



The School Story

By Andrew Clements

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Two middle school girls scheme to publish a book in this novel from Andrew Clements, the author of *Frindle*.

Natalie's best friend, Zoe, is sure that the novel Natalie's written is good enough to be published. But how can a twelve-year-old girl publish a book? Natalie's mother is an editor for a big children's publisher, but Natalie doesn't want to ask for any favors.

Then Zoe has a brilliant idea: Natalie can submit her manuscript under a pen name, with Zoe acting as her literary agent. But it's not easy for two sixth graders to put themselves over as grown-ups, even with some help from a couple of *real* grown-ups who are supportive but skeptical. The next bestselling school story may be in their hands—but can Natalie and Zoe pull off their masquerade?

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The School Story By Andrew Clements Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Don't mess with Zee Zee Reisman from the Sherry Clutch Literary Agency. Especially when she's promoting the hot new novelist Cassandra Day. New York's publishing scene is familiar with tough players like Zee Zee, and impressed by the book she's pushing... but stunned when they find out Zee Zee and Cassandra are both 12-year-old girls. Zee Zee is really Zoe, fiercely loyal and self-assured best friend to Natalie Nelson, a.k.a. Cassandra Day. When Natalie writes a story, a really good story, Zoe is determined to let the whole world know. Using her formidable wits and all the resources available to a well-to-do New York City girl, Zoe, along with their timid English teacher, Ms. Clayton, proceeds to chip away at the challenge. The catch? The editor Natalie wants happens to be her own mother, an editor at Shipley Junior Books. But Natalie wants her authorship to remain a secret to her mom so that she'll get a fair shake. What ensues is a masterfully elaborate plot to get the manuscript in the right hands--and away from the arrogant, unfriendly editor in chief.

A highly original plot with plenty of intriguing side stories makes this a thoroughly satisfying read, especially for future novelists, agents, and editors. The publishing world is explored in just enough detail to gently banish romantic notions, but not to quell enthusiasm. The subplot around Natalie's father, who died four years earlier, is an almost silent but strong undercurrent to the story. This graceful and enjoyable novel from Andrew Clements (the bestselling author of *The Janitor's Boy*, *Frindle*, and *The Landry News*) is illustrated with rather gloomy, yet strangely funny black-and-white drawings from Brian Selznick, the illustrator of Clements' *Frindle* and *The Landry News*. (Ages 8 to 12) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

In a starred review, PW called this book about a 12-year-old aspiring author a "standout. Indeed a 'school story,' this is at heart a tale about the love between a father and a daughter." Ages 8-12. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

Gr 4-6-When sixth-grader Natalie Nelson learns that school stories are always in demand at the publishing company where her mother is an editor, she instantly thinks, "Hey, who knows more about school than someone who's right there, five days a week, nine months a year?" Natalie, already an aspiring writer, is inspired to write a novel with this setting. She has no further plans until her best friend reads it. Zoe, a go-getter who never takes no for an answer, loves the book and schemes to get it published. The rapidly escalating plan involves pseudonyms for both of them, Zoe acting as Natalie's agent, corralling an English teacher to help, and a publication party with media present before the author's identity is revealed. The girls are believable characters, completely different, yet better friends because of it. Selznick's black-and-white illustrations add humorous details. A comic novel that's a sure winner.

Terrie Dorio, Santa Monica Public Library, CA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Scully:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book called The School Story? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have some other opinion?

Susan Metcalf:

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Willie Blackburn:

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