malcolm and Carolann, to figure out that the maps reveal three possible spots in their own New Jersey town where Captain Kidd (*the* Captain Kidd, seventeenth-century pirate) may have buried a treasure. Can three thirteen-year-olds actually conduct a secret treasure hunt? And what will they find?

In a tale inspired by a true story of buried treasure, Jen Bryant weaves an emotional and suspenseful novel in poems, all set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War during a pivotal year in U.S. history.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The summer of 1968 provides a fertile backdrop for Bryant's verse novel about Lyza, her friends, and their hunt for Captain Kidd's lost treasure in a New Jersey neighborhood. While cleaning out her recently deceased, thrill-seeking grandfather's house, Lyza finds a plain envelope with her name on it. Inside are maps and vague clues about one last adventure that he saved for her. Lyza enlists her friends Malcolm and Carolann, "a tall, shy black guy and a small, hyperactive white girl," swearing them to secrecy. Their sneaking around leads to a grounding, which leads to more sneaking around. For a story involving pirate treasure, it takes awhile to pick up speed. The poetry format doesn't always seem purposeful, and the ending is implausible. However, the characters are endearing and the setting is vivid. The events of the small town filter into the teens' lives in realistic ways: Malcolm's older brother is drafted, Lyza's older sister is a hippie, and boys they know are killed in the war or come home changed forever. Grades 5-7. --Heather Booth

Review

Starred Review, [Kirkus Reviews](#), April 1, 2009:

"Readers will fall under the spell of the delicious plot."

Starred Review, [Publishers Weekly](#), May 25, 2009:

"Sincere and well-paced, with the backdrop of a tumultuous period in history, the story is not easily forgotten."

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Jen Bryant is the acclaimed author of poetry, biographies, picture books, and fiction, including *The Fortune of Carmen Navarro*; *Ringside, 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial*; *Pieces of Georgia*; and *The Trial*, a novel for young readers about the 1932 kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh's son.

A graduate of Gettysburg College, Jen Bryant teaches children's literature at West Chester University and lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and daughter. To learn more about the author and her books, please visit www.jenbryant.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lori Hunt:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a book, we give you this specific Kaleidoscope Eyes book as beginner and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Edward Cooley:

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Brenda Villa:

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Ashley Gibson:

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