



The Kidnap Plot

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Meet Charlie. He lives a quiet life with his protective father, an inventor and clockmaker.

When Charlie's father is suddenly and mysteriously kidnapped by a shadowy group called the Anti-Human League, it's up to Charlie to save him. Before long, he has assembled a motley crew to help. From the terrifying but well-meaning troll Grim Grumblesson to the high-flying young aeronauts Bob and Sir Oliver, this team will follow the trail anywhere.

But the league's plan is much more sinister than Charlie could have imagined. And as he unravels the secrets of the league, he also uncovers his father's own secrets--about his family, the league, and even himself...

Can Charlie and his gang rescue his father from the dastardly villains who have kidnapped him? And will Charlie be able to come to terms with who he really is? The journey begins here!

The Kidnap Plot Details

Date : Published June 14th 2016 by Knopf Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780553512960

Author : Dave Butler , D.J. Butler

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Steampunk, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Kidnap Plot for online ebook

Rosalyn Eves says

Dave Butler's THE KIDNAP PLOT is a fast-paced, charming, imaginative adventure story set in a clever alternate London populated by steamwork, pixies, trolls, and more. Charlie Pondicherry has lived a fairly restrictive life: his father doesn't like him to go out much, so his world is mostly bound by travel between home and the local laundry while evading local bullies. But Charlie doesn't mind much, because he has his bap (his father) and theirs is a close, loving relationship. So when trolls (hulder) show up and kidnap his father, Charlie has a rare moment of rebellion. Instead of hiding like his bap told him to, Charlie enlists the aid of some unlikely allies to go in search of his father. His search reveals parts of London he never knew existed (I'm particularly hoping there will be a sequel to take up the question of the underground pixie world), a far-ranging plot against the British crown of which his father is only a small cog in a vast machine, and some truths about himself that he never expected.

While it took me a little while to get oriented at the beginning (things move quickly and the world is quite detailed), I found myself immersed in the story. I loved Charlie's willingness to fight against great odds, and his fellows were colorful and entertaining (Bob, and Gnat, and Grimm). I particularly liked Grim, who was more endearing than you'd expect a troll to be. And the little snippets from Smythson's Almanack that break up the chapters were quite clever. I think my kids will get a kick out of this when it comes out. (NB: the ending might be a little dark for sensitive middle grade readers, so be prepared to discuss with them.)

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Laurali says

If you think a clockwork boy, two young chimney sweeps/aeronauts, a kobald, a troll, and a pixie sound like a good group for a tale, then this steampunk Pinocchio may be the story for you. Although it is geared towards pre-teen/teen readers, I enjoyed this immensely. Charlie is a much better boy/story than Pinocchio ever was, and his adventures prove as much.

Charlie is on a mission to save his father and gathers a brave and devoted group to help. I'd say more but I would hate to give away the ending. This is obviously the first book in the series, and I plan to purchase the next book as soon as it's out.

I also plan to share this with my eight-year-old boys. It will make reading time very exciting for them.

Lisa Moss says

Neither Steampunk nor fantasy (trolls, fairies, and such) are my usual favorite genres. But Dave Butler has crafted a surprising story that so works! I loved the grunge and the splendor of Victorian England combined with our unique main characters. Charlie Pondicherry, a very sheltered boy, sets off with a diverse group of new friends to save his kidnapped Bap, or father. The action, twists and turns, and Charlie's self-discovery will keep you turning the pages and wanting more when it's over.

Donna says

Interesting story about friendship and family. Charlie embarks on an adventure to save his kidnapped father with the help of some friends - trolls, pixie, and others. Traveling around the underworld of London, fighting off villains, learning more about himself and his father. Will the secrets destroy Charlie or make him stronger?

Karen says

Are you read for an adventure set in Victorian England adds elements of steampunk and fantasy? Grab your goggles and galoshes, ladies and gents. Butler takes you on a non-stop adventure from the sewers through the alleys, shops and garrets into the skies of London with a number of scruffy humans and fantastical creatures giving chase.

The hero is Charlie, a tween who has lived a sheltered life until a bunch of rough characters come looking for his father. Charlie joins forces with Grim, Bob, Oliver and Gnat. This team of five all have traits and powers that emerge during wild chase scenes and fight scenes held in many interesting venues throughout London.

There's hardly a chance to hold your breath in this one. The book is complex in characters, settings, and action, so older middle grade readers, if not young adult readers, will find this an appealing adventure story. I enjoyed seeing trolls, fairies, brownies and other fantastical creatures inhabit a steampunk landscape of gears, pulleys, levers and gunpowder.

Tia Garrigues says

I love this book. Charlie makes incredibly interesting friends, fights a variety of foes and learns amazing things about himself and his father.

Jessica F says

What makes a person? Are you more than the sum of your parts? And what makes a family? Solid story, but no strong desire to pick up the sequel.

Daniel (Attack of the Books!) Burton says

Add this sure bet to your pre-teen's summer reading list. The Kidnap Plot by Dave Butler is the cure for summer boredom. With cleverly written characters, dangerously intense plots, and colorful and exotic settings, The Kidnap Plot is a great pick for your eight to ten-year old's summer reading list.

In an alternate universe, Victorian Britain is populated by trolls, kobolds, pixies, brownies, and dwarves. Oh, and the diverse mix of humanity populating capitol of the British Empire. Charlie's protective father, Bap, keeps him close to home, safe under his watchful eye. Then one day, Bap is kidnapped, taken by men with

sinister motives. Charlie follows the trail of clues left behind. Along the way, he assembles a motley assemblage of friends. The trail takes him into the murky depths under London's streets where pixie politics are cut-throat and ghouls lurk. It pits him against one of the most dangerous minds in 19th century Europe, who has plans that only Charlie will be able to stop. Meanwhile, Charlie will learn as much about himself as about the world his Bap has kept him safe from.

Therefore, it's an adventure story, a Bildungsroman, in a gearpunk world where magic exists alongside the power and might of the British Empire.

As I read *The Kidnap Plot*, I found myself wishing that my kids were a little older. It's just a little too old for them, but perfect for the 8-12 year old group. With *The Kidnap Plot*, Dave Butler shows a talent for reimagined or alternate history. Consequently, it has more than enough "what if" magic and fantasy to create a world that would be fascinating to any kid. I look forward to handing to my own kids in a couple of years. (Other alternate history novels by Butler include *Crechling*, a YA novel set in a dystopian American West, and *City of the Saints*, an alternate history in 19th century Utah).

To enrich the world's depth, each chapter opens with a selection from an almanac about creatures that populate *The Kidnap Plot*. They provide background, enhancing the depth of the world building. Every chapter pushes the plot to faster levels. And yet, Charlie's growth never lags behind the plot. Even while *The Kidnap Plot* feels externally driven, Charlie's character grows, too. He is discovering himself, his place in the world, in pace with the reader's discovery of the world itself.

With *The Kidnap Plot*, then, Butler has created an exciting world and filled it with interesting characters. *The Kidnap Plot* is an exciting, fast-paced and enjoyable ride with never a dull moment. This is the first in *The Extraordinary Journeys of Clockwork Charlie* about Charlie's journey and adventures. If the sequels are anything like *The Kidnap Plot*, I look forward to reading them. Your pre-teen will, too, and you might want to read along, as well.

Tony Parsons says

Skip, Mickey, & Bruiser followed Charlie Pondicherry to the Lucky Wu's Earth Dragon laundry. It defiantly was not a social call. Wu was not happy when he arrived. Charlie had escaped the bully's but not Wu's verbal wrath. His laundry place was a disaster.

Whitechapel, Irongate Lane. Mr. Rajesh Pondicherry owned/worked at the Clockwork Invention & Repair. Ms. Natalie de Minimis (pixie), & Mr. Grim Grumbleson (troll), who lived at Tumblewain Close came to see if the reading close-reading spectacles were done for him yet. Rajesh assured them he would have Charlie deliver them tomorrow. Mr. Henry Clockswain (Rajesh's CI&R partner) waited on Sir Oliver Chattelsworthy, & Master Bob Micklemuch. Charlie delivered the close-reading spectacles & told Sir Chattelsworthy his dad had been kidnapped.

Who are the Iron Cog creatures?

Does the anti-human league really exist?
& what about the sinister man?
Will Rajesh be found?

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written MS-up age fantasy (steampunk) book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great MS-up age fantasy movie, animated cartoon, or better yet a mini TV series. I would like to have seen some pictures. That said I will only rate it at 4/5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; Making Connections; Knopf Books for Young Readers; A Yearling book; autographed; paperback book
Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Teresa Osgood says

Charlie feels trapped in the alley that his protective father forbids him to leave, and longs for adventure. When adventure comes banging on the door, it's a little overwhelming. Still, he bravely sets out to rescue his father, with the help of a troll lawyer, a noble pixie, a picky kobold, and a couple of chimney sweeps with aeronautical ambitions. They wreak a lot of havoc in this interesting steampunk society, and Charlie turns out to have greater strengths than he ever imagined.

Chantele Sedgwick says

Such a fun story! Lot's of action and adventure. Can't wait to read the second!

Daniel Yocom says

The Kidnap Plot is book one in the series The Extraordinary Journeys of Clockwork Charlie for middle grade readers by Dave Butler. Butler takes the reader on a great adventure through a steampunk/fantasy London in the Victorian era. I received a copy of The Kidnap Plot from the author for review purposes.

Charlie Pondicherry is a boy who is small for his age and lives with his father in White Chapel. His bap (dad) doesn't like him to go out much because he is worried about Charlie's safety. Then when his bap is kidnapped by the Sinister Man, Charlie has to figure out a way to rescue his dad and a grand adventure ensues.

This leads them into political intrigue within the pixie court, battles with rats, and dealing with the gang side of the city. We get to see the richness of the creations steampunk settings are known for along the way.

The adventure moves along through different neighborhoods of London where Charlie has new experiences. There are policemen riding zebras, and vehicles running on steam or being drawn by the likes of rhinoceroses, elephants, and even horses.

Without giving away the twists set in the story, I will say the characters are well thought out and each has their own story hanging in the wings. We are given bits and pieces from beginning to end for the movement of each of the character.

I have always enjoyed rich sideline characters in a book and The Kidnap Plot has them.

The Kidnap Plot contains interwoven storylines. The presentations are easy enough to be followed by younger readers. They're not so complex where your younger readers will be wondering what is happening. However, they are deep enough to stimulate conversation about what they are reading.

I highly recommend The Kidnap Plot by Dave Butler. Here is a book that is target for middle grade that can be enjoyed by all ages. There is enough fun in the story to keep younger readers and enough story for the older ones.

The characters are intriguing and each has their own story that could be told.

I give it 4 ½ out of 5.

The full review is originally published on guildmastergaming@blogspot.com.

Stacey says

Tintin meet the fantasy world of Harry Potter :)

Absolutely love Bob and Ollie, and of course the very special Charlie. Anyone of any age would enjoy this great escapade! I would absolutely love to see it on the big screen! Cannot wait to go on more adventures with the lads!!

Thank you, Dave!!

David says

Imagine if the old tales were true, that faeries, pixies, trolls, goblins and ghouls existed. But they actually coexisted and even thrived with humans. Imagine how different history would be, what technology we would have now! D.J. Butler has done that, and used his excellent imagination to recreate 18 th & 19 th century London in his new release: The Kidnap Plot, The Extraordinary Journeys of Clockwork Charlie. This fantasy for young adult readers quickly pulls you into the life of Charlie, and the adventure he always wished to have, but was not really prepared for. After seeing his father kidnapped, Charlie enlists the help of two street kids, a pixie, a kobold, and a troll to help him on a rescue attempt that ultimately averts international war. This is an exciting and fast paced read with endearing characters and a fascinating story line that leaves you wanting more. An excellent read for both young and young at heart readers!

Ryu says

[your father figure attacked in his shop while you hide and have the antagonist ransack it. But why would Charlie's father mention Charlie?

I mean, that's kin
