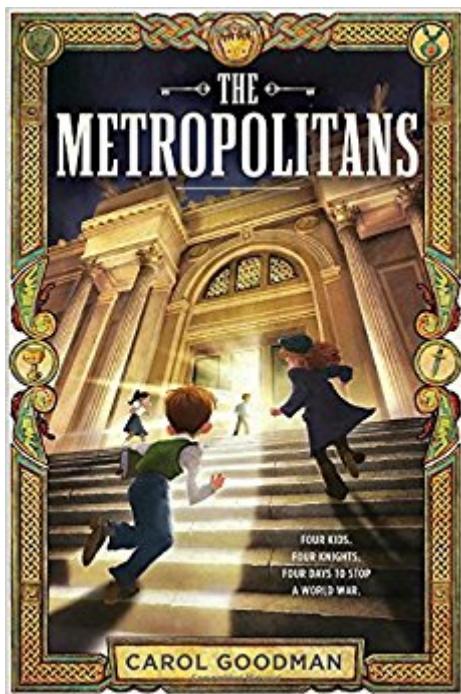


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# The Metropolitans



## Synopsis

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler meets The Apothecary in this time-bending mystery from bestselling author Carol Goodman! The day Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, four thirteen-year-olds converge at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where an eccentric curator is seeking four uncommonly brave souls to track down the hidden pages of the Kelmsbury Manuscript, an ancient book of Arthurian legends that lies scattered within the museum's collection, and that holds the key to preventing a second attack on American soil. When Madge, Joe, Kiku, and Walt agree to help, they have no idea that the Kelmsbury is already working its magic on them. But they begin to develop extraordinary powers and experience the feelings of King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Morgan le Fay, and Lancelot: courage, friendship, love...and betrayal. Are they playing out a legend that's already been lived, over and over, across the ages? Or can the Metropolitans forge their own story?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0840 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers (March 14, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101997664

ISBN-13: 978-1101997666

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,440 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #71 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #1221 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Praise for The Metropolitans: "[An] adventure worthy of Indiana Jones.... A strong female protagonist, a great supporting cast, a timeless myth, and the undercurrent of World War II combine for an engaging and memorable tale." --School Library Journal "A finely constructed and quite often

thrilling adventure story for middle-grade readers, with a historical setting and the added twist of medieval magic."--Booklist"The overarching message is one of hope— in order to defeat foes and overcome insecurities, the children must learn to trust each other and be willing to sacrifice for the greater good."--Publishers Weekly"Children will love the action, mystery, and influences of magic and legends."--School Library Connections"A strong female protagonist, a great supporting cast, a timeless myth, and the undercurrent of World War II combine for an engaging and memorable tale."--School Library Journal

Carol Goodman is the author of over a dozen novels for adults, including the bestseller *The Lake of Dead Languages*, and the *Blythewood* trilogy for teens. Her works has appeared in journals such as *The Greensboro Review*, *Literal Latte*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *New York Quarterly*, and *Other Voices*. After graduating from Vassar College, where she majored in Latin, she taught Latin for several years in Austin, Texas. She then received an MFA in fiction from the New School University, where she now teaches writing. She has been nominated for the IMPAC award twice, the Simon & Schuster/Mary Higgins Clark Award, and the Nero Wolfe Award, and was awarded the 2003 Hammett Prize. Her novels have been translated into ten languages. She lives in New York's Hudson Valley. Visit her at [carolgoodman.com](http://carolgoodman.com) and @C\_Goodmania.

My granddaughter for whom I bought the book loved it. I have read several of carol Goodman's novels for adults and enjoyed them very much.

Think of all the best books that feature a group of kids who become friends and go on to solve a mystery and save the day. The kids from *Chasing Vermeer* come to mind. Or what about stories like *The 39 Clues*, or the friends from *The Infinity Ring* series? And don't forget about Harry, Ron, and Hermione tracking down the Deathly Hallows, among other things. This book will be joining their ranks soon. Madge, Kiku, Joe, and Walt all meet at the Metropolitan Museum of Art at a time in their own lives where they have suffered losses and feel lonely. It is also a time in our country when things are very rough. The Nazis are surging across Europe, and on the day the kids meet, Pearl Harbor is bombed. Suddenly their chance encounter turns into fate. They find themselves forming a group of modern knights, searching for the pages of a missing book of Arthurian legends. If they can solve all the clues and retrieve the lost chapters of the book, then they may be able to prevent an horrific attack on New York. Can four middle-school students foil the plots of enemy agents? The *Metropolitans* is a delightful mix of urban fantasy, espionage thriller, and historical fiction. The world

of 1941 America comes to life with Indian boarding schools, Japanese internment, Hoovervilles, and the Nazi threat. Cultural references such as Captain America, Captain Marvel, Little Orphan Annie, and King Kong are smoothly worked in to ground the story in the historical timeline. The Arthurian legend transfers into the Met and the lives of the children so that readers learn about Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Morgaine, Mordred, and Merlin along with the protagonists. The action is fast paced. The clues take the knowledge and skills of all the group to solve, forging the bond between them stronger with each task that is completed. This is a great read for those who have enjoyed any of the other books I mentioned, as well as for those who enjoy mysteries and historical fiction. It is perfect for a read-aloud because each chapter will leave listeners begging to hear more. Highly recommended for middle grades and up. I read an e-book provided by the publisher through NetGalley.

The *Metropolitans* mixes history and fantasy in a very unique fashion. I found the beginning a bit slow, but continued on because the characters were very intriguing. As the story progressed, so did the pace of the book. The heroism of King Arthur's time comes to New York at the onset of World War II. The evils from Camelot however also have arisen and threaten to destroy the city. It's up to four brave teens to basically save the world from this evil. The engaging characters and museum backdrop really make this story come to life. A great, clean read for 5th grade and above.

This is a great novel, and is really worth the time to read.

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The *Metropolitans*

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