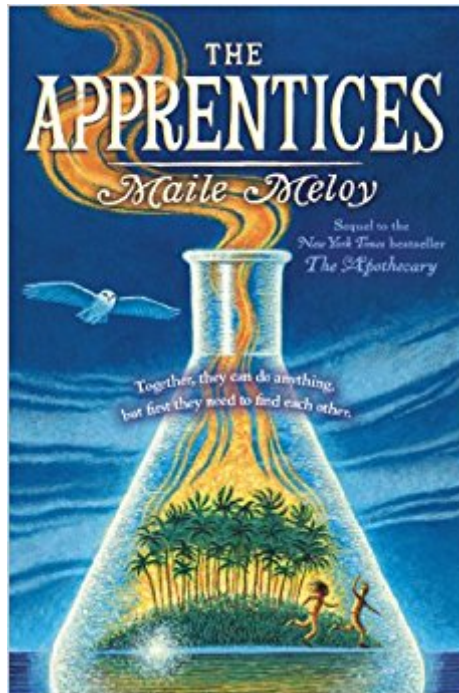




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# The Apprentices (The Apothecary Series)



## Synopsis

Two years have passed since Janie Scott last saw Benjamin Burrows, the mysterious apothecary's defiant son who stole her heart. On the other side of the world, Benjamin and his father are treating the sick and wounded in the war-torn jungles of Vietnam. But Benjamin has also been experimenting with a magical new formula that allows him to communicate with Janie across the globe. When Benjamin discovers that she's in trouble, he calls on their friend Pip for help. The three friends are thrown into a desperate chase around the world to find one another, while unraveling the mystery of what threatens them all. Acclaimed author Maile Meloy seamlessly weaves together magic and adventure in this breathtaking sequel with stunning illustrations by Ian Schoenherr.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0740 (What's this?)

Series: The Apothecary Series (Book 2)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-9-It is 1954, and 16-year-old Janie attends a private school in New Hampshire. When her roommate's father, Mr. Magnusson, kidnaps her and holds her hostage on a Malay island, Janie's friends Benjamin and Pip come after her. Despite living on three different continents, the friends share a special bond. In *The Apothecary* (Putnam, 2011), they harnessed the Pharmacopoeia, a

magical apothecary manual, to stop Russia's first nuclear weapons test. Janie then returned home with her parents, Pip became a London actor, and Benjamin pursued humanitarian work in Asia. Now Benjamin must decide how the Pharmacopoeia might rescue Janie and stop Magnusson's plans for his own weapon. Nuanced secondary characters like Magnusson's wife and another apothecary named Jin Lo round out a detailed story. Beloved characters, lyric prose, and exotic settings continue to characterize Meloy's distinguished world-building. However, the three friends spend the novel adrift and alone, physically and metaphorically, and readers may find this sequel less emotionally satisfying than the first book. With more active escape scenes and only a few pages spent together, Janie and her friends seem frozen in fight-or-flight mode, and little character development occurs in the book. Janie manages to resolve her relationship quandary with Benjamin, but Pip is broadly sketched, and the ending is abrupt. Numerous story threads that weave characters and globe-trotting adventures together flash by with confusing rapidity. Series readers will pore over the death-defying escapes and hope the third book reunites the trio more successfully. -Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT

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In *The Apothecary* (2011), Janie was caught up in a fantastic series of events that included everything from Hollywood blacklisting to magical elixirs. Now 16, she hasn't seen first-love Benjamin Burrows or his father, whose talents at potion making help save the world from an atomic bomb. A perilous situation reignites the relationship, albeit only through a potion that links the teens' thoughts. That's enough, however, to show Benjamin that Janie is in grave danger, and he must save her. Unfortunately, doing so involves being turned into a bird, sailing through cyclones, and fighting off cannibals. Also looking for Janie are the magical Jin Lo, on her way after letting her murdered family's spirits free in China, and saucy Brit Pip, swatting away the girls as he goes. Meloy boldly weaves the disparate strings of the story together in inventive—sometimes breathtaking—ways. More nuanced than the first book, this brings together a large and intriguing cast and explores their knotty relationships. The sometimes hole-filled plot becomes less and less important, but the characters become more memorable as the pages fly by. Grades 6-9. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

The book "The Apprentices" is exciting and full o surprises. Just as good as the first book in the series called "The Apothecary." Even without reading the first book though, you could still

understand "The Apprentices, though. This book is about an 16 year old American girl named Janie, who first lived in Hollywood, then moved to England, and then back to America. She meets a boy in England named Benjamin (1st book), and lives a whole exciting adventure with him in Nova Zembla. Then, when she moves back to America (2nd book), and separates from him, they keep contact. Later, Janie gets in trouble, and Benjamin tries to travel to rescue her, without his parents. But the story doesn't go as you expect it, and the whole thing is suspenseful and fun. To know more, buy this book and enjoy its content that will make you keep on reading on and on. I personally loved this book and suggest it for anyone from age 10-12 who has interest in adventure, fun, and, love.

Book 2 of this series changes POV to limited omniscient, which at first bothered me. Once I got used to the new 'voice' I found myself completely swept up in this plot, which like book 1, flies along at a mile-a-minute pace. All the familiar characters 'feel' the same, and a seemingly minor character from book 1 becomes HUGE here, which was a lot of fun to follow. If you enjoyed The Apothecary, you MUST read The Apprentices!

I gave this book 5 stars. It was a really great read. I love the love, adventure, science, and humor elements used throughout the story. I will admit that the beginning of the book is a bit slow but not enough to detract much from the overall quality of the novel. It is a great read for anyone in middle school or early teenage years. I as a teenager found it quite age appropriate and true to the attitude of the age of Janie and Benjamin the main characters. It is a great sequel to the fantastic book The Apothecary. It also leaves room for another installment to the terrific series. Recommend it for anyone who wants a entertaining read.

We liked the adventures on the islands but the ending left too many questions to be answered. We will have to read the next book.

My 12 year old daughter is glued to this book!

Loved it and the author is great! I would totally recommend it for anyone who has a sense of adventure and loves fictional books.

I loved it! I had read the first book and cried when I thought that it left on a cliffhanger, so to see there was a sequel I was ecstatic. I am a freshmen and found the 2 books to be my favorite out of

all the books I have read. I HIGHLY recommend this book and the first one.

My 11 year old daughter really enjoyed this book. She could hardly put it down! She has the entire series now.

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