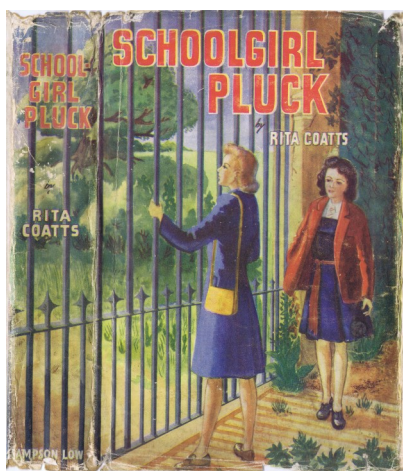


Ripping Reads

No 50 August 2024



Schoolgirl Pluck by Rita Coatts
and
Harlequin Corner by Pamela Brown
by Linda Buckingham

On our way to catch the overnight ferry to France we stopped for a break in a motorway service station. I immediately gravitated to the charity book table and picked up two hardbacks with dustcovers. Whilst I was deciding if they were worth a donation my husband said “They look like your sort of books.” I paid my donation and put them in my bag.

Whilst on holiday I started with

Schoolgirl Pluck, first published in 1961. Janet is to attend Basset Boarding School where she imagines herself walking freely in the nearby woods and grounds of Hallow Hall. Dismayed to be told that the pupils do not roam free and the grounds of the Hall are out of bounds, she remains curious and becomes sure that there is a mystery. The book details how she discovered the mystery, its implications and its consequences.

Harlequin Corner was first published in 1953. Three children whose parents are holidaying in the south of France are packed off to London to spend their holiday with distant relatives who own a theatrical costumiers. Nicola, Candy and Crispian are delighted but their initial delight is overshadowed by a mystery. Crispian’s desire to become a detective and the girls’ love of anything connected to the theatre inspires the children set about solving the mystery with enthusiasm.

Both are a good read and worth a charitable donation but are not, in my opinion, of the calibre of the Chalet School books.

