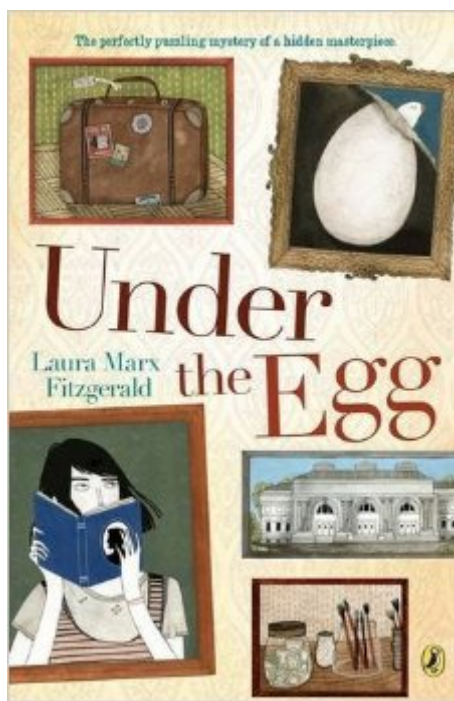


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# Under The Egg



## Synopsis

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler meets Chasing Vermeer in this clever middle grade debut When Theodora Tenpenny spills a bottle of rubbing alcohol on her late grandfather's painting, she discovers what seems to be an old Renaissance masterpiece underneath. That's great news for Theo, who's struggling to hang onto her family's two-hundred-year-old townhouse and support her unstable mother on her grandfather's legacy of \$463. There's just one problem: Theo's grandfather was a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and she worries the painting may be stolen. With the help of some unusual new friends, Theo's search for answers takes her all around Manhattan, and introduces her to a side of the city and her grandfather that she never knew. To solve the mystery, she'll have to abandon her hard-won self-reliance and build a community, one serendipitous friendship at a time. Uniquely readable, entirely charming, and a pleasure from start to finish. Debuts this good are meant to be discovered.

• "SLJ Fuse 8 Blog" Riveting from start to finish. • "BookPage"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 26, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142427659

ISBN-13: 978-0142427651

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #40,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Children's Books >

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Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #188 in Books >

Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Let me ask you a question. You seem like an intelligent individual. Have you ever read From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler? And, if your answer is yes, did you love it? At the very

least, do you remember it? I think it fair to say that for significant portions of the population the answer to both these questions would be yes. But before we go any further, consider for a moment precisely WHY you love the book. I'm going to go out on a limb here and suggest that it's most probable that what you remember from the title was the whole kids-running-away-to-live-in-a-museum aspect. What you might have forgotten was that there was also a mystery at the heart of the book. The mystery had to do with a statue and had a solution that, let's face it, was a bit contrived for its young audience. If you ever felt that Konigsburg could have done better in the whole solving-an-art-mystery department, allow me to lead you by the elbow over here to where I'm showing off my latest delight *Under the Egg* by Laura Marx Fitzgerald marks a strong debut, daring to take the reader from contemporary New York City to WWII and back again without breaking so much as a sweat. It's gutsy and ambitious by turns, Things could be better. A lot better. When Theodora's grandfather Jack was alive, the family didn't have a ton of money but at least they got by pretty well on his salary as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was after Jack died in a freak accident that things took a downward slide. With a mother incapable of dealing with reality (and addicted to pricey tea), Theo knows their money is coming to an end. Soon they won't have enough to live on. It's when things look particularly dire that Theo accidentally spills rubbing alcohol on one of her grandfather's favorite paintings.

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