



# The Shakespeare Stealer Series

*Gary L. Blackwood*

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The three novels in Gary Blackwood's award-winning Shakespeare Stealer series are now available in this affordably priced and handsome hardcover omnibus volume, which includes the complete texts of *The Shakespeare Stealer*, *Shakespeare's Scribe*, and *Shakespeare's Spy*. Fans can immerse themselves in orphan-turned-actor Widge's adventures with Will Shakespeare's acting troupe as he navigates intrigue, betrayal, and romance in Elizabethan London.

## The Shakespeare Stealer Series Details

Date : Published May 11th 2004 by Dutton Juvenile

ISBN : 9780525473206

Author : Gary L. Blackwood

Format : Hardcover 762 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Mystery

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## **From Reader Review The Shakespeare Stealer Series for online ebook**

### **Tabitha says**

This is my *Harry Potter*. This is my *Lord of the Rings*.

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### **Lorraine Montgomery says**

A great way to introduce kids to Shakespeare and the exciting and dangerous times of Elizabethan England is to offer them well-written, exciting, adventures involving a young orphan thief who is sent by his master to steal from Will Shakespeare and company. Gary Blackwood has written a trilogy of stories involving 14-year-old Widge, an indentured servant in the beginning who has been taught shorthand by a former master and is now called upon to use this skill to copy Hamlet for a rival theatre group. Attending a performance, Widge manages to write everything down but in the crowded streets of London, his pocket is picked and, fearing for his life, he decides he must join the actors of the Globe Theatre and steal a copy of Shakespeare's newest, unpublished play, Hamlet. Once in the theatre, he is playing a double role, the one he must play on stage and the one he must continually play to survive, keeping his true purpose from the actors and apprentices who make him feel welcome and part of a family for the first time in his life. The Shakespeare Stealer (1998) is full of the sights and sounds of 16th century London and the theatre life. The plot has many twists and turns to keep young people on the edge of their seats.

Blackwood's two sequels, Shakespeare's Scribe (2000) and Shakespeare's Spy (2003) continue to follow the complicated and adventurous life of Widge as he faces betrayal within the company, learning to fence, rivalries, suspicions, duels, the plague, touring the countryside, discovering his real name and a man who claims to be his father.

This exciting trilogy is also available from Amazon in a boxed set called The Shakespeare Adventure Pack or The Shakespeare Stealer Series. Adults will enjoy this captivating series as much as young people.

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### **Danielle Reily says**

I found this trilogy at a library sale for three dollars, I didn't read a lot of it, it said Shakespeare so I took a risk. I didn't realize until I looked through it that it was a young adult book. I actually really enjoy ready young adult literature, and it's a time period I enjoy reading about, so I was very interested in this book. I liked the premise of the story, the characters were interesting and I felt that they were realistic. I liked the book, but I didn't love it. The storylines were a little predictable, and sometimes it felt like the author was forcing the story. I think I would have enjoyed it more if I had read it when I was younger. I will keep this book for my kids to read when they get older. I hope they will love the story as much as I wanted to.

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### **Kevin says**

Pretty good read. Not too heavy and I cared about the characters until the end. Early teen or tween.

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### **Tiffany says**

I don't really care for books that take place in this time of history so I put it down half way through.

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### **Schtroumpf says**

This book is great because it is sad and heroic

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### **Adrienne says**

The Shakespeare Stealer trilogy by Gary Blackwood is a lot of fun. Widge is an orphan living in Shakespearian England, and his skill at shorthand gets him thrown in with the company of actors that does their thing at the Globe theatre (I've been there, whoo!). Various adventures ensue, with Widge ultimately becoming a full-fledged member of the company and a burgeoning playwright. The cast of actors at the Globe are quite likeable, Shakespeare himself was fun to see, and Widge, with his endearing Northern accent is a fairly strong protagonist. The references to Shakespeare's plays are many (Widge even helps to write a few) and the uneven style of Timon of Athens is explained. Each of the three books are quick reads, and they are each a lot of fun.

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### **Jenn says**

Great little series! I love Widge! Blackwood really does a great job creating the feel of the time period.

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### **Holly S. says**

This was so much fun to read. As a Shakespeare fan, I loved learning about Elizabethan theatre and the genesis of the Bard's works from a fresh perspective. A quick read and definitely worth the investment of all three books. It's refreshing to read some quality YA lit that has absolutely nothing to do with vampires or spoiled teenagers in Manhattan. Well played, Gary Blackwood. Pun fully intended.

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### **Schnuckiputzi says**

Interesting look at theater in Shakespeare's time. It would be a nightmare having only your lines and trying to perform smoothly with all the other characters.

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## **Kimberley says**

Great book for young adults. Could be a great segway in to an otherwise routine unit on Shakespeare. Loved the characters, especially Widge and Julia.

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## **Anna says**

### **The Shakespeare Stealer**

I enjoyed this book because you became part of the book. The book not only told a story about someone with split loyalties, but yours were split as well. You do not know whether you want Widge to carry out his previous master's orders or to become an actor.

I also enjoyed the last passage because I think it is very meaningful:

Though I hadn't quite learned a new language, as Julia was doing, I felt almost as though I had. For every ken and wis and aye I had dropped from my vocabulary, I had picked up a dozen new useful terms. Some were fencing terms, some were particular to London, some were jargon of the players' trade. But the ones that made the most difference to me were words I had heard before but never fully understood their importance-words such as honesty and trust, loyalty and friendship. And family. And home. (page 215-216)

### **Shakespeare's Scribe, and Shakespeare's Spy**

I believe this series is very good at making the reader think how the main character thinks and have the same wants and needs as the main character. I also think that the author is very good at coming up with interesting dilemmas.

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