



Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer Book 2)

By Gary Blackwood

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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)

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.)n

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From School Library Journal

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

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. In this sequel to *The Shakespeare Stealer* (1998), apprentices Widge and Sander arrive at the door of the Globe Theatre and discover a notice announcing the banning of public performances. With the plague on the rise in London, the Lord Chamberlain's Men take their company on the road to look for towns where they can perform. On the way, the troupe finds uses for Widge's skills in medicine and writing, along with the acting and physical labor required for the theater. Finding a man he presumes to be his father, Widge struggles with questions of identity, slowly discovering who he is and who has become his family. As in *The Shakespeare Stealer*, Blackwood sweeps readers along in a fast-paced tale convincingly set in Elizabethan England. Rich language and descriptions of places, along with many details of actions contribute to a setting that goes deeper than costumes and props to genuinely reach back into the reality of another place, another time. Narrator Widge and many of the other characters emerge as memorable, complex individuals that children will want to meet again *Carolyn Phelan*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janie Ross:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer Book 2) can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Josephine Lowe:

Precisely why? Because this Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer Book 2) is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

James Johnson:

You could spend your free time you just read this book this book. This Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer Book 2) is simple bringing you can read it in the area, in the beach, train in addition to soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Gussie Steller:

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