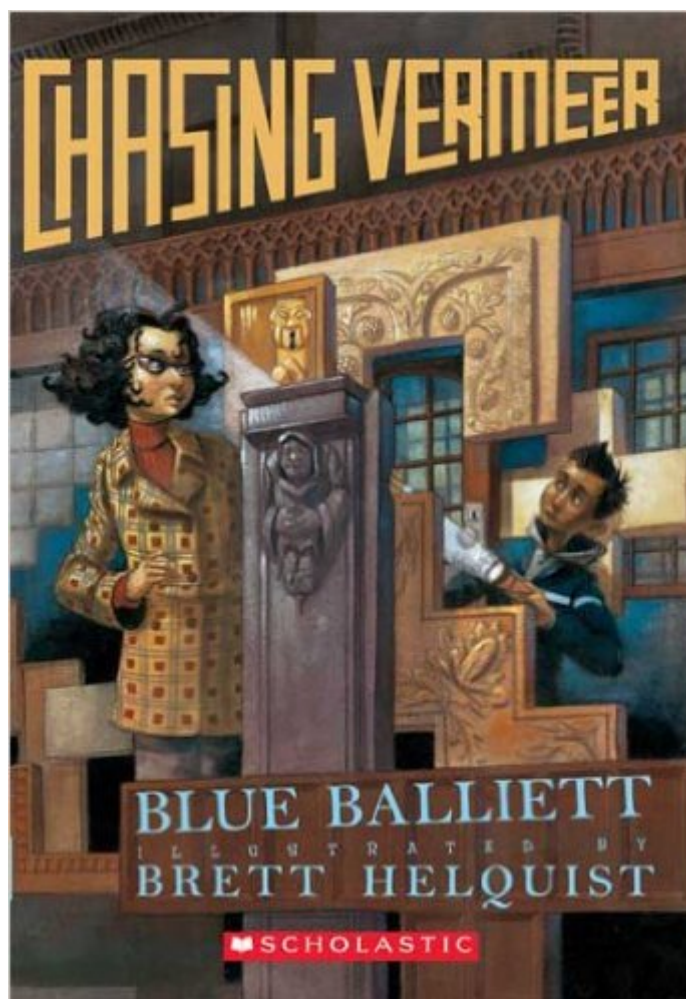


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Chasing Vermeer



Synopsis

This bewitching first novel is a puzzle, wrapped in a mystery, disguised as an adventure, and delivered as a work of art. When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an eccentric old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; First Edition edition (May 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439372976

ISBN-13: 978-0439372978

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (253 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#) #88 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#) #315 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Announcements of Blue Balliet's adolescent mystery *Chasing Vermeer* recently appeared in our Chicago papers. The articles that I read boasted the use of pentominos to solve a mystery that takes place in Chicago. As a middle school science teacher, I was immediately intrigued. I am always looking for books that foster good problem solving techniques through creative and engaging methods. I dove into the book enthusiastically and was very impressed with the craft with which Ms. Balliett developed her characters; clearly she is a person who enjoys

adolescents. I was also captivated by the setting, I spend a lot of time at the University of Chicago campus and Ms. Balliett envelopes the reader in the aura created by the breath-taking architecture and intellectual energy unique to the Hyde Park area. The illustrations by Brett Helquist are wonderful, they add warmth and a sense of mystery as the reader looks for clues within the artwork (even though the clues are disappointing in their simplicity). And so, as I went along on the journey with Petra and Calder, I was drawn into their dilemma and was decoding messages and looking for clues, thinking that this was a very interactive puzzle. However, as the solution of the problem began coming together, I was horrified at the methods taken to form the conclusion. I will not give away the ending, but there are two main clues which resolve the issue. The first one is obtained through a dreamlike transmission of information from the dead woman in the painting, a form of "channeling". While paintings can convey emotions and cultural atmosphere, they cannot convey specific information about their location within a building!

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