



The Pirate's Coin

Marianne Malone

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Fans of magic, mystery, and adventure will love the third *The Sixty-Eight Rooms Adventure*—a perfect next step for kids who love the Magic Tree House series, and just right for readers who love *Chasing Vermeer*, *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, and *Wonderstruck*. Sixth Graders Ruthie and Jack return to the Art Institute of Chicago's magical Thorne Rooms. During a school presentation, Ruthie and Jack discover that their classmate Kendra is descended from Phoebe Monroe, the young slave they befriended when they traveled to 19th-century South Carolina. Kendra tells them that long ago her family lost their good name and their business selling herbal remedies when mobsters accused them of stealing the recipes! Only Ruthie and Jack know the truth--because only they know about the secret ledger that Phoebe wrote the recipes in long ago! Ruthie and Jack's mission to clear Kendra's name takes them back to the Thorne Rooms, where a mysterious old coin leads them to 1753 Cape Cod and to Jack's own ancestor . . . the pirate Jack Norfleet! But playing with history can be *dangerous*! Suddenly, Jack's very existence is in jeopardy! Can Ruthie and Jack find the proof they need to help Kendra? And can they fix the past and save Jack's future . . . before it's too late?

Here's What People Are Saying about The Sixty-Eight Rooms Adventures!

The New York Times:

"Irresistible."

Chicago Sun-Times:

"Exhilarating."

Chicago Tribune:

"Marianne Malone has tapped into a fantasy that is . . . completely universal."

The Pirate's Coin Details

Date : Published May 28th 2013 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780307977175

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Format : Hardcover 224 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Mystery

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From Reader Review The Pirate's Coin for online ebook

Ms. Yingling says

After their adventures in The Sixty-Eight Rooms and Stealing Magic, Jack and Ruthie are back. They are still interested in having adventures in the rooms (who wouldn't be?), but have a more serious reason to investigate-- during a genealogy project at school, they find out that their friend Kendra is a descendent of a woman who ran a business in the early twentieth century, something rare for an African-American woman at the time. Even though Kendra's ancestor had gotten her formulae from her ancestor, who was a slave, she had no proof. Ruthie and Jack find a book of recipes, but also a cryptic note that they should talk to Isabelle. They do, and find out that she worked with Mrs. Thorne and knows that a will was drawn up clearing Kendra's relative. The will must be in the rooms somewhere, where it was put for safekeeping, and the children need to find it. Jack also wants to find an ancestor of his own-- Jack Norfleet, a pirate! After meeting him, however, Jack starts to fade away, and Ruthie has to go back and set things right so that Jack doesn't cease to exist. Despite a dangerous spider encounter and troubles with museum security, Jack and Ruthie use their time traveling adventures to help solve mysteries in the present day.

Strengths: One of the best time travel devices EVER-- miniature rooms that actually exist. Certain objects animate the rooms, and while it's a little unlikely that the children would get in to the museum, a convincing back story has been built. I like the children, and their reasons for being in the rooms are solid. I would have adored these books when I was younger.

Weaknesses: The first two in the series don't get checked out very much, so I'm debating purchasing the third. There is a fourth coming out as well, and I don't know that I can justify them. Sigh.

Brett says

In the third adventure of close friends Jack & Ruthie at the Thorne Rooms exhibit in Chicago's Art Institute, things are about to get a little more personal. Ruthie first discovers that a school friend of hers is a descendant of the slave girl Phoebe Monroe - & that her family has been the victim of a terrible tragedy. Kendra's great-grandmother, who was the granddaughter of Phoebe, set up a large business as a purveyor of herbal remedies & mixtures, but she was accused by members of the mob of having stolen her proprietary formulas from them &, in the absence of any proof that they recipes belonged to her, she lost everything, including her good name. Kendra & her family are determined to restore that good name, & Jack & Ruthie may just be able to help.

However, Jack becomes distracted upon discovering that an antique coin, a Spanish "piece of eight", that has been in his family for generations, may act on the kids in the same way as the key formerly belonging to the Duchess Christina of Milan - when holding it in near proximity to the Thorne Rooms, Jack is shrunk down to a size where he is able to enter the different times & places within the miniature rooms. Can he track down the ancestor who originally owned the coin, a man rumored to be a pirate?

Kids who have liked the other stories in this series will find this one just as fascinating & easy to sink into. I know I myself would have adored this story, particularly its connection to the amazingly interesting study of one's own genealogy.

Tiffany says

These books remind me somewhat of the Magic Tree House books but for older kids. I really enjoy the history and adventure in them.

Diane says

Upside of time travel: you have a chance to help someone. Downside: if you change something, your best friend could disappear forever.

The class assignment was to learn something about your ancestors. Jack discovers, through his great Aunt George, that he is related to Jack Northfleet, a pirate. She even sends him a pirate coin that belonged to him. "This was so Jack. He had something to brag about but didn't."

Also making a presentation is Kendra, who talks about an ancestor named Phoebe Monroe who was born a slave, but bought her freedom and started a business. Unfortunately, Phoebe is cheated out of her business. Ruthie notices almost immediately that she and Jack have met Phoebe when they've traveled through the Thorne Rooms. She knows that they can find a way to help. As they begin yet another adventure, Ruthie and Jack go to Room A12 in the Thorne Rooms and the coin glows and gets very hot. "What secret enchantment flickered through the Pirate coin?" But when Ruthie and Jack travel back and meet Jack Northfleet, something goes terribly wrong because when they return, no one can see Jack but Ruthie. Have they changed history so that Jack no longer exists? And what will happen if they can't change it back?

Susan says

Through a school genealogy project, Jack and Ruthie learn that a fellow student is distantly related to Phoebe Monroe, the young slave girl whom they met in the previous adventure. Jack and Ruthie can clear the family name, but it means shrinking down and locating hidden documents inside the Chicago Art Institute's miniature rooms. Meanwhile, Jack's family history is also intertwined in the Thorne Rooms. An old coin --a piece of eight--leads him to travel back in time to 1753 and meet his ancestor, pirate Jack Norfleet. But suddenly, Jack begins to disappear! Changing history can bring disastrous results. Keeping track of all the magical restrictions, along with the spatial logic required to follow air ducts and specifically placed ladders, can be enough to make readers' heads spin. Add in all of the great-great-great-great-great ancestors, plus two parallel yet unconnected storylines, and this magical adventure slows to a crawl.

Milliebot says

This book goes deeper into American history by picking up the storyline from the last book dealing with slavery. I was glad to see the kids dealing with a very meaningful mystery rather than just more adventures hopping through the rooms and in and out of minor scuffles.

There is a little snafu regarding what happens when you mess with the past too much but it was remedied so quickly that the stakes felt very low.

As usual I'm skeptical at how much trust the adults put in these kids, especially the random ones from history that meet two children, unchaperoned, wearing modern clothing always happen to swallow whatever basic story the kids spit out. It's also convenient that they primarily meet kids their own age when they're on their adventures.

But I'm looking forward to see how this series wraps up.

Oh, also, I hate the spider on the cover and the large illustration of one inside. Lol

Nathan says

4 stars--I love this series for kids! Great adventures and good stories for getting boys to read.

Melissa says

Book number 3 in this really great series. Would be a fun way to introduce a unit on Civil War, Underground Railroad, or Slavery. I'm really hoping to make it to Chicago again to visit the actual Thorne Rooms!

"Sixth Graders Ruthie and Jack return to the Art Institute of Chicago's magical Thorne Rooms. During a school presentation, Ruthie and Jack discover that their classmate Kendra is descended from Phoebe Monroe, the young slave they befriended when they traveled to 19th-century South Carolina. Kendra tells them that long ago her family lost their good name and their business selling herbal remedies when mobsters accused them of stealing the recipes! Only Ruthie and Jack know the truth--because only they know about the secret ledger that Phoebe wrote the recipes in long ago! Ruthie and Jack's mission to clear Kendra's name takes them back to the Thorne Rooms, where a mysterious old coin leads them to 1753 Cape Cod and to Jack's own ancestor . . . the pirate Jack Norfleet! But playing with history can be dangerous! Suddenly, Jack's very existence is in jeopardy! Can Ruthie and Jack find the proof they need to help Kendra? And can they fix the past and save Jack's future . . . before it's too late?"

Jessica says

The best book of the series!

RumBelle says

What makes these books so much fun is that each has such a distinctive plot. There are threads that run through the series that connect it all, but each book is its own separate adventure. More and more secrets come to light about the Thorne Rooms and the magic within them with each new story, and you just can't wait to learn what will be revealed next. The idea that Ruthie and Jack going into the past could change

events was never explored more fully than in this book. It really showed what time travel could do, but also what wonderful friends they are. My only complaint is that the book itself really had very little, overall, to do with pirates. I felt it was more of a subplot and I was hoping it would have a bigger role. I loved this book, visiting different rooms, learning how they were built and how the magic in them works is such an enjoying thrill.

Fantasy Literature says

The Pirate's Coin, the third book in Marianne Malone's SIXTY-EIGHT ROOMS fantasy adventure series for children, is a slight improvement over the first two novels, The Sixty-Eight Rooms and Stealing Magic, which three of us here at FanLit agreed did not meet the potential of Malone's excellent premise. Readers who haven't dropped out yet, presumably because they have enjoyed the series so far, should also be pleased with this installment.

Ruthie and Jack just can't stay away from the Thorne Rooms in the Art Institute of Chicago. This time the plot involves two separate threads that (again) take place in the worlds of two of the Thorne Rooms. One involves a classmate that Ruthie and Jack discover is a descendant of... [Read More](#):

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Lena says

loved it! I can't wait for their next adventure!

Shannon says

Amazon Book Description:

Sixth graders Jack and Ruthie return in their third adventure in the Art Institute of Chicago's magical Thorne Rooms! During a school presentation, Ruthie and Jack discover that their classmate Kendra is descended from Phoebe Monroe, the young slave they befriended when they traveled to 19th-century South Carolina. Kendra tells them that long ago her family lost their good name and their business selling herbal remedies when mobsters accused them of stealing the recipes! Only Ruthie and Jack know the truth--because only they know about the secret ledger that Phoebe wrote the recipes in long ago! Ruthie and Jack's mission to clear Kendra's name takes them back to the Thorne Rooms, where a mysterious old coin leads them to 1753 Cape Cod and to Jack's own ancestor . . . the pirate Jack Norfleet! But playing with history can be dangerous! Suddenly, Jack's very existence is in jeopardy! Can Ruthie and Jack find the proof they need to help Kendra? And can they fix the past and save Jack's future . . . before it's too late?

Miss Pippi the Librarian says

Ruthie and Jack are back for another great miniature adventure in the Thorne Rooms located at the Arts Institute of Chicago. They're on an adventure to discover more information about Phoebe Monroe and the pirate Jack Norfleet.

The Pirate's Coin is the third title in the Sixty-Eight Rooms Adventure series. It's my favorite so far in the series. The third installment of Ruthie and Jack's escapades involves an individual from previous travels (Phoebe Monroe) and a distant relative of Jack's (Pirate Jack Norfleet). The idea of an alternate history is shared in this story and that's always an interesting plot twist. Book three should be reader after books one and two. The Sixty-Eight Rooms Adventures is a series that must be read in order.

Cassandra Campbell returns to narrate the story! I love it when readers return to series. Even though it's been a bit since I listened to book two, I felt that I was right back into the story. Ms. Campbell was wonderfully consistent with the characters from book to book. Thank you for a job well done!

Reviewed from a library copy.

Kat Hooper says

The Pirate's Coin, the third book in Marianne Malone's **SIXTY-EIGHT ROOMS** fantasy adventure series for children, is a slight improvement over the first two novels, *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* and *Stealing Magic*, which three of us here at FanLit agreed did not meet the potential of Malone's excellent premise. Readers who haven't dropped out yet, presumably because they have enjoyed the series so far, should also be pleased with this installment.

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