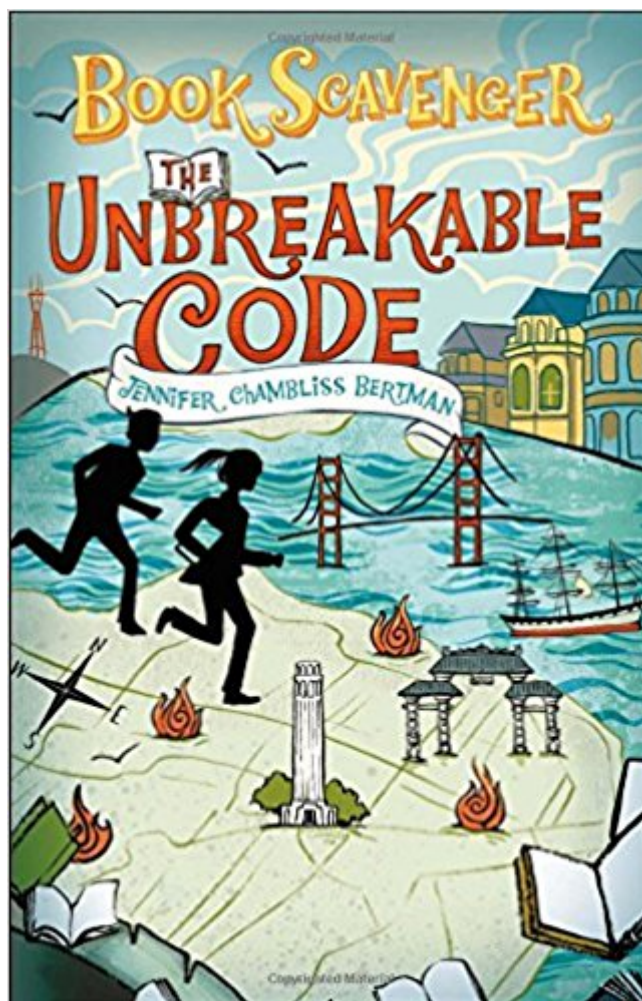


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# The Unbreakable Code (The Book Scavenger Series)



## Synopsis

Mr. Quisling is definitely up to something mysterious, and Emily and James are on high alert. First, there's the " " coded note he drops " " at a book event. Then, they uncover a trail of encrypted messages in Mark Twain-penned books hidden through Book Scavenger. What's most suspicious is that each hidden book triggers an arson fire. As the sleuthing friends dig deeper, they discover Mr. Quisling has been hunting a legendary historical puzzle: the Unbreakable Code. This new mystery is irresistible, but Emily and James can't ignore the signs that Mr. Quisling might be the arsonist. The clock is ticking as the arson fires multiply, and Emily and James race to crack the code of a lifetime.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840 (What's this?)

Series: The Book Scavenger series (Book 2)

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

## Customer Reviews

A New York Times-Bestseller! A Junior Library Guild Selection "Brisk, bookish good fun for puzzle and code lovers."-Kirkus Reviews "Bertman offers . . . a large, interesting cast of characters, plenty of challenges for code enthusiasts, and more complexity than most middle-grade mysteries. Young readers captivated by these distinctive characters will be hoping for the series to continue."-Booklist Online "A successful sequel . . . Readers who loved the first volume will find this follow-up even more satisfying."--School Library Journal Praise for Book Scavenger: A New York Times-Bestseller An Indie

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Jennifer Chambliss Bertman was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds an MFA in creative writing and has worked for literary agencies, magazines, educational publishers, and as a freelance copyeditor and proofreader. She is the author of *Book Scavenger*.

A fun follow-up to Bertman's *Book Scavenger*, although not quite as fun. Very inventive, and her information at the end answers any questions kids might have. My only complaint is that these kids are allowed to travel all over San Francisco on their own pretty easily for 12-year-olds. That might have been the case when Bertman grew up there (though I doubt it), but seems unlikely today--and the story is set in modern times. That said, I don't think it's going to make kids suddenly wander all over their towns and cities alone.

Great follow-up to "*Book Scavenger*" and it takes place in San Francisco, which is practically in my

back yard.

Love this story and the first book, too

Great tween book.

Jennifer has done it again. My daughter couldn't put it down.

A great sequel and well worth the read!

Anyone who has read *The Book Scavenger* is already eagerly awaiting this sequel. If you have not started the series yet, then you can have the pleasure of reading both books back-to-back. This time, Emily and James are still dealing with the fame of their amazing find at the end of the first book, as well as having some worries at home. Emily overhears her parents discussing money issues, and James wishes his dad would cut back on his business travel and be home more often. But nothing compares with becoming part of the advisory board for their hero Mr. Griswold, the creator of the Book Scavenger game. As they rush from school to dance committee to meetings with Mr. Griswold, they also have time for more Book Scavenger clues and possibly a treasure hunt. Two middle school kids trying to balance schoolwork, family life, and trying to solve an unbreakable code over a century old sounds like a lot to work into a story, but the author smoothly weaves it all together. Scenes with the dance committee debating over theme and decorations ring true, while the hunt for treasure and a possible arsonist are believably filled with tension and excitement. Many of the characters from the first story are back - Mr. Quisling, Hollister, Jack, and the families and classmates of Emily and James. And there are a few new faces that we can watch and wonder, "Is that the bad guy?" Anyone interested in books, codes, ciphers, and treasure hunts should try this. Reading it makes me wish Hollister had his bookshop in my neighborhood; I want to curl up in the purple armchair and read. I read an e-book provided by the publisher through edelweiss.

Emily and James are back in a second adventure. This time these middle schoolers are trying to solve the unbreakable code which dates back to the time of Mark Twain in San Francisco. Solving it is supposed to lead to a fantastic treasure. Emily and James are experienced puzzle solvers as they are members of an online game called Book Scavengers started by Emily's idol Garrison

Griswold. Searching for the solution for the unbreakable code is only one of the mysteries they are working on. They are suspicious about their teacher Mr. Quisling who is tracking down copies of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain which wouldn't be suspicious except for the fires that are started in the locations where the books were found. Emily is also stressed by the possibility that her parents will need to move the family again despite promising her and her brother that they would settle in San Francisco for a while. Meanwhile, James is missing his father who has to travel a lot for business. Finding the treasure and giving the winnings to their parents could solve both of those problems. Adding to their schedule is the upcoming Presidents' Day/Valentine's Day Dance which Emily and James volunteered to help organize. I liked both Emily and James because they are readers. I liked that they were curious and resourceful. I liked the adults in this story too who were helpful and treated the kids with respect. I also liked the puzzles and think middle grade puzzle lovers will enjoy playing along with the clues to the mystery.

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