



## The Apprentices (The Apothecary Series)

By Maile Meloy

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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.

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## The Apprentices (The Apothecary Series) By Maile Meloy Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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, CTα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

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

Review

"features the same fun, fast-moving formula as the first book, with charming characters and exciting intrigue mixed with a handful of magic . . . Schoenherr's moody illustrations (not all seen by PW) add to the atmosphere of this magical (in multiple senses) story." — **Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"This . . . well-constructed adventure accurately conveys the geopolitical instability of the era and is leavened with just enough magic, chaste romance and humor to appeal to middle-grade readers through teens." — **Kirkus Reviews**

"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 characters become more memorable as the pages fly by." —

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kim Duncan:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this The Apprentices (The Apothecary Series).

#### **Alfred Stevens:**

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