



## Manhunt

*Kate Messner*

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## **Manhunt** Kate Messner

When the world's greatest masterpieces are stolen, it's up to three kids to track down the culprits!

Henry, Anna, and Jose head from Boston to Paris for their most dangerous mission yet: to solve the mystery of an international art heist! Shortly after they arrive, they learn that a member of the Silver Jaguar Society is working as a double agent, passing information to the criminal gang the Serpentine Princes -- but who could it be? When the senior members of the Society go missing, it's up to Henry, Anna, Jose, and their smug new comrade, Hem, to mount a rescue while staying hot on the trail of a missing masterpiece. Running around -- and below -- a foreign city filled with doppelgangers, decoys, and deceit, the three sleuths discover they're the only hope for the Society's survival!

## **Manhunt Details**

Date : Published June 24th 2014 by Scholastic Press

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Author : Kate Messner

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Genre : Mystery, Childrens, Middle Grade, Adventure, Art, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review Manhunt for online ebook

### Carrie says

Read this with my 11-year old and we were both on the edge of our seats. Great fun read!

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### Maria says

Made me want to jump on a plane and head to Paris. I want to see those catacombs!

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### Jez says

The Silver Jaguar Society books are like putting a puzzle together. Even when it's time to turn off the lights for bed, it's hard to do so because I'm wondering what will happen next.

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### vic ( semi hiatus ) says

ok but why do i keep reading books that are intended for people in second school????? i don't know yet here's the run down that i kinda think this book is extremely coincidental and the plot is kinda sketchy and there's like no character development tbh.

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### Amy says

This series is so HOT with my book club kids that I had to read the third installment (well, not had to...wanted to!). I love these books and the kids with all of the adventure. Manhunt was really fun for me because of the Paris aspect (my favorite city!). I think any kid that has loved this series, will love this book just as well as the first & second.

However, even though I kept reading it and wanting to find out what happens, there were a few things that bugged me. In all of the Silver Jaguar Society books, they have an aspect of basically no parents involved with the children during the story. The kids are usually left alone for an absurd amount of time with little parental/adult involvement. It bugged me a little in the first & second one, but Manhunt had a lot of this. Again, I get that it's fiction, etc. but it was a bit much reading about Henry spending the night in front of the Notre Dame, receiving a blanket from a homeless man. If a child reads this, I hope a teacher or a parent talks to them about this and reiterates that it's obviously NOT okay to go wandering off on their own nor to spend the night on a park bench/interact with homeless people. Another thing that bugged me was that it repeatedly said the kids shouldn't contact the authorities and I feel that kids should know that they can always contact an authority if they need help.

So, that's it on my critique of the book. Again, I really did like it and love the adventure/Paris aspect. My

book club kids will love this one!

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### **Carol Royce Owen says**

Not sure how I let this book slip under the radar. Perhaps it was the timing of its release - which was the start of the summer and close to the ending of the school year. Anyway, I finally got on top of things and bought and devoured this wonderful new installment to the Silver Jaguar Society Mysteries. This book focused heavily on Henry, who is feeling out of sorts because he's whisked off to Paris on a new mystery just at the time when his little sister is being born, and he feels left out of the loop, especially when he learns that there are complications because of her early birth. Now in Paris, Henry is swept up with the uber-enthusiasm of Anna and Jose and a new character, Hem, who Henry is suspicious of from the start. When their parents (or Henry's case, aunt) go missing, the foursome are lead about Paris following Hem and mysterious clues left on a bulletin board in a bookstore. Famous artwork has disappeared throughout the world, and in Paris the Louvre has lost the Mona Lisa, as well as many other famous pieces. Of course, the Serpentine Princes are to blame, and they are holding the pieces, as well as the foursome's parents hostage until Vincent Goosen's son is released from prison. They are also demanding the Mona Lisa, but who has it and where is it? It's up to the Junior team to find out.

I am so thankful to Kate Messner for this wonderful series - so often I am asked for good mysteries for students - and now I always point to the Silver Jaguar series first. The books are fast paced and hold this adult's attention, so are sure to hold the attention of students. They are also well researched, and in this installment the kids will follow Anna, Henry and Jose to Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Catacombs and many other historic places of Paris.

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### **Katie Fitzgerald says**

In the third (and possibly final?) book of the Silver Jaguar Society series, Anna, Jose, Henry, and British-born junior society member, Hem, find themselves in Paris, following the trail of the Serpentine Princes in the wake of a major international art heist. At first, the adult members of the society are very protective of the kids and leave them to stay in a French bookstore with a chaperone. When the adults go missing, however, the kids become their only chance of rescuing the Mona Lisa and stopping the Princes once and for all.

This is a plot-driven story, so it is no surprise that the strongest element is the plot itself. Though the writing style is very simple and straightforward, the plot line includes many twists and turns. Adult readers might see the twists coming, but most kids will be caught off guard and pleasantly thrown for a loop.

The story is carried mainly by dialogue. At some points, the dialogue flows very naturally and seamlessly works in the necessary exposition. At other points, when Hem is the speaker, the language becomes very mature in tone and the voice less believable as that of a child. There are also a number of adult characters who use pat phrases when speaking to kids that don't ring true either.

There are a number of threads in this story that are not completely resolved, which is annoying, particularly if this book is the last of the series. This book's adventure also comes to an unsatisfyingly abrupt ending which feels rushed and leaves too much room at the end of the story for unnecessary maudlin reflection over

what the future might hold for the kids' friendship. Kids who read for the action might not even read the last couple of chapters.

Though there are a few moments of quality writing in this story, much of the book is simply mediocre. The one-dimensional characters who each only have one real interest (journalism for Anna, Harry Potter for Jose, video games for Henry and map-making for Hem) are hard to connect with and, at times, annoying in their eagerness to face danger. There is enough suspense to keep readers hooked until the mystery is solved, but it takes more than that to be truly successful as a novel.

Those who have read *Capture the Flag* and *Hide and Seek* will probably want to read *Manhunt* to satisfy their curiosity. Other action-adventure readers might be better off with a *Boxcar Children* book instead (Also, Messner might consider writing some nonfiction. The author's note was great and provided lots of interesting information in accessible language.)

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### **The Styling Librarian says**

*Manhunt* by Kate Messner - Mystery/Adventure – 4th grade and up – so happy I had the time to read this book. Brilliant adventure, especially for those who want to mentally romp around Paris while suspensefully reading through pages to see what will happen next to their favorite characters. I just never wrap my mind around the idea that people want to steal brilliant artwork from galleries which can be admired by hundreds/thousands to hide it away for just a few eyes or even one set of eyes... So many missing art mysteries in the world... Love this series, quite recommended!

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### **Amanda Northrup says**

Having not read the first 2 books in this series, *Capture the Flag* and *Hide and Seek*, I was really glad that Kate Messner did such a great job of making this book make sense without that background knowledge.

The mystery in this book involves hunting down the stolen *Mona Lisa* through lots of Paris landmarks while being pursued by scary dudes.

*Manhunt* is well-researched and wonderfully written. I've never been one to fantasize about visiting Paris, but Messner made me feel totally present in the dusty environs of Notre Dame, the Catacombs, Shakespeare & Co, and the Conciergerie. I loved the photos provided in the author's note at the end, and I know kids will love that too.

My only complaint is that the primary protagonist, Henry, was really really annoying for the first half of the book. He is constantly complaining, whining, and pouting. It was painful to be reading his perspective because I really just wanted to wack him in the head. Luckily he got better when the danger quotient ratcheted up.

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### **Yajaira says**

*Manhunt* written by Kate Messner was a really good adventure book. It is about a boy named Henry who is

in the Silver Jaguar Society which is a group of people who go try to get back stolen artifacts. He has two friends who are also in the group named Ana and Jose. His friends parents are also in the Silver Jaguar Society and Henry's mom was in it too but she had died while on a case, so Henry had to go everywhere with his aunt. In this mission they had to fly out to Paris to find all the missing art and the Mona Lisa. While there, their parents left them in a bookstore with a lady named Ursula, who was a nice worker there. They also met another member named Hem, who Henry didn't like very much. Their parents and aunt never came back after a meeting so Hem thought it'd be a good idea to take them to different places to look for clues and try to find the Mona Lisa painting. They went to so many places and Henry decided not to keep looking for it because he was tired of listening to what Hem said, at this point Henry thought Hem worked for the bad guys. He went back to the bookstore where he told Ursula everything because he needed someone to talk to. He felt better afterwards and decided to call his dad to go take him back home. His dad said he would fly out and take him home the next morning. When Henry told the other members he was leaving they were all sad but understood his reasons to leave. He woke up the next morning, at breakfast and waited for his dad to come. His dad got to the store and a few moments later the bad guys showed up in a van and took everyone but Ursula (who was shockingly part of the bad group) and Henry who managed to escape. He went to look for the painting and left a note for the bad group telling them he had found the Mona Lisa and would trade it for the people they kidnapped. A girl from the society said she agreed but when she left his family and friends outside it turns out not to be them. It was random people wearing the members clothing. Henry asked them where she had gone and they told him the place. It was a museum open to the public and so he went in and saw the girl who had fooled him. He secretly took the keys from her pocket and opened a big door to where his family and friends were. They ran out and the bad guys chased after them. They got to a place where the police arrested the bad guys and in the end they all found out that the Mona Lisa painting Henry thought he gave away, was actually a decoy and the Mona Lisa was safe in a case at a Museum.

I think the theme of this story is don't judge a person by the way they look or seem to be. I think this is the theme because at the beginning Henry had a bad feeling about Hem and thought he was part of the bad group when really Hem was really trying to help. Henry never suspected anything about Ursula because she seemed nice and caring and then turns out to be part of the bad group.

Henry in this book really changes throughout the story because in the beginning he was scared to go out looking for the painting knowing the dangerous things that can happen but after his family and friends were taken he becomes braver and does everything he can to go save his family.

I do recommend this book for people who like adventurous books because in this book they went all over Paris. It had a great description of the places, it felt like you were in there with them and was a pretty easy book to read

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### **Carey says**

I think that this series just keeps getting better. The Silver Jaguar Society's mission in Paris is well-researched, well-written, and a whole lot of fun!!!

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\*\*I read an ARC courtesy of Netgalley\*\*

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### **Mary Lee says**

Just as good as the first book. Messner brings Paris to life, creates complex new characters and heaps plenty of troubles on Henry, Anna and Jose.

#bookaday -- 2

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

When famous paintings are being stolen around the world, Anna, Jose and Henry are whisked off to Paris from Boston to investigate. Henry's father and stepmother have just had a baby who was born prematurely, so he is reluctant to go with his Aunt Lucinda, but knows that the Silver Jaguar society has an important function in fighting what looks to be the work of the Serpentine Princes and Vincent Goosen. Sure enough, when they are plunked at a bookstore in Paris with Ursula and her supercilious son Hem (whom Anna thinks is cute), the parents all run off, leaving the children to their own devices. They scout out the Louvre, and are then when there is a security lockdown. The Mona Lisa has been stolen, and the children follow clues to find it... but get into trouble with a lot of double agents and double crossing. Henry, who seems to prefer video games and eating to actual international adventures, calls his father to come and retrieve him, but when his father arrives, he is taken hostage as well. Can the trio save the famous artwork, free the older members of the Silver Jaguar society, and return for book four?

**Strengths:** Messner is brilliant at structuring her chapters in a way that makes me want to go on to the next chapter, and her research into travel destinations is complete. This series is great for readers who want lots of action combined with interesting locations. Bonus points for #WeNeedDiverseBooks for the inclusion of Jose.

**Weaknesses:** As much as authors want to write books about famous artwork, I think that very few middle grade readers really care. Also, it would be great to have more character development. All three children remain very flat, and the initial qualities they have are not very appealing.

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### **Melissapalmer404 says**

Book #103 Read in 2014  
Manhunt by Kate Messner (YA)

This is the third book in a young adult mystery series but I was able to have no issues with not reading the two prior books (though I did order the first book in the series to read because I enjoyed this one so much). Henry, Anna and Jose are junior members of a secret society committed to keep artistic masterpieces safe. Their parents or aunts and uncles are adult members of this society and are trying to recover multiple stolen pieces while protecting those not yet taken. This book had a good mystery to it and good literary and artistic allusions. Fans of Chasing Vermeer would like this series. I would recommend it for middle school to high school students. I borrowed this book from my town library.

<http://melissasbookpicks.blogspot.com>

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**Susanne Scheppmann says**

Very cute YA mystery. My 11 year old granddaughter reads this series, so I am too.

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