

Plucky Orphan Stories or Move Aside Anne, Pippi and Harry
Episode 4

Note: Loosely defined, an orphan can mean No Parents, One Messed up Parent or Two Absent Parents. Essentially it's a child with limited adult supervision and at least one adult foil.

A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama 2006

By Laura Amy Schlitz, Candlewick, Middle Grade Fiction

At the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans, eleven-year-old Maud is adopted by three spinster sisters moonlighting as mediums that take her home and reveal to her the role she will play in their séances.

Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos (Theodosia Throckmorton, #1) 2007

By R.L. LaFevers, Houghton Mifflin, Middle Grade Fiction

Twelve-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies, one sworn to protect the world from ancient Egyptian magic and one planning to harness it to bring chaos to the world, both of which want a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum for which her parents work.

Theodosia and the Staff of Osiris (Theodosia Throckmorton, #2) 2008

Theodosia and the Eyes of Horus (Theodosia Throckmorton, #3) 2010

The Case of the Missing Marquess (Enola Holmes Mysteries, #1) 2006

By Nancy Springer, Philomel, Middle Grade Fiction.

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

The Case of the Left-handed Lady (Enola Holmes mystery, #2) 2007

The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets (Enola Holmes Mysteries, #3) 2008

The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan (Enola Holmes Mysteries, #4) 2008

The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline (Enola Holmes Mysteries, #5) 2009

The Case of the Gypsy Goodbye (Enola Holmes Mysteries, #6) 2010 final title

Bloody Jack (Bloody Jack, #1) 2002

By L.A. Meyer, Harcourt, Middle/High School Fiction

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

Curse of the Blue Tattoo (Bloody Jack, #2) 2004

Under the Jolly Roger (Bloody Jack, #3) 2005

In the Belly of the Bloodhound (Bloody Jack, #4) 2006

Mississippi Jack (Bloody Jack, #5) 2007

My Bonny Light Horseman (Bloody Jack, #6) 2008

Rapture of the Deep (Bloody Jack, #7) 2009

The Wake of the Lorelei Lee (Bloody Jack, #8) 2010

Stolen aka **The Magic Thief** (Magic Thief, #1) 2008

By Sarah Prineas, HarperCollins, Upper Elementary Fiction.

Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply.

Lost (Magic Thief, #2) 2009

Found (Magic Thief, #3) 2010

The Amaranth Enchantment 2009

By Julie Berry, Bloomsbury, Middle Grade Fiction

Orphaned at age five, Lucinda, now fifteen, stands with courage against the man who took everything from her, aided by a thief, a clever goat, and a mysterious woman called the Witch of Amaranth, while the prince she knew as a child prepares to marry, unaware that he, too, is in danger.

Hellie Jondoe 2009

By Randall Platt, Texas Tech University Press, Middle Grade Fiction.

In 1918, as the Great War ends and the Spanish influenza pandemic begins, thirteen-year-old Hellie Jondoe survives on the streets of New York as a beggar and pickpocket until she boards the orphan train to Oregon, where she learns about loyalty, honesty, and the meaning of family.

A Spy in the House 2010

By Y.S. Lee, Candlewick, High School Fiction

Rescued from the gallows in 1850s London, 17-year-old orphan and thief Mary Quinn is offered a place at Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Girls, where she is trained to be part of an all-female investigative unit called the Agency in order to infiltrate a rich merchant's home in hopes of tracing his missing cargo ships.

Revolver 2009, 2010

By Marcus Sedgwick, Roaring Brook Press, High School Fiction

Finland, 1910: Fifteen-year-old Sig is shocked to see a hole in the frozen lake outside his family's cabin and to find his father's corpse nearby. Why did Einar steer his dog sled across the lake instead of taking the safer land route? Sig's sister and stepmother go for help, leaving Sig alone with Einar's body in the cabin. Soon after, an armed stranger barges in, demanding a share of Einar's stolen gold.