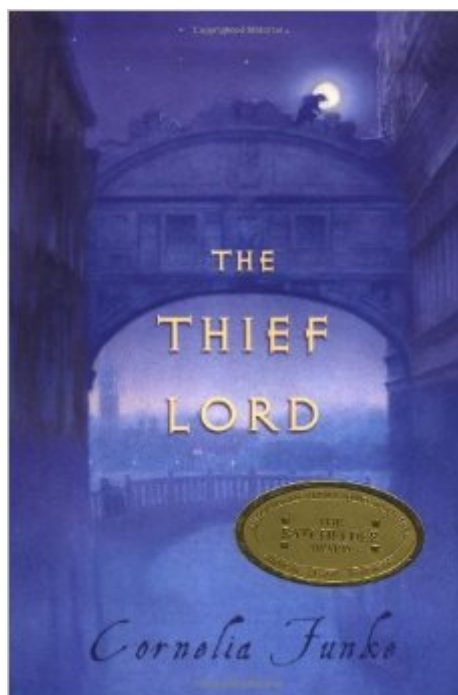


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# The Thief Lord (Indies Choice Book Awards. Young Adult Fiction)



## Synopsis

An exciting, magical adventure set among the crumbling canals and ancient ruins of Venice, Italy. Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious character who calls himself the "Thief Lord." Brilliant and charismatic, the Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo relish being part of this colorful new family. But the Thief Lord has secrets of his own. And soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them, and readers, to a fantastic, spellbinding conclusion.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Series: Indies Choice Book Awards. Young Adult Fiction

Hardcover: 349 pages

Publisher: Scholastic (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439404371

ISBN-13: 978-0439404372

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.8 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (531 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #367,124 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #372 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #1539 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#)

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Cornelia Funke's "Thief Lord" is one of those few books that deserves at least some of the hype that they're given. While it's not the best I've read, it is a solid adventure story, quite well-written, with likable characters and a good, suspenseful storyline. Prosper and Bo have run away to Venice, escaping a vicious aunt who wants to adopt only Bo. Now, they have joined up with Scipio the Thief Lord, a wily kid of their own age with a mystery identity and a band of loyal street kids, including Hornet, Riccio and Mosca. Though Prosper doesn't like stealing, he has no choice; he has to look

out for his little brother, and somehow keep out of sight. Their aunt, however, has hired a private detective (who is preoccupied with turtles) who is trailing the boys through Venice. A nasty merchant named Barbarossa has offered the Thief Lord a massive job on behalf of a mystery client. And the detective starts to home in on the two boys, as the true identity of the Thief Lord comes to light... "Thief Lord" isn't particularly groundbreaking, but it has a slightly classic feel to it. The settings in Venice, the names of the characters (Prospero, Scipio) and the dramatic details like Scipio's costume. But Funke balances it out with funnier things like Barbarossa's ride on the carousel and Victor's preoccupation with his pets. The magical element of the carousel (shades of Ray Bradbury?) seems a bit out of place, however, as there hadn't been any magic up until then. The writing is quite detailed and descriptive, and Funke doesn't skimp on the descriptions of how gorgeous Venice is. What's more, the translation is, as far as I can tell (which isn't far since I don't speak German), pretty flawless. If I didn't know better I would think that it was originally written in English.

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