



Arts and Thefts

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Middle school retrieval specialist Jeremy Wilderson must team up with preteen private detective Becca Mills once again to solve his most mind-boggling case yet in this action-packed MAX novel.

Ahh, summer vacation! Jeremy Wilderson, Scottsville Middle School's first (and only) retrieval specialist, is enjoying a slower-than-usual season of retrieving (NOT stealing) lost objects in order to help the under thirteen population of Scottsville.

But crime doesn't take a vacation! And when sabotage strikes Scottsville's event of the year—the Summer Art Show—threatening to ruin the burgeoning painting career of Jeremy's best friend, Case, it's up to Jeremy to figure out what's going on. Of course, his archrival Becca Mills, who just happens to think Jeremy, Case, and their friend Hack are involved in the crime, is also looking into it.

Jeremy has only a few precious hours to stop the sabotage before more contest entries—and kids' dreams—are slashed and burned.

But Jeremy's specialty is retrieval...not detective work! The only solution is to team up with Becca to solve the case, something Jeremy's not exactly thrilled to do. Not to mention, he has to keep his alliance with Becca a secret from Case and Hack, who will disown him if they see him working with the enemy. Somewhere between being stuck inside an air vent and slathered in red paint, Jeremy has to wonder: is he in over his head?

Arts and Thefts Details

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From Reader Review Arts and Thefts for online ebook

Percival says

This was one of my favorite books to read. It is full of wit (with a bit of sarcasm from the characters) and humor I highly recommend this book.

Kidlitter says

DRC was provided courtesy of NetGalley.

A solid sequel to what is becoming a reliably smart, witty and interesting series. Jeremy Wilderson, "retrieval specialist" (re: thief) and his arch rival, preteen detective Becca Mills, are back solving another case for the under thirteen middle schoolers of Scottsdale. This adventure centers around an art competition and the skullduggery, fraught rivalries, and friendships between the characters make for a good read. Jeremy and Becca's complex rivalry and partnership adds tension to the twisty narrative. The debates about what constitutes "real" art, the pressures on kids to succeed no matter what, how to be a good friend, and whether stealing and revenge can ever be justified no matter the motives, kick the themes up a notch to ambitious and relevant. Becca can be an overly brutal character, both physically and personally, and Jeremy is a naturally duplicitous and slick operator, charming but untrustworthy. As always, parents stick to the margins and the amount of lowgrade criminality in Scottsdale is slightly exaggerated. But the day long timeline races to a tidy conclusion, and ends on a cliffhanger that guarantees return readers curious to see what Jeremy and Becca have in store for themselves next time.

Candace says

3.5 stars. Cute book.

Jaymie says

Fantastic! More of a traditional mystery than book one (which is more heist/con). Both were terrific. I hope there will be more books in this series - highly recommend for mystery fans!

Luis v says

it was a great book

Tessa says

I love a good heist story. I'll sit down for an episode of *Leverage* any day even though I've watched the series through several times. That's what made me enjoy *Under Locker and Key* so much, and why I was so excited to get my hands on an ARC of *Arts and Thefts*. This book is not a heist; it's more of a mystery. Instead of having a known perp from the start and executing various retrieval plans, Becca and Jeremy spend this book gumshoeing around to discover an art saboteur before the rest of the pieces at the competition can be destroyed. As much as I miss the heist, the shift in genre works well for this story, and since Becca had to enter into Jeremy's world of retrieving in book one, it's only fair that Jeremy be thrust into her world of detective work in this one. But fear not, heist-lovers, Hymas includes a number of heisty elements to keep us satisfied, including an impromptu chase through air ducts, crazy disguises, several cons, and some covert retrieving.

Hymas also does an excellent job of concealing the identity of the saboteur. As I read I thought several times, "Person X is obviously a red herring; the saboteur is clearly Person Y." And I was wrong. Dead wrong. Finding out who the actual guilty party and actual red herrings were was very satisfying.

I did dislike how utterly convinced Becca and Jeremy were of their presumptions on who was guilty. For much of the story, they both ignored evidence that contradicted their theories. And while I usually love Becca-Jeremy banter, it got a bit old rehashing their pet theories again and again. But that's my only real complaint about the book.

All my favorite parts of the book were from the end, so I can't go into too much detail without entering spoiler territory. I loved one of the new characters and hope this person makes appearances in later books as a retriever-in-training. I also really liked the ending. One of the things that I hated about *White Collar* was the way it completely reset Neal's character at the end of every season. "We need some tension....lets make Neal and Peter distrust each other. Again. That won't feel contrived at all!" You can do that once, but not every season for five seasons plus the stupid extra tack-on half season that contradicted everything that had been set up previously. *storms off ranting about lost opportunities and character growth* Ahem. Sorry about that. *Arts and Thefts* avoids that trap. Book one does leave off with Becca and Jeremy distrusting each other again, but book two does something different. I'm trying to be circumspect enough to avoid spoilers, but the ending leaves both the Becca-Jeremy relationship and the Jeremy-Hack-Case relationship with some interesting new avenues to explore in book three.

Overall, *Arts and Thefts* is thoroughly enjoyable. It's lighthearted and funny, and I am definitely looking forward to the next installment of Jeremy's adventures.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Chris says

Middle grade action/adventure mystery that, while technically is a sequel, can be read on its own.

Laura Mossa says

Special thanks to Allison Hymas for sharing an ARC of Arts and Thefts with my #bookexcursion group. Arts and Thefts will be released in February 2018.

Do not call Jeremy Wilderson a detective. He is a retrieval specialist who helps his fellow middle school peers get back what is rightfully theirs. When one of his best friends and talented artist Case is accused of stealing brushes and paints from another student, Jeremy is incensed. Especially because the accusation is coming from his nemesis, Becca Mills, the town's tiny yet terrifying private detective.

Becca believes that the brushes were intentionally stolen to sabotage artwork entered in the Scottsville Art Show, the most important competition of the summer. Becca's hunch comes true, and Jeremy is worried about his best friend. With Case's painting in the show, Jeremy is determined to not only clear his best friend's name but also protect Case's art from being a target of the saboteur. Even if it means having to team up for a second time with Becca. (Read Under Lock and Key to find out about their first alliance, which was kept secret from Jeremy's friends Case and Hack.) Reluctantly, Becca agrees, and the two covertly join forces to retrieve the stolen paint and brushes and capture the culprit.

I love a good mystery, and Arts and Thefts does not disappoint. I applaud Jeremy for his loyalty to his dear friend Case, which drives him to join forces with Becca. Jeremy and Becca's banter was truly the highlight of the book because while they mostly disagree, they make an amazing team. Makes me hopeful for another Jeremy-Becca alliance in perhaps Book 3?

Julie says

ARTS AND THEFTS is perfect for any girls and boys -- or any readers, really -- looking to escape into a lighthearted yet clever adventure.

The story follows Jeremy, a "retrieval specialist" who's at an art show to support his best friend. But someone's going around sabotaging the artwork, and Jeremy has to team up with his rival, Becca, to solve the mystery and save his best friend's reputation.

I enjoyed Jeremy and Becca's back-and-forth dialogue -- they don't trust each other, they keep arguing over every aspect of the case --(view spoiler) Becca is Jeremy's personal nightmare on two feet -- and my favorite character in the book.

Heads up, there's a few spoilers about Under Locker and Key (Book #1) within this book, so I recommend picking up a copy of that, first. And believe me, that will be just as enjoyable of a read as ARTS AND THEFTS.

Note: I received an ARC of ARTS AND THEFTS in exchange for my honest review.

Alan ? ? ? says

Great sequel, another cliffhanger!!!!!!
