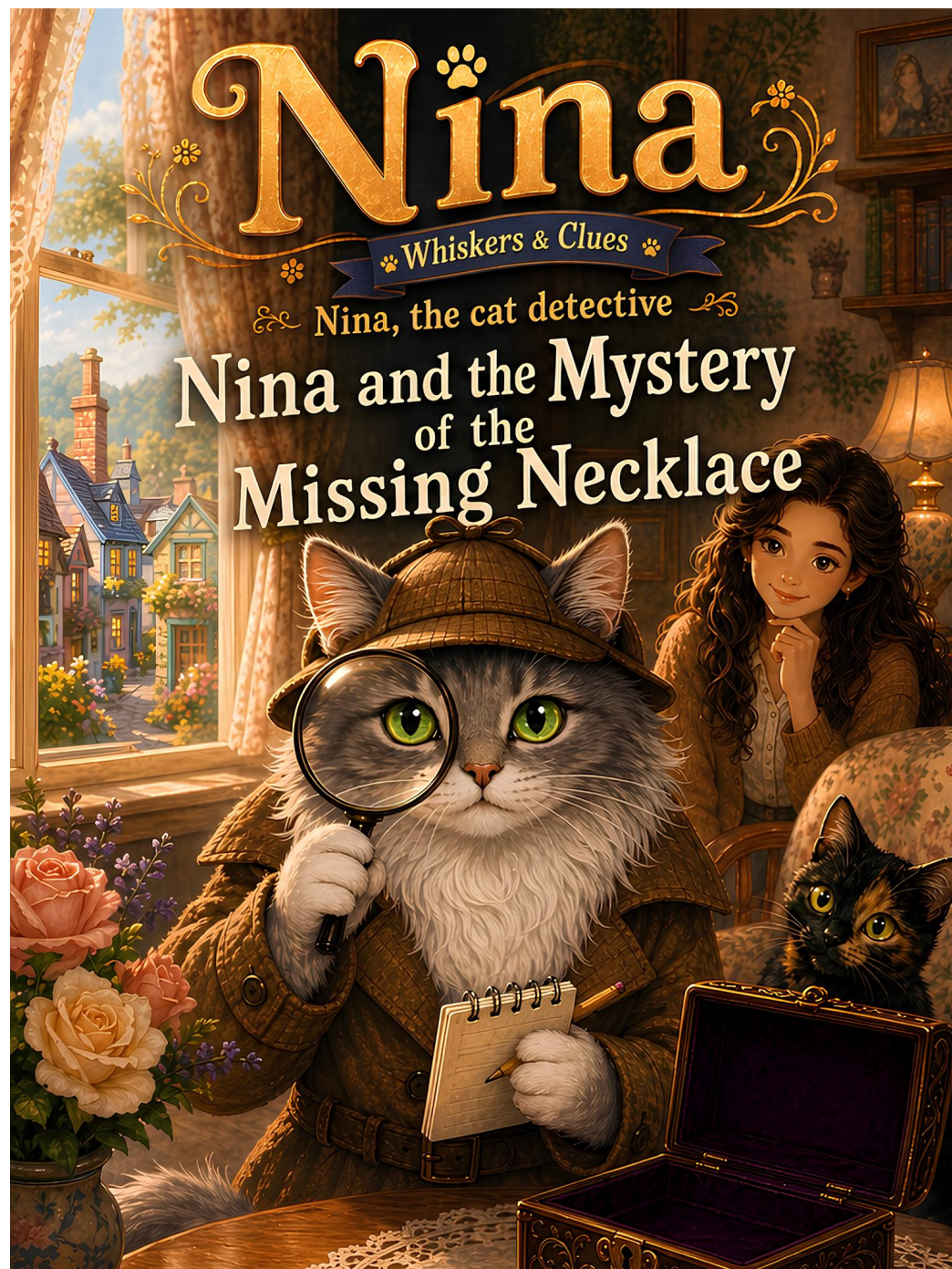




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Illustrations by Jonia Epp.

Published by Whiskerville Press.

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Welcome to Whiskerville

Welcome to Whiskers & Clues: Nina the Cat Detective.

In the cozy town of Whiskerville, mysteries have a way of turning up when you least expect them. And when they do, one clever cat is always ready to solve them.

Her name is Nina.

With her bright green eyes and her even sharper nose, Nina notices the little things that everyone else walks right past. With her best friend Emily and her bouncy little helper Paris close behind, she follows every clue until she finds the truth.

So curl up, get comfortable, and turn the page.

Because in Whiskerville, every mystery begins with a clue.



Chapter One

The Whisper

In the little town of Whiskerville, the morning began the way it always did.

The sun slipped over the rooftops. The warm smell of fresh bread floated down the cobblestone street, and a robin sang on the edge of the fountain.

It was a quiet, ordinary morning.

But Nina knew better.

Nina was a gray-and-white cat with bright green eyes, and she noticed things. The way the air felt. The way a smell drifted where it shouldn't. The small, quiet hints that something, somewhere, was not quite right.

This morning, sitting tall on the windowsill, Nina felt it.

A whisper.

Not the kind of whisper you hear, but the kind you feel, the quiet little feeling Nina always got when a mystery was on its way.

Her tail gave one slow flick.

Far down Maple Street, at the very end of the row, stood a tall old house with ivy climbing its walls. It belonged to Mrs. Hargrove, a kind old woman who loved beautiful things. Her home was full of them: painted china, soft velvet chairs, fresh roses in a vase, and pretty treasures on every shelf.

But the thing she loved most of all was a silver necklace, set with a single blue sapphire.

It had belonged to her grandmother, and to her grandmother before that. Mrs. Hargrove wore it only on special days. The rest of the time it rested safely on a little purple velvet cushion, inside a small wooden jewelry box edged with gold, that she kept on the table by her bedroom window.

She loved that necklace more than anything she owned.

The night before, she had worn it to a friend's birthday supper, the way she did on special days. When she came home, tired and happy, she set it back on its little cushion. The night was warm, so she left the window open for the breeze. And, being sleepy, she left the lid of the box open too.

That morning, still in her slippers and humming a little tune, Mrs. Hargrove came to put her necklace away properly.

She looked into the open box.

And stopped.

The velvet cushion inside was empty.

No silver.

No sapphire.

Nothing at all.

The necklace was gone.

Mrs. Hargrove pressed her hands to her cheeks. She looked again, as if the necklace might simply be hiding. She felt along the cushion. She searched the shelf. She even peered under the little table.

But it was not there.

Beside her, the window stood open, and its curtain stirred softly in the morning breeze.

Mrs. Hargrove did not know what to think. Where could it possibly have gone?

Three houses away, up on her windowsill, Nina lifted her nose to the cool morning air.

Far down the street, a flash of black and white darted from a rooftop and was gone.

There it was again. That whisper.

Something had happened in Whiskerville.

And Nina was going to find out what.

About the Author

J onia Epp is the creator of the Whiskers & Clues mystery series. She lives in the United States with her two cats: Nallie, an eighteen-year-old gray tabby who supervises the household from inside any box she can find, and Mimi, a chatty eleven-year-old tortoiseshell with strong opinions about everything.

Nina the cat detective is named for Jonia's beloved Nina, a long-haired gray-and-white cat with quiet dignity, who lived to a wise eighteen and remains the cleverest cat in any memory. Paris is named for the original Paris: a tiny tortoiseshell kitten who entered every room like a detective who had already solved the case.

In loving memory of Nina and Paris.

When she isn't writing, Jonia runs KittyMagicCreations on Etsy. Book 2 of Whiskers & Clues is in progress. (Yes, Paris is involved. Of course she is.)

Say hello at joniaepp.com

Join the Whiskerville Club

Did you love solving the mystery with Nina?

Sign up for free at: whiskerville-club.subscribepage.io

You'll get a 10-page activity pack, coloring pages, mazes, and a mini-mystery to solve. Plus, once a month, "Letters from Whiskerville" with sneak peeks of new books and free printables you won't find anywhere else.

See you in Whiskerville!

Jonia

More from Whiskerville

The Official Song

“Whiskers & Clues: Nina the Cat Detective” is the official theme song of the series. Listen on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube Music, perfect for the drive to school or quiet reading time.

Song, Printables, and Activity Packs at etsy.com/shop/KittyMagicCreations

Book 2 is coming soon! Nina and the Case of the Vanishing Cupcakes!

Thank You

If you enjoyed this book, a quick review on Amazon would mean the world.

Reviews are how tiny independent series like this one find new readers. Even two sentences is plenty, and I read every single one.

With gratitude,

Jonia