

The Sweetest Heist in History (Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective)

By Octavia Spencer



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A hard-to-prove art heist in New York City becomes a mystery for ninja detective Randi Rhodes in this second book in a series full of humor, adventure, and heart from Academy Award—winning actress Octavia Spencer.

Randi Rhodes and her fellow ninja detectives, DC and Pudge, were flying high after solving the Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit. But life in sleepy Deer Creek has begun to feel...a bit boring. There are no crimes to investigate! But a trip to New York City to visit Randi's aunt changes that! While the ninja detective trio explores Randi's old neighborhood in Brooklyn, they uncover an art theft. Except no one will believe them. So they'll just have to catch the criminals in the act...



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—Randi Rhodes, black-belt ninja and kid detective, is back again with her sidekicks, D.C. and Pudge, to solve another rousing mystery. This installment takes the trio from Deer Creek, TN to Brooklyn, NY, where a world-famous Fabergé egg exhibit is opening at the Brooklyn Museum, right across from Randi's aunt's apartment. After noticing suspicious behavior from the new neighbors and learning that pieces of the collection have mysteriously disappeared, the gang of detective ninjas is on the case. With a tae kwon do competition, Thanksgiving dinner, and a few familial hiccups standing in the way, this quick read is packed with action around every corner. Although the fast-paced plot deals with a mystery through and through, the diverse characters are well-rounded and experience their own tough personal situations with determination and grace. While the story is didactic at times, the importance of family, confidence, and free-spiritedness shine through the overall plot. Although a few clues fit almost too perfectly into place and the lax nature of adult accomplices involved in attaining them is sometimes questionable, this book will satiate any young detective's thirst for mystery.—Brittany Staszak, Glencoe Public Library, IL

Review

this novel will keep young readers guessing...readers will appreciate Randi's determination to make a difference. A quick read about a girl sleuth whose fiery determination will leave readers wanting Book 2. (*Kirkus Reviews, on The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit*)

An entertaining, suspenseful read. (Booklist, on The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit)

A host of quirky supporting characters provide warmth in this cozy little mystery while Randi herself is eminently likable, an appealing mixture of bravado and vulnerability as she tries to crack the case, negotiate her relationship with her dad, and come to terms with her mother's recent death. Academy Award—winner-turned-author Spencer lays out an inviting mystery perfectly suited for younger readers. (*Bulletin, on The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit*)

Spencer has created a clever mysteryProviding a list of ninja tasks at the end of the book, she may make heroes of us all. (*Booklist Online*)

Good sleuthing fun. (Kirkus Reviews)

This book will satiate any young detective's thirst for mystery. (School Library Journal)

About the Author

A veteran character actress and one of Hollywood's most sought-after talents, Octavia Spencer has become a familiar fixture on both television and silver screen. Her critically acclaimed performance as Minny in the DreamWorks feature film *The Help* won her a 2012 Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, a SAG Award, and a Broadcast Film Critics' Choice Award, among countless other honors. Octavia is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and holds a BS in Liberal Arts from Auburn University. She lives in Los Angeles. *Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit* was her first novel.

Vivienne To has illustrated several books, including The Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins and the Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective series by Octavia Spencer. As a child, she had two pet mice escape. She

currently lives in Sydney, Australia, with her partner and her ginger cat. Visit her at VivienneTo.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vicki Shah:

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