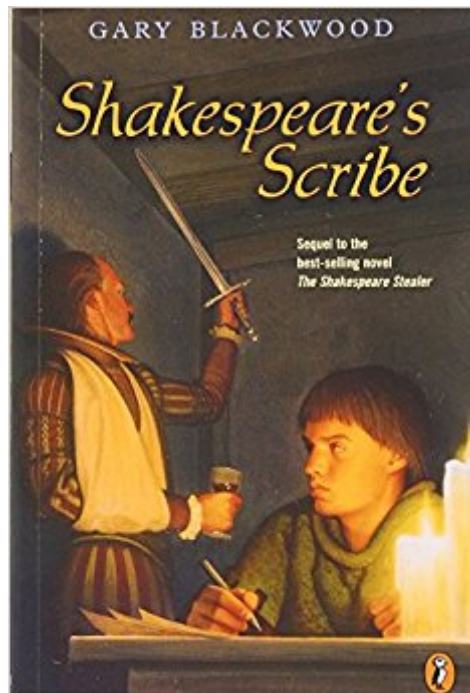




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Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer)



Synopsis

When an outbreak of the deadly Black Plague closes the Globe Theatre, William Shakespeare's acting troupe sets off on a tour of England. Widge, the orphan-turned-actor, knows that he'll be useful on the trip. Not only does he love the stage, but his knack for a unique shorthand has proven him one of the most valuable apprentices in the troupe. But then a mysterious man appears, claiming to know a secret from Widge's past—a secret that may forever force him from the theatre he loves. "An exciting, well-written tale that is sure to leave [readers] clamoring for more." (School Library Journal, starred review)

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Widge, the orphan who infiltrated the Lord Chamberlain's Men acting troupe in *The Shakespeare Stealer*, returns. Now a bona fide member of the troupe, he acts as amanuensis to the Bard (who has broken his arm) in the writing of *All's Well That Ends Well*. Ages 10-14. (Feb.)
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Grade 5-8-In this sequel to *The Shakespeare Stealer* (Dutton, 1998), Widge has become a "prentice" to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Will Shakespeare's acting troupe. Besides acting many of the female roles, the youngster uses his skills in "swift writing" to decipher Shakespeare's scribbles and provide individual scripts for each actor. When the plague closes the theatres in London, the players take to the road, but uncooperative company members, brigands, fire, and hostile officials

make traveling a challenge. In addition, Widge loses some key roles to an uppity new prentice and wrestles with his emotions as he meets a man who claims to be his father. Through it all, he learns to recognize his own worth and the importance of true friends, and this, of course, is the crux of the story. As with his earlier title, *Blackwood* has created a vivid portrait of Elizabethan England via wonderful period details, along with plenty of references to the plays and life "upon the wicked stage." The story is extremely well structured, with several interesting subplots; the chapters end at just the right moment, leaving readers eager to plunge ahead. The characters are well developed, with Widge being particularly memorable. The dialogue is realistic, and the humorous plays on words add another level of interest. An exciting, well-written tale that is sure to leave young thespians clamoring for more. Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Loved this book, just like I did the first one! True to the era of the plot and full of humour!

I love the story but I found the 'accurate' dialogue a little wearing to read. But the setting, story and characters really make this a good book.

This sequel to *The Shakespeare Stealer* does not begin in nearly as lively or compelling a way as the original. The first 25 pages felt as though the author had to force himself to get started. The pace drags, and there is little at first to intrigue the reader. After a slow start, the author introduces an arrogant apprentice, a plague scare, and a mysterious stranger. The tale moves better from then on, and is a worthy sequel. The date is 1602, and the great bubonic plague is just starting in London and its surrounding villages. For fear of contagion in the city, Widge, with Will Shakespeare's company, must leave London and take their stage performances on tour to the outlying hamlets. For youths in grades 5-8.

Challenging reading for a 4th grader, but he really likes these books! As a parent, I am happy to see him reading these instead of *Goosebumps*.

It was a good recall of the last novel and integrated new charity era well over all very good book

I actually purchased and read the third book of this series first. After having read that book, I knew I

had to read the others. The stories took me back in time; I was there! The fictional characters blended in with the historical characters well...the whole series is very interesting, satisfying, and enjoyable.

When my twelve year old son recommended The Shakespeare Stealer to me, I put it aside for a while, but, gosh, my son doesn't recommend books very often to his English teacher mom, so I read it. The colorful characters and swift-moving plot kept me involved, so I was ready when my son handed me the sequel. I found it even better! Swordfights, the plague, and a mysterious, suspicious character enliven the plot. And Will Shakespeare himself has more of a role. What a fun and I must say educational (the dreaded E word) read for this age group! I'm ordering the next in the series today!

I like this series.

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