

Nina Blazon/ Franziska Harvey

Polinas Geheimnis

POLINA'S SECRET

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Age 8 years and older

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The charming and highly entertaining tale of a very different kind of au pair. The story is realistic with elements of fantasy, too.

CONTENT

So far, the twins Eric and Joanna (together they'll soon be 22 years old) have scared off each and every au pair. But then Polina arrives - with nothing more in her handbag than a ladybug print bikini. And Polina is quirky in other ways: she hardly takes any interest at all in the twins; any kind of educational ambitions are apparently entirely foreign to her. She's useless around the house, and the most she can cook is algae and frog spawn from the quarry pond. She is terrified by even a simple vacuum cleaner, yet the most spine-chilling horror film from the twins' secret stash elicits nothing more than a bored yawn. And where Polina actually comes from remains a secret for a long time. The Ukraine, her home according to the official story, is definitely not it. But instead, she teaches the goldfish Elvis to swim backwards and do somersaults and tells tales of killer octopuses and mother-of-pearl princesses. In short, Eric and Joanna soon grow very fond of Polina and keep her incompetence a secret from their mother by managing the household all by themselves. They want to keep Polina around, with her breathtaking stories, at any cost! One day at the swimming pool the secret of Polina's origin is revealed: she dives into her own world as a mermaid - never to be seen again.

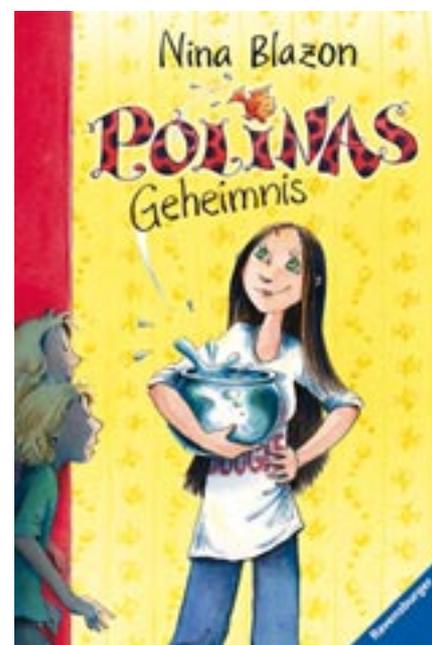
Polina is a modern Mary Poppins figure. Through their contact with an unconventional nanny, two children learn to surpass themselves. This story is funny and entertaining with a clever plot that in spite of all its fantasy remains believable.

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THE AUTHOR

Nina Blazon, born in 1969, studied Slavic and German Studies and completed an internship in the field of editing. She taught at several universities, wrote copy for an advertising agency for four years, and has been a freelance journalist for daily newspapers and magazines. Since 2003 she has written books for children and teens in the genres of fantasy, historical fiction and mysteries. With her books, Nina Blazon aims to take her readers along on dazzling, exciting journeys from which they return exhilarated and inspired. The author lives and works in Baden-Wurtemberg.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Franziska Harvey, who was born in 1968 in Frankfurt, spent much of her childhood in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She studied graphic design at the university in Wiesbaden with concentrations in illustration and calligraphy, and has been a freelance illustrator ever since. Franziska Harvey, who loves to dance the Argentinian tango and get out into nature in her free time, lives with her husband, three children, dog and cat in Frankfurt.

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