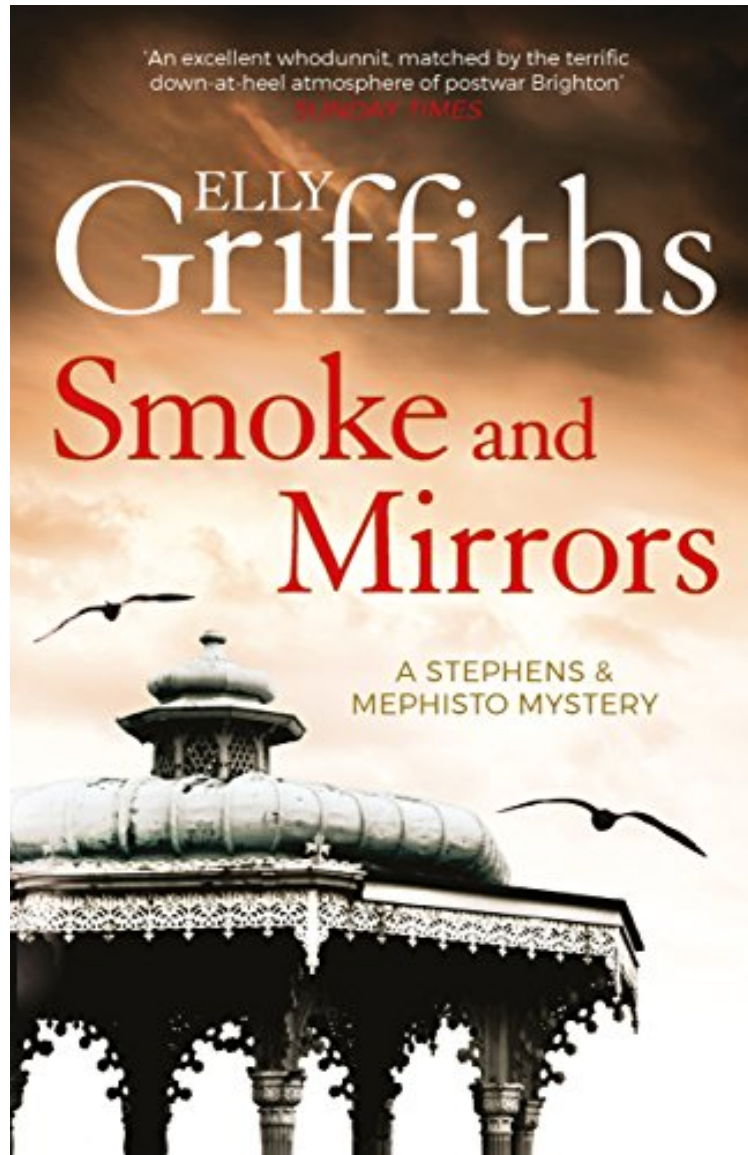


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## Smoke and Mirrors: Stephens and Mephisto Mystery 2 (Stephens Mephisto Mystery)

Von Elly Griffiths

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**Von Elly Griffiths : Smoke and Mirrors: Stephens and Mephisto Mystery 2 (Stephens Mephisto Mystery)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smoke and Mirrors: Stephens and Mephisto Mystery 2 (Stephens Mephisto Mystery):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. For

some misdirections or sleights of the hand there's no need for a magician...Von Miki101.Micha ... like Max Mephisto. Ordinary people too can use those "Magic Tools" simply by laying out false tracks and traces.This is the second thriller in the "Stephens and Mephisto" series, masterly written by Elly Griffiths. Who is mostly known for her outstanding books about the anthropo-pathologist Ruth Galloway. But this one goes way back in England's history - six years after the ending of WW II.Brighton, December 1951.It is Christmas time and the Pantomime season is in full swing on the pier with Max Mephisto and the Great Diablo making marvellous appearances in "Aladdin".But not only the adults are in the theatre business. Annie Francis is a 13-year old very bright scholar, writing pantomimes herself. Her second in command is Mark Webster, twelve, a quiet boy, hanging around Annie always permanently.One day - seen on the way to the sweets store after playing with other children - they vanish into thin air. Puff - smoke and mirrors...When they are found some day later murdered in the snow, the police officers around DI Edgar Stephens also find a track of sweets leading to them. First suspicions are raised: is the sweet's seller the culprit? A mob is fastly forming and only the interference of the Police can avoid the worst for the poor man. But DI Edgar Stephens has plenty of other leads to investigate.The girl, Annie, used to write eccentric plays based on some Grimms' fairy tales. Does the clue lie in Annie's unfinished - and rather disturbing - last script? Which is rehearsed in regular intervals at the garage theatre of Uncle Brian, a well-known local unmarried man. Who is also very well spoken-of, so obviously no danger from this side.When the actors talk about the bizarre circumstances of the crime, it's like a lightning out of the blue: The same thing happened to a young girl in 1911. The female part of the "Babes in the Wood", a Hansel-and-Gretel-alike pantomime was brutally slain. And the Greats Diablo was there, even when the murderer was found, trialled and hanged. But the poor, gravely disturbed man had a son. Which is now in the "Show-Bizz" too, and not too far away. Mere coincidences? No cop worth his or her salary believes in them...Edgar and Max are playing "Partners in Crime" again, like in the previous case of the The Zig Zag Girl: The 1st Stephens and Mephisto Mystery (English Edition) . But this time the past almost does not count - only ONE fact of the past is really counting at the very end.Diving deeper into the very dark waters of Fairy Tales, we will - together with our two heroes and their fidel helpers Emma and Bob of the Brighton Police Constabulary - find out, what is buried in those "Stories for the Little Ones". Who are able to shock hard-boiled policemen, too.Nothing to do with the Merry Pantomimes like Aladdin. Pantomime - a now almost forgotten art-form because of the invention of wireless aka radio first, then the TV, movies and other more or less cultural inventions to pass the time, nowadays.Then an other girl, Betty the sister of Annie, is abducted. Did she too know too much?Here in this case an old wisdom of Sherlock Holmes is displayed in a more modern form, but always valuable and true: If You eliminate all the possibilities, the remaining one - how flebile it may be - MUST be the solution!And we will see a cold-blooded killer trying an other of his misdirections, but this time fortunately without any success...I myself like those crimes from a time long ago - many of us weren't even born in this fatal Christmas period of 1951. This is a very well researched crime with characters far away from being common people. Each and every one is really unique, outstanding.And this is an art-form Elly Griffiths is always presenting masterly in her books. For all those who also love history in a good crime-story.

KurzbeschreibungBrighton, 1950s, mid-winter. Two missing children are found buried under snow in this chilling new case for DI Stephens and Max Mephisto. Max's star turn in Aladdin has been overshadowed by the murder of two local children. With fairy tales in the air, it's not long before the press have found a nickname for the case: 'Hansel and Gretel'. 'An excellent whodunnit, matched by the terrific down-at-heel atmosphere of postwar Brighton' - The TimesDI Edgar Stephens has plenty of leads to investigate. The missing girl, Annie, used to write plays and perform them with her friends. Does the clue lie in Annie's unfinished - and rather disturbing - last script? Or might it lie with the eccentric actor types who have assembled for the pantomime?Once again Edgar enlists Max's help in penetrating the shadowy theatrical world that seems to hold the key. But is this all just classic misdirection?PressestimmenAn excellent whodunnit, matched by the terrific down-at-heel atmosphere of postwar Brighton (The Times)Griffiths evokes with skill the seedy allure of the provincial theatre and the drabness of a Britain that is still rationed (Sunday Times)Mixes cosiness and sharpness in a way that recalls the best of Agatha Christie and has a feel for showfolk worthy of Ngaio Marsh (Sunday Express)Original, lively and gripping (Independent (on The Zig Zag Girl))WerbetextChilling murder in the world of 1950s theatre - another case for DI Stephens and Max Mephisto for fans of Christopher Fowler's Bryant and May books.