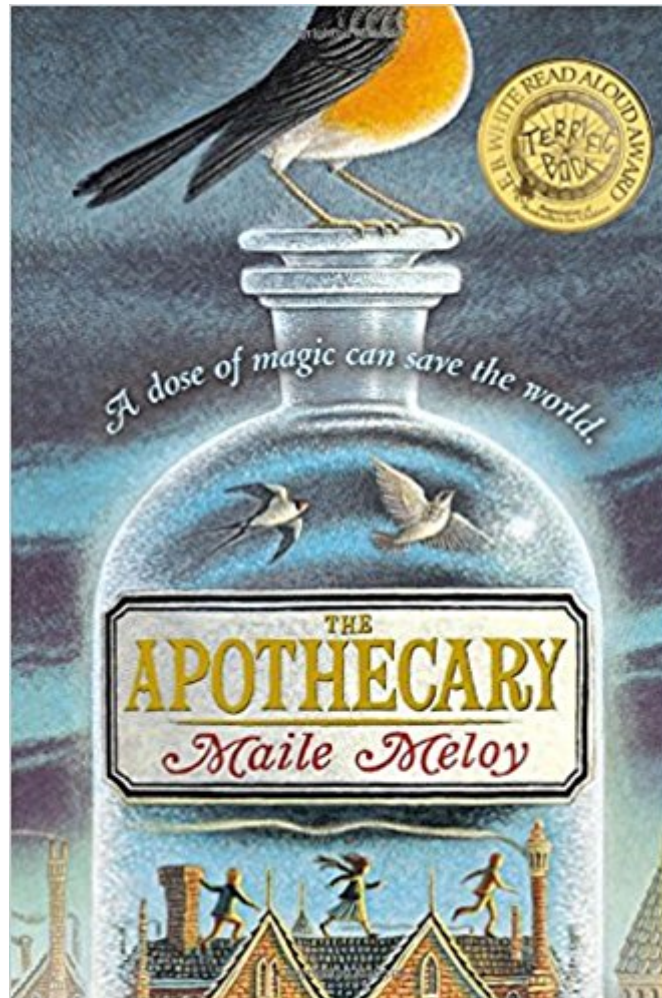




The book was found

The Apothecary (The Apothecary Series)



Synopsis

It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the hands of their enemies - Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Discovering and testing potions they never believed could exist, Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster. Together with Ian Schoenherr's breathtaking illustrations, this is a truly stunning package from cover to cover. Contains a teaser chapter of the sequel, *The Apprentices*.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0740 (What's this?)

Series: The Apothecary Series (Book 1)

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (February 12, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142422061

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Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 140 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,702 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #1432 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#) #1950 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

"[The blend of history, culture, and the anxiety of the time with magical 'science' will keep readers just as spellbound as the characters." [Kirkus reviews](#) "[Readers] will be quickly swept up in this thoroughly enjoyable adventure, filled with magic, humor, memorable characters, and just a bit of sweet romance." [Publishers Weekly, starred review](#) "Satisfies on all levels."

• The New York Times "Pitch-perfect." • The Los Angeles Times "Meloy offers a strong narrator in Janie and an intriguing mix of history and mystery." • Booklist

Maile Meloy is the award-winning author of *The Apothecary* and *The Apprentices* as well as the adult short story collections *Both Ways* *Is the Only Way I Want It* and *Half in Love*, and the novels *Liars and Saints* and *A Family Daughter*. You can visit Maile at www.mailemeloy.com.

The whole family ended up reading this book--from Nana (70) to little bro (8). We also listened to the audio version, which has a fabulous reader. Everyone loved the story! My daughter, who is in 6th grade and had resisted the novel because I suggested it (we're at that stage...), ended up falling in love with the book and has read it numerous times. My eight-year-old surprised me by not only loving the story but also developing an interest in World War II. I thought that elements of the story might be confusing for him, but instead of being confused he became very curious and began asking questions about the McCarthy era and drawing parallels between those times and our own. The magical bits are well done--fantastic and yet still believable. It's funny and has a touch of romance, but not so much that boys are put off by yucky "girl" stuff. The mix of characters makes the book appealing to both girls and boys (not an easy task in the YA world). And there is enough adventure to make everybody ask for "one more chapter!" when you say it's time for bed. Bottom line, this is a fabulous book with characters you will have such affection for that you will be sorry to see the story end. It's literary and engaging and well written and yet the whole family can enjoy it (the audio version is particularly great for multigenerational family car trips). We can't wait for the sequel! (And if you are a grownup, be sure to check out Maile Meloy's other work, which is equally awesome, though very different.)

READ THIS BOOK! It's amazing! I really love it! The romantic tension between Ben and Janie, the mystery and different factors that play into the apothecary's magical secrets and the plots of the enemies! My very favorite was Pip! He was the perfect third to the trio, and he was always very witty and clever. Some people may not like the ending (I'm not going to spoil it, so I'll just say the special drink Janie has), but I thought it was a nice wrap-up, especially when you read the sequel. Take a chance on it!

This book was certainly not what I expected! It surprised me in a very good way! I was afraid it would be extremely scary and strange, but decided to get it anyway. Although it did have

magical/fantasy parts it also had action, adventure, and spine tingling suspense. I do not want to give away the book, but if you do not enjoy fiction and fantasy you should not get this book. Instead of an ordinary apothecary the apothecary in the book conducts spells, the change of matter (and humans changing into birds). But, the author combined fantasy and real-life events in a very interesting and engaging way. The book was extremely well written. I would recommend it to anyone of any age! Well done Maile Meloy!!!!!! :-D

Daughter read every Harry Potter and loved them, this was recommended by another parent, very well-read. Well, it exceed her expectations, saying "it may be even better than the Potter series!" liked it so much, the series has been given as a gift to other heavy-reading kids for their 11th birthdays.

I liked the plot, the characters, it was all good. Nothing terribly memorable but the illustrations were also great and I would recommend this to middle readers and adults with a child-heart :) The only thing was the characters were suppose to be 14ish and I kept thinking they were 9 or 10 based on their thoughts and actions, until they were kissing and then I was surprised until I remembered they were suppose to be older. Oh, yeah. Nice to have a female protagonist that boys will probably not mind reading about.

With a reliably consistent voice and a plot that moves at light speed, this book was an absolute joy. The characters came alive and made me want to have my own conversation with them.

Very heartfelt and thrilling story! I will definitely read the rest of the books in this series! It was so good I read it in a day and. A half!

It was a real page turner from start to finish. I could hardly put it down. It was a fast and easy read. I hated for it to end as I enjoyed the characters so much. Read it and you'll see what I mean. Joan

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