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The Midnight Palace



Synopsis

In the heart of Calcutta lurks a dark mystery....Set in Calcutta in the 1930s, *The Midnight Palace* begins on a dark night when an English lieutenant fights to save newborn twins Ben and Sheere from an unthinkable threat. Despite monsoon-force rains and terrible danger lurking around every street corner, the young lieutenant manages to get them to safety, but not without losing his own life. . . .Years later, on the eve of Ben and Sheere's sixteenth birthday, the mysterious threat reenters their lives. This time, it may be impossible to escape. With the help of their brave friends, the twins will have to take a stand against the terror that watches them in the shadows of the night--and face the most frightening creature in the history of the City of Palaces.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 10, 2012)

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (91 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #283,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia](#) #296 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #996 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Horror](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Reviewed by My Shelf Confessions blog
The Midnight Palace begins on a stormy night in Calcutta on May 1916; Lieutenant Peake is being chased by assassins as he carries two babies. The lieutenant is able to get them safely into the arms of a woman who he knows will protect them with her life. The woman then makes the momentous choice that in order to protect both children they will need to be separated from one another, so she abandons Ben at the doorstep of St. Patrick's Orphanage with only a letter explaining that his parents were murdered and the murderer swore to

kill the child and any descendents. The night the baby is discovered at the orphanage a strange man named Jawahal stops by unexpectedly and pries for information about the new orphan. The director of the orphanage suspects something is amiss and doesn't share any information with the stranger. Jawahal is particularly interested on what age the orphans are released into the world on their own - 16 years old - and he vows to return at that time. Ben grows up not knowing his past but gets along well with the other orphans. He also starts a secret society with 6 other orphans, holding meetings at a local abandoned mansion they nickname The Midnight Palace. In May 1932, their lives change forever as every member turns 16 and is about to be released into the world to live their own lives, their secret society disbanded. Unfortunately, things don't go as smoothly as planned, and Ben's past steps back into his life in the form of a girl that appears on the doorstep of the orphanage as they are having a celebration to mark the special occasion. They must all work together in order to discover the mysteries of their past in the hopes they can stop a madman from stealing their future.

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