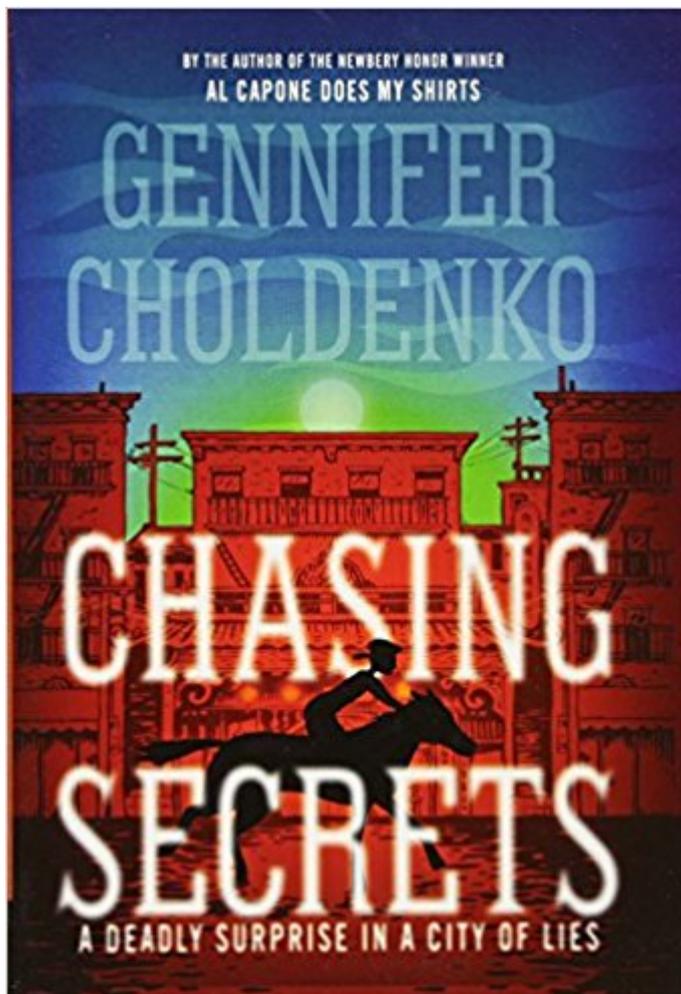


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# Chasing Secrets



## Synopsis

Newbery Honor-winning author Jennifer Choldenko deftly combines humor, tragedy, fascinating historical detail, and a medical mystery in this exuberant new novel. San Francisco, 1900. The Gilded Age. A fantastic time to be alive for lots of people . . . but not thirteen-year-old Lizzie Kennedy, stuck at Miss Barstow's snobby school for girls. Lizzie's secret passion is science, an unsuitable subject for finishing-school girls. Lizzie lives to go on house calls with her physician father. On those visits to his patients, she discovers a hidden dark side of the city—a side that's full of secrets, rats, and rumors of the plague. The newspapers, her powerful uncle, and her beloved papa all deny that the plague has reached San Francisco. So why is the heart of the city under quarantine? Why are angry mobs trying to burn Chinatown to the ground? Why is Noah, the Chinese cook's son, suddenly making Lizzie question everything she has known to be true? Ignoring the rules of race and class, Lizzie and Noah must put the pieces together in a heart-stopping race to save the people they love. Winner of a Los Angeles Public Library FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) Award Nominated for: Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award (Middle School division) Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Readers Award California Library Association's Beatty Award, Eureka List

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0540 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,009 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #82 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#) #111 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5—Thirteen-year-old Lizzie is the daughter of Dr. Jules Kennedy, who practices medicine in turn of the 20th century San Francisco. The family resides in a house on Uncle Karl and Aunt Hortense's Nob Hill estate. There's Lizzie and her brother, Billy; Jing, the cook; Maggy, the maid; and—unknownst to all but Lizzie—Jing's son, Noah. Since Lizzie's mother died, Aunt Hortense has assumed a maternal role in Lizzie's upbringing, which includes making her attend Miss Barstow's School for Young Women. Unfortunately, the school offers little to nurture Lizzie's interest in science and medicine. While accompanying her father on house calls, Lizzie soon hears rumors of a plague. Then Jing goes missing. She suspects he might be under quarantine in Chinatown. But why is Chinatown the only area of the city under quarantine? And why aren't any medical staff or supplies being sent to the Chinatown residents? Despite the evidence, city officials and the medical community—including Lizzie's father—are denying the plague's existence. As the title suggests, various characters, along with the state and city government, harbor secrets. An author's note, time line, and bibliography document the historical facts and issues of the period. VERDICT Choldenko's latest novel features a fast-paced plot that will appeal to lovers of both mystery and historical fiction. A first purchase.—Sharon M. Lawler, formerly of Randolph Elementary, Universal City, TX --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

“The plot is enriched by winning characters, meaningful friendships, a taut atmosphere, and secrets multiplying as fast as the story's rats.—Booklist— starred review— “Not only will this novel hold a proud spot on the deadly disease shelf with Jim Murphy's *An American Plague* and Laurie Halse Anderson's *Fever 1793*, it's a vivid picture of 20th-century San Francisco and a stirring story of a lonely, funny girl trying to be her "best true self."—Shelf Awareness starred reviewFrom the Hardcover edition.

Loved the characters, the historic period and setting in San Francisco. I would recommend this book for young readers ( middle elementary up) and anyone interested in a good read!

I love this book! It was very heartwarming and sad at times, but above all it was a wonderful read. I love how Lizzie (Elizabeth) is a rebel but still follows the rules. And Aunt Hortense, wow she just

kept on surprising me. Wonderful book. Simply wonderful.

This book is really good. I suggest that you read it. It will blow a new world of secrets through your head

Grand daughter is reading for summer project thought I would also really enjoyed it first book I've read in yrs

Wrapped carefully and arrived undamaged. Thank you!

Interesting read -historical novel

My niece loved it.

Nice

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Richer, Happier Life

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