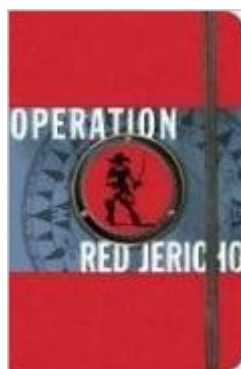


The book was found

Operation Red Jericho (The Guild Of Specialists)



Synopsis

A sister and brother's search for their missing parents uncovers a mysterious secret society in an action-filled sea-and-land saga centered in 1920s Shanghai. For Joshua Mowll, it was the surprise of a lifetime. There, among the archives inherited from his great-aunt Rebecca MacKenzie, was a 1920s journal recounting the thrilling and dangerous adventures of fifteen-year-old Rebecca and her younger brother, Doug, in the wake of their parents' mysterious disappearance in the deserts of China. Now carefully re-created in a lavish volume — complete with cloth binding and a journal-style elastic clasp — the siblings' tale begins aboard the *Expedient*, their uncle's enigmatic research ship, and moves at a breathless pace through the streets of Shanghai and on to a terrifying island fortress. Along the way, Doug and Becca encounter an ancient order of Chinese mercenaries, a brutal pirate warlord, a feisty Texan heiress, and a stolen cache of a volatile explosive called zoridium. By their saga's end, the intrepid duo has exposed a murderous plot involving their parents and uncovered a high-minded secret society hidden from the world for hundreds of years. Interspersed are such "archival" elements as: — elaborate diagrams and maps — vintage photos and illustrations — documents with stamps, seals, and watermarks — four full-color gatefolds, the largest a six-page foldout — extensive appendices and notes. Painstakingly researched and packed with authentic detail, *OPERATION RED JERICHO* is the first of three nonstop-action tales of intrigue by first-time author Joshua Mowll — historical fiction at its finest.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Series: The Guild of Specialists (Book 1)

Hardcover: 271 pages

Publisher: Candlewick Press; 1st edition (August 9, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763626341

ISBN-13: 978-0763626341

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #608,885 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discovery #119 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #2149 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &

Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Note: This book is written for kids but I'm an adult. Sorry. I really wanted to like this book more. I came across it in the book store several months ago and it seemed really cool. The design, layout and entire package are top notch. Now I've read it and I'm not such a fan. The story itself is good, as are the settings, and the illustrations are great. But the two young heroes really put me off. I just plain didn't like them. They were whiny, dishonest brats. There was nothing endearing about them at all to me and it was a chore to stick with the book until it got going. Believe me, I fully understand what the author was trying to do, and it's not like the hero always needs to be a great person, but I don't think he pulled off the balance that's necessary (for me anyway) for characters like this. Time and time again, Doug and Becca, the young heroes, break rules (and laws) and go against the direct orders of people who are trying to help them, then they have the audacity to be angry over the consequences. And then they turn right around and do it again... and again... and again. Do they ever learn their lesson? No. In fact, at the end of the book they make a pact to CONTINUE DOING IT. To be sure, there are times when this leads them into a positive outcome, but just as often it causes that problem to begin with. And it's not like following the rules and direct orders would have resulted in defeat, so the attitude of "you're lucky we disobeyed our orders, because the bad guys would have won if we didn't" is wrong. You might be thinking, "the Potter kids disobey and break rules too," and you're right. But, and this is important, they tend to only do it after exhausting other avenues.

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