



A Bandit's Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket

By Deborah Hopkinson

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From an award-winning author of historical fiction comes a story of survival, crime, adventure, and horses in the streets of 19th century New York City.

Eleven-year-old Rocco is an Italian immigrant who finds himself alone in New York City after he's sold to a padrone by his poverty-stricken parents. While working as a street musician, he meets the boys of the infamous Bandits' Roost, who teach him the art of pickpocketing. Rocco embraces his new life of crime—he's good at it, and it's more lucrative than banging a triangle on the street corner. But when he meets Meddlin' Mary, a strong-hearted Irish girl who's determined to help the horses of New York City, things begin to change. Rocco begins to reexamine his life—and take his future into his own hands.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—As this lively, fast-paced novel attests, the streets of late 19th-century New York City were especially cruel to young immigrants trying to improve their chances of upward mobility. Eleven-year-old Rocco, newly arrived in New York after a misunderstanding caused by an obstinate donkey, is sold to a cruel and miserly padrone who sends "his" group of children to perform as street musicians. Anxious to fill his hungry belly and escape his wretched living conditions, Rocco joins a group of pickpockets, and although he's increasingly uncomfortable about taking people's money, he's able to justify his actions until he meets Meddlin' Mary, a young Irish girl who, with her father, is devoted to caring for the city's mistreated and overworked horses. Through his encounter with Mary and her father, Rocco is immersed in a new world, and he meets historical figures, including Jacob Riis, who were instrumental in social reform movements dedicated to improving the lives of children and animals. In a picaresque style, Rocco narrates his own journey from a street bandit to a prison escapee and ultimately to a young man dedicated to improving the lives of other immigrants. **VERDICT** A strong choice for fans of Rodman Philbrick's *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* (Scholastic, 2009) and those who enjoy adventures about scrappy and resourceful kids who have to rely on their own smarts and the kindness of strangers to change their lives.—Shelley Sommer, Inly School, Scituate, MA

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"A dynamic historical novel ideal for both classroom studies and pleasure reading." —*Publishers Weekly* starred review

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

DEBORAH HOPKINSON has written many award-winning author books for children. Her most recent picture book for Schwartz & Wade Books is *Beatrix Potter and the Unfortunate Tale of a Borrowed Guinea Pig*. Her most recent historical fiction from Knopf is *The Great Trouble, A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel*, which has been featured on more than a dozen state award lists and was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. Visit her online at DeborahHopkinson.com, and follow her on Twitter at @deborahhopkinson. She lives in West Linn, OR.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Brown:

Typically the book *A Bandit's Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket* will bring someone to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book *A Bandit's Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Robert Caceres:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a reserve. The book *A Bandit's Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

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