



Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer)

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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Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer) By Gary Blackwood Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #64760 in Books
- Brand: Puffin
- Published on: 2002-02-18
- Released on: 2002-02-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x .70" w x 5.10" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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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:

Peter Tesch:

The book *Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer)* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can

utilize to make your capable much more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make studying a book Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer) being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book Shakespeare's Scribe (Shakespeare Stealer). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this guide?

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Jason Cook:

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