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Book Scavenger (The Book Scavenger Series)



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller! For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, book publisher and creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger (a game where books are hidden in cities all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles). Upon her arrival, however, Emily learns that Griswold has been attacked and is now in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game he had been poised to launch. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an odd book, which they come to believe is from Griswold himself, and might contain the only copy of his mysterious new game. Racing against time, Emily and James rush from clue to clue, desperate to figure out the secret at the heart of Griswold's new game—before those who attacked Griswold come after them too. The paperback edition of Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman features a gorgeous, brightened cover and an interview with the author. This title has Common Core connections. “Full of heart and replete with challenging ciphers for readers to decode, Bertman’s debut is literary cousin to classic puzzlers like The Westing Game.” Publishers Weekly, starred review “Fans of Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library will appreciate the abundant literary allusions, and readers will hope for more adventures.” Shelf Awareness, starred review An Best Book of the Year An Indie Next List Pick A PW Best Book for Summer A Bank Street College Best Book of the Year An .com Best Book of the Month A Texas Lamplighter Award Nominee A Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Award Nominee A Georgia Children’s Book Award Finalist

Book Information

Series: The Book Scavenger series (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 141 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #7 in Books > Children’s Books >

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Age Range: 9 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • Twelve-year-old Emily doesn't have enough time to get attached to places. She and her family move yearly, pursuing a Kerouac-inspired, footloose family adventure. Through their travels, Emily anchors herself through an online community called Book Scavenger, a geocaching-style game where participants hide books in public places and reveal the locations through encoded clues. Book Scavenger is the brainchild of Garrison Griswold, the "Willy Wonka of publishing," a San Francisco-based publisher with a penchant for elaborate spectacles and games. When Emily's family moves to San Francisco, she's excited to encounter the elusive Griswold and to participate in his newest game. Unfortunately, he is attacked on his way to a press conference, and even Emily's beloved Book Scavenger may be in jeopardy. The key to it all just might be in a mysterious book that Emily and her new neighbor James found at the BART station, but time is running short, and sinister (if bumbling) forces pursue them. Sprinkled with ciphers, San Francisco landmarks, and literary allusions, Book Scavenger is a fun, light, implausible adventure. The action drags occasionally, and the characterizations are sparse and sometimes overly cute, but the book's goofy, feckless charm is undeniable. VERDICT This will appeal to fans of Blue Balliett's art-world mysteries. •Katya Schapiro, Brooklyn Public Library

An Best Book of the Year An Indie Next List Pick An NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts A Bank Street College Best Book of the Year A PW Best Book for Summer An .com Best Book of the Month A Triple Crown Award Winner A Texas Lamplighter Award Nominee A Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Award Nominee A Georgia Children's Book Award Finalist A Colorado Book Award Finalist A Maryland Black Eyed Susan Award Nominee A Utah Educational Library Media Association Master List Selection A Missouri Mark Twain List Selection A Nebraska Golden Sower Award Finalist A Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award Nominee A Utah Beehive Award Nominee An Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Award Nominee An Illinois Bluestem Award Nominee A Mississippi Magnolia Children's Choice Book Award Nominee A Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award Nominee

“Full of heart and replete with challenging ciphers for readers to decode, Bertman's debut is literary cousin

to classic puzzlers like *The Westing Game*, and a story that values books and reading above other pursuits. Sure to be popular with voracious readers, it's also a valentine to anybody who knows that a 13-digit clue that begins with 978- is not a phone number.

— Publishers Weekly, Starred Review
 “In her first novel, Jennifer Chambliss Bertman introduces a smart, resourceful 12-year-old who makes her first true friend through a mutual passion for solving puzzles. . . Fans of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* will appreciate the abundant literary allusions, and readers will hope for more adventures, hinted at in the book's final lines.

— Shelf Awareness, starred review
 “Emily's sleuthing weaves well with her journey to nurture friendships and set down everlasting roots. A debut that challenges the brain while warming the heart.

— Kirkus Reviews
 “Sprinkled with ciphers, San Francisco landmarks, and literary allusions, *Book Scavenger* is a fun, light, implausible adventure. . . This will appeal to fans of Blue Balliett's art-world mysteries.

— School Library Journal
 “Well paced and involving, the story will intrigue kids with an interest in mysteries and codes as well as books. The writing includes references to local landmarks as well as literary allusions to Jack Kerouac, Robert Louis Stevenson, and, especially, Edgar Allan Poe. A lively first novel.

— Booklist
 “A love letter to San Francisco and its literary history, this well-paced novel of intrigue also provides quite the education, namedropping the likes of Jack Kerouac, Dashiell Hammett, and Amy Tan, diving into the world of ciphers, and offering bountiful brainteasers with Dickensian naming devices (there's an explanatory author's note), all while maintaining a skillful and satisfying balance of brains and heart. . . . be prepared to start a *Book Scavenger* chapter (pun intended) in your own library, stat.

— The Bulletin
 “The plot is clever and the pace of the book will keep the readers curious up to the climactic end. Several other books with themes related to puzzles and games are alluded to in the story. This book will be fun for lovers of this genre.

— VOYA
 “A puzzle-mystery in the spirit of *The Westing Game*, *Book Scavenger* challenges readers to play along. The codes and puzzles are pitched at the perfect level for tween sleuths, and the literary references . . . will pique readers; interests in doing some scavenging of their own. Part friendship story, part travel adventure and part cryptography manual, Jennifer Chambliss Bertman's debut is a book lover's delight.

— Bookpage
 “Codes and ciphers star in this puzzle-game of a novel, offering challenges for code-breaking fanatics plus plentiful explanations for those who prefer that someone else do the legwork

— The Horn Book

Whenever I take my kids to the library I always look through the new books to see if something

looks interesting that they may enjoy. When I read the cover of this one I thought my children may like it, so I checked it out to read a little more. I am so glad I did. This book by Ms. Bertman was a real treat. It has just enough of everything to keep you interestedmystery, excitement, adventure, great friendships, and a touch of goofiness to make it have great kid appeal. I really couldn't put it down. Making this book even more fantastic is the history behind it. Ms. Bertman draws your interest with historical facts about Edgar Allen Poe and other authors in history, adding a dash of geographical interest to San Francisco landmarks. If you like ciphers and codes and scavenger hunts you will learn even more tidbits on how codes are made and work. Well I'm not quite done because it gets even better. While reading I kept thinking to myself how much fun a book scavenger hunt would be and then lo and behold, I saw that they have a website just for that. This is even better than geocaching because you not only get to go on a scavenger hunt, but you get the pleasure of a nice long story to read on your way home. Yay! Lastly, if you are a teacher this book really can pack a punch. As a homeschool mom I kept thinking what a great book to use for a unit study. There is so much information that is factual. I looked up many of the landmarks and history references and they are all available for more research online. Top it off with a real scavenger hunt and you have a great unit. I think I may have to plan one out for next year! A++ Ms. Bertman

This book was kind of boring. I think there could have been more action and adventure. Hope the next one is better.

I loved the characters, the dialogue, and the exploits of the protagonists; and I enjoyed learning about ciphers and code-breaking, along the way, as well. Interesting plot and story-line, and a fair amount of action that moves things right along, too. I like this author, and think I'll become a regular fan of hers, should she keep on writing stories as well as she has written this one.

Fast paced fun read - gets one interactive with the pages and makes you want to finish the story! I'm eager for the next adventure.

Wonderful book and students really enjoyed this.

This is one of the best midgrades I've read! I really enjoyed the characters, the setting and the clues. Although I've been to San Francisco many times I felt I was seeing it for the first time from a personal view. The Poe facts were fascinating, too. Wonderful job! Hope there's a sequel!

This is a fun read! Brings the reader along on the adventure, solving puzzles, literal and figuratively. Explore San Francisco, teenage turmoil of relocation, friendship and family all while solving the mystery of the found book! I'm an adult and I found it fun and refreshing, hope to see more from this author.

I enjoyed this book very much. It was written for kids but even this grown up kid loved it. It had just the right amount of mystery, surprise and facts. And the stories of children and adults trying to figure out their lives was good too. And of course following clues and figuring out puzzles was great! There was funny parts and sad parts but all ended well. After reading this book I wanted to plan my own book scavenger hunt!

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