

Secret Coders

By Gene Luen Yang



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Gene Luen Yang is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant.

Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes!

From graphic novel superstar (and high school computer programming teacher) Gene Luen Yang comes a wildly entertaining new series that combines logic puzzles and basic programming instruction with a page-turning mystery plot!



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Secret Coders By Gene Luen Yang Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #13821 in Books

Brand: First Second
Published on: 2015-09-29
Released on: 2015-09-29
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 214.88" h x 7.62" w x 6.13" l, .45 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 96 pages



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–8—A mysterious school, transition to mastery, and an exciting new language run through this excellent new graphic novel. But it's not magic wands that dictate the new characters' skills —it's coding. Hopper, an enthusiastic 12-year-old girl (named after programmer Grace Hopper), has just started school at the creepy Stately Academy. After getting in a fight that involves "lung pudding" (a loogie!) with Eni (based on NBA star Chris Bosh), Hopper and Eni become friends while unraveling the secrets of the school. Robotic birds, family troubles, and sinister, child-hating school administrators lead to a story both emotionally rich and rife with learning opportunities. Readers will feel themselves thinking in a new way as they watch Hopper and Eni transform into coders on a mission, but the story never feels pedantic. The graphic novel format is effective and will appeal to everyone from computer lovers to reluctant readers to mystery fans. The black and green art is effective and straightforward, and the pacing of the panels is excellent. The book is important in light of issues of diversity in the computer programming world; Hopper is biracial, and Eni is African American, and both have multiple dimensions to their characters (they are more than just computer nerds). This first volume ends on a cliff-hanger with real life magic: the magic of coding made accessible. VERDICT An excellent first purchase that introduces readers to the power of computer programming through an engaging graphic mystery.—Lisa Nowlain, Darien Library, CT

Review

"Gene Luen Yang's talent is prodigious, his enthusiasm contagious....Even this confirmed technophobe was ready to learn coding." ?Katherine Applegate, author of *Crenshaw* and *The One and Only Ivan*

"Gene Yang brings computer coding to life." ?Entertainment Weekly

"Secret Coders not only uses Logo but also touches on computer fundamentals like binary code and the three major ways that code is organized:sequence, iteration, and selection. By the end of Secret Coders, readers will learn them all, right alongside Hopper and Eni, not as something dry or rote, but something transformative." ?Wired

"Gene Luen Yang's talent is prodigious, his enthusiasm contagious....Even this confirmed technophobe was ready to learn coding." ?Katherine Applegate, author of *Crenshaw* and *The One and Only Ivan*

"Yang and Holmes do such a great job explaining the concepts that even programming newbies will be likely to catch on. A cliff-hanger ending hints at deepening mysteries to come." *?Booklist*

"Holmes's bold cartoony illustrations are a natural fit for Yang's geeky enthusiasm, and their combined effort offers an enticing first taste of coding that may very well yield some converts." ?Publishers Weekly

"An excellent first purchase that introduces readers to the power of computer programming through an engaging graphic mystery." *?School Library Journal*

"Convincing kids that coding "truly is magic" is Yang's and Holmes's agenda here, and their series opener certainly does the trick." *?The Horn Book*

About the Author

Gene Luen Yang is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant. He began drawing comic books in the fifth grade, and in 1997 he received a Xeric Grant for his first comic, *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*. He has since written and drawn a number of titles, including *Duncan's Kingdom*, *The Rosary Comic Book*, *Prime Baby* and *Animal Crackers*. *American Born Chinese*, his first graphic novel from First Second, was a National Book Award finalist, as well as the winner of the Printz Award and an Eisner Award. He also won an Eisner for *The Eternal Smile*, a collaboration with Derek Kirk Kim. He is the author of the Secret Coders series (with artist Mike Holmes) and has written for the hit comics Avatar: The Last Airbender and Superman. Yang lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mike Holmes has drawn for the comics series Secret Coders, Bravest Warriors, Adventure Time, and the viral art project Mikenesses. His books include the *True Story* collection (2011), *This American Drive* (2009), and *Shenanigans*. He lives with a cat named Ella, who is his best buddy.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lillian Owensby:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information currently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Secret Coders as your daily resource information.

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Ernestine Biggs:

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