



Mystery on Museum Mile

Marcia Wells , Marcos Calo (Illustrations)

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Art, mystery, fun and friendship, combine in this illustrated middle grade series debut. Sixth grader Edmund Xavier Lonrot, codename "Eddie Red," has a photographic memory and talent for drawing anything he sees. When the NYPD is stumped by a mastermind art thief, Eddie becomes their secret weapon to solve the case, drawing Eddie deeper into New York's famous Museum Mile and closer to a dangerous criminal group known as The Picasso Gang.

With page-turning adventure and fun characters, this first installment in the Eddie Red series is a must-read for any fan of puzzles and mystery. A Spring 2014 *Indies Introduce New Voices* selection

Mystery on Museum Mile Details

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Author : Marcia Wells , Marcos Calo (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Mystery on Museum Mile for online ebook

Marcia Scurfield says

Our local uber-indie bookstore in Wichita, KS, Watermark Books held an Event for Middle School Educators to meet authors and hear about their books. I was especially intrigued with Marcia Wells' "Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile" when she told me that #1--she wrote it for reluctant readers (boys) #2--the main character is an excellent artist with a photographic memory and #3--the mystery involves an impending heist at NYC art museums. I bought the book and read it over just a few nights. I am an elementary art teacher and I think this book would be excellent for 4th and 5th graders.

Wells also told us she is nominated for the "Oscar for Mystery Award Writers"--The Edgar Prize for Best Juvenile book, which will be awarded this coming Wednesday, April 29, 2015. I will be rooting for her to win. The book has great voice and Edmund Xavier Lonnot (Eddie Red) and his also gifted buddy, Jonah think outside the box to intuit where the next art heist will take place.

I had never heard of the Edgar Awards before, so did a little sleuthing of my own ala internet. Named for Edgar Allen Poe, the Edgars are awarded each year by the Mystery Writers of America, One of my favorite mystery authors, Rex Stout of the Nero Wolfe series, was given the Grand Master award in 1959, the third year it was awarded. I found a kinship between Edmund, Archie Goodwin and Nero Wolfe through the New York City locales and the fun-to-read dialogue.

Linda says

I think kids will really like this book. I liked the mystery, the main character, Edmund, and his best friend Jonah.

Karen Arendt says

Clever mystery with plenty of action and plot twists.

Ms. Yingling says

Edmund Lonnot lives in New York City with his parents, attends an expensive private school, Senate, and has a photographic memory. This isn't all that useful, but when he and his father are getting ice cream and his father gets tangled up with a man who turns out to be part of an art crime ring, his ability to draw the man's face from memory astounds the police. Reluctantly, Detective Bonvano hires "Eddie Red" to hang out at museums, pretending to draw but in reality looking for certain faces that have been involved in crime. This is great, because his father has lost his job as a librarian and the family can no longer afford to pay his tuition. Eddie gets involved in a copy of situations (one where he accidentally Tasers a cat!) that are dangerous, but his real contribution is figuring out with his friend Jonah that the criminals have altered their pattern of thefts, identifying the next theft, and realizing that some of the criminals are hiding in plain sight. Bonvano grudgingly admits that Eddie is a valuable asset to the department, which is probably part of what leads to book two: Mystery in Mayan Mexico.

Strengths: Nice sense of place, good details about art museums in New York, and a supportive family for Eddie. BOTH of his parents are alive! The employment by the police department is realistically done, students will like the pictures of various characters, and librarians everywhere rejoice in the cover-- a black boy. This book would be a good next step for readers who enjoy Sharon Draper's Ziggy mystery series.

Weaknesses: There are several times when Eddie talks about being bored sitting in the museums, and I shared his emotions at those points!

Camilla says

Finally, a black protagonist for a cool middle grade series! I half want to praise the publishers, half want to ask them what took so long.
The book is fun and my kids will love it. I'm going to book talk the crap out ta this one.

Terry Johnson says

Hilarious caper. Loved Edmond's voice. Thoroughly enjoyed this one.

Kristi says

Good story with witty writing. My son read this for a book report and loved it so much I decided I needed to read it to!

Emily says

Very much looking forward to discussing this with 3rd-5th graders in July for our book group.

It was delightful to have such a diverse main character whose family is so connected to their African ancestry (I'd love more on that - but it'll be a great discussion point, as many of the participants in our group have immigrant parents who may be very similar to Edmund's parents).

I enjoyed the photographic memory aspect as well - haven't read a mystery with a character of that ability since Cam Jansen (which, I hate to compare this book to, because it's so much stronger).

I was extremely mistaken about certain aspects of my previous review of this book, and was contacted by the author to set the record straight, something I appreciate more than I was probably able to communicate to her in my message back. I'd like to, here, thank Marcia Wells for so eloquently and politely correcting me, and apologize to those of you who may have read my previous review and been influenced by my false impression of two occurrences in the book. I feel like a very bad librarian for my comments, but am glad to be contacted by Marcia Wells.

Dan Rogers says

A fairly good story with an interesting "twist", Eddie Red has a photographic memory. He only needs to look at someone once and he can recall the details accurately enough to draw a picture of them. I'm sure my students will enjoy reading this story. There is, however, one "problem" I had with it. Not sure how to explain it, maybe it's because I spent 20 years in the military, maybe it's because of the way I raised my sons, maybe it's something else altogether. But, I have some difficulty accepting characters who knowingly disobey, or disregard, direction given by adults. Eddie Red is one of these kids. There are so many things he is told NOT to do and yet he does them anyway. I find engaging with these characters difficult. As a result, I'm not sure whether or not I'll read the next offering in the series.

MrsGeary Geary says

Seems like the start of a great series! Eddie is an interesting and endearing character and I thoroughly enjoyed this adventure of his. The book offers a diverse cast of characters without being a "multicultural" story. Great book for kids, and the NYC setting is just fabulous. Reminds me why I love the city!

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Sixth grader Edmund Xavier Lonrot has an amazing ability. He has a photographic mind and the artistic ability to be able to draw people he has mentally photographed. Which is how Edmund ended up working undercover for the NYPD.

It all began the day his dad had to break the bad news to Edmund that he would not be returning to his private Upper East Side school Senate for 7th grade; they just couldn't afford it anymore. But just as this conversation was starting, Edmund and his dad heard a woman's shout for help coming out of an alley. Telling Edmund to call the police, his dad took off to help the lady. Luckily, Edmund saw the "perp" and was able draw a much better likeness of him than the police artist.

And so, Edmund Lonrot became Eddie Red, working undercover for the gruff Detective Bovano, who clearly resents having this young kid doing police work. Nevertheless, Eddie works weekends at either the Jewish Museum on Fifth Avenue and East 92nd Street or the Neue Galerie on Fifth Avenue and East 86th Street, NYC. His job is to pretend to be a student artist, all the while keeping an eye out for anyone that looks like the pictures Det. Dovano very quickly showed him of the perps.

At first, Eddie seems to just bungle everything. Working without any information, though, Eddie soon begins to figure out what he is looking for and why with the help of his best friend, the very OCD Jonah, whose latest obsession is all things military.

The case has become important to Eddie. If he can help solve it, the police department will make a donation allowing him to return to his private school in September. If he botches it, he is, as we used to say when I was a kid, "sorry outta luck." But when the case is given a deadline, Eddie is no closer to figuring it out than he was before.

Can he and Jonah accomplish what the police couldn't and do it under pressure of this deadline?

Even though Eddie Red Undercover requires a fair amount of suspension of disbelief on the part of the reader (as if the NYPD would ever hire a young kid), it is a fun, entertaining book. It is told in the first person by Edmund?Eddie, who has a pretty good sense of humor about things, one can even see the beginnings of a nice wry touch forming. He is a really likable, somewhat geeky (in the best sense of the word) young man, whip smart and from an intact family - mom and dad are still in the picture. He is also African American.

Eddie's friend Jonah is a big eater of peanut butter sandwiches and is also whip smart with a well developed ability to detect patterns in anything, I would have liked to learn a little more about Jonah, but maybe in future Eddie Red novels. Still, together Edmund and Jonah form quite the dynamic duo.

The novel is a nice lighthearted mystery that is sure to appeal to middle school readers. Edmund is an astute observer of people and has plenty to say about them that will tickle a young readers funny bone. But there is also plenty of excitement for them as well.

This book is recommended for readers age 9+

This book was borrowed from the NYPL

This review was originally posted at Randomly Reading

F.T. Bradley says

Great mystery for kids, with a perfect voice. Recommended!

Anna-Maria Crum says

This is a fun, adventure-filled middle grade mystery. Eddie Red has a photographic memory. His father has been laid off from his library job and Eddie will have to leave his wonderful, expensive, private school unless he can earn the money for the tuition. Fortunately, when Eddie draws a perfect picture of a fleeing suspect he's hired to help the police. But the last thing Detective Bovano wants on his special task force is a kid. Eddie knows he has to figure out who the suspects are and what they plan to steal if he's going to earn the bonus money needed for his tuition. The only problem is that Detective Bovano won't tell him anything. Eddie is on his own.

What I liked the most about this book was that Eddie and his friends were total kids. The way they figure things out and the solutions they come up with were true to their characters. They weren't mini adults and adults didn't tell them what to do. A good read and I look forward to more of Eddie's adventures.

Mischa Temaul says

“A clanging noise echoes in the alley, a hollow machine clank like a robot zombie is coming. My hand grabs Grant’s and tugs on him urgently. He’s not much help. More rattling. I peer down the dark path; something is definitely there. The robber? A zombie? Or worse? I curse the red strobe light shining behind me from the car, which is clearly calling the attention of whatever evil is stirring in the darkness beyond. Bang!” (110).

Author Marcia Wells creates a must-read book, *Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile*, filled with adventure, humor, and suspense which many young adult readers will love.

Edmund Lonnot may seem like the average scrawny kid, but he has a very special talent, a photographic memory. While his father tries easily to break the news about his recent cut-back-on-hours at his job, and that they can no longer afford to send Edmund to Senate Academy, an expensive private school, next year, their conversation is interrupted when sudden cries for help erupts from the alley.

His father instructs him to run to safety, and to call the police, but Edmund is glued to the spot he's standing. Finally, he hides under a park bench when a man approaches with a bloody knife in his hand—"Click goes the camera in my mind" (14). When Edmund is able to draw, from memory, the face of the man he saw, it leaves the New York Police Department flabbergasted.

Thanks to Edmund's photographic memory, he soon becomes the key spectator in the police case. However, while Edmund's parents are not keen on the idea their son will be working a case that could be dangerous, he doesn't back down—especially when it means the police will compensate him; the perfect opportunity in funding his tuition at Senate Academy. After meeting Detective Bonvano, Edmund realizes not everyone is amazed at his talent. However, Bonvano has no choice but to work with Edmund, giving him the code-name "Eddie Red."

Will Edmund be able to solve the case? Will he return to Senate Academy next year?

Wells's readers will thirst for more adventure and crime solving after this book. Not only is the cover art quite appealing to grab her readers, but the illustrations inside are beautifully drawn with detail that reminds one of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*.

Wells's *Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile* will become a favorite for young adults because "Eddie Red" is über awesome.

**Note: My copy of this book is an uncorrected proof which I won in a Goodreads's giveaway.

Cindy says

Edmund has a photographic memory. After becoming a witness to a stabbing/after a robbery, Eddie gets a job to watch and remember the Picasso Gang. He's up against a stubborn cop leading the investigation that won't share info and possibly not paying for his private school. I really enjoyed the age appropriate problems, the sketches and that he is an African-American main character. Bullying, don't see stabbing, but one officers is shot, fears of possible death, bully refers to friend as girlfriend in mocking way. For tweens to teens, no swearing
