



## **Herr der Diebe**

*Cornelia Funke*

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**Herr der Diebe** Cornelia Funke

"Du bist also wirklich der Herr der Diebe", sagte der Fremde leise. "Nun gut, behalte deine Maske auf, wenn du dein Gesicht nicht zeigen möchtest. Ich sehe auch so, dass du sehr jung bist."

## **Herr der Diebe Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2000 by Dressler Verlag

ISBN : 9783791504575

Author : Cornelia Funke

Format : Hardcover 400 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Childrens

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## From Reader Review Herr der Diebe for online ebook

### Jackie "the Librarian" says

It's a great fantasy: Let's run away to Venice, and hide out in an old movie theater. We can dye our hair blonde, so no one will ever find us!

In a way, this is a European version of **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**, with siblings running away to a place stuffed with antiquities, and getting mixed up in an art mystery. I guess Victor the detective must have the Mrs. Frankweiler role.

I didn't expect the touch of fantasy at the end. I'd love to read a sequel to find out what happened to the Thief Lord.

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### ? jamieson ? says

#### THIS IS ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVOURITE BOOKS!

I love the characters, the world, the story. Scipio was like one of my first book crushes lmao. Seriously, this book is so exciting and fun and has such a great cast of characters who all have such genuine, important friendships and it's magical and beautiful could not recommend it highly enough.

It's like *Six of Crows* except they live in a movie theatre and they are all like 12

KINDA wanna reread it again now its just **the BEST**

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### Kris says

By the time I hit chapter 45 out of 52, my interest in the plot started fizzling out.

The characters are well-drawn, but there's not much development or growth shown over the course of the story. The plot takes place within a modern setting, but a fantastical element is thrown in kind of randomly. It feels out of place and there's a lot of exposition surrounding it. The setting is great, with some nice details thrown into the action and descriptions. But generally the writing isn't particularly special or captivating. This book is a decent children's story that entertains, but it's not a classic.

I think I had started this one years ago, back when I was younger, and never finished. It was very familiar, but I had no memory of the ending.

I plan to revisit the Inkheart series in audiobook format soon.

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### Connor says

My Video Review:

<https://youtu.be/7ftK1cYyTwo>

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### **Ann says**

I kept fluctuating between 3 and four stars. Ultimately I'd probably opt for 3 and 1/2, but since that's not an option, I'll go with four because I think it's more of a personal taste thing over the quality of the book.

I'm a huge fan of "Inkheart" so had high hopes for this novel. I quickly realized the two have very different styles, and rightfully so, as this book is (at least I assume) geared for a younger audience.

The cast of characters is delightful, each with their own stories and personalities, and you can't help but hoping the "good guys" win. The plot was interesting, but I did feel that there were two stories/plots going on, and that the first half of the book wasn't quite the same as the second half.

Also, I'm not entirely sure what I think of the ending, the "messages" etc. Nothing bad, just I'm not sure what I think of it. I finished the book and still had questions as to the why, and what would happen - but, perhaps that was Funke's intent, that she didn't want everything neatly wrapped up. (again, back to the personal taste thing)

I did enjoy the book, and was curious to learn how it would end. It wasn't predictable on certain plots, so kept me guessing.

I also enjoyed the style of writing, the settings were vivid and it was fun to read a book set by the canals and winged lions of Venice.

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Decided to go ahead and give this a try. So far it's a very different style from Inkheart, but I'm intrigued.:)

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### **Kwesi ??? says**

This book did not work well to me, *Cornelia Funke* gave me another headache after reading her *Inkheart* series which I thought will be one of my favorites since the movie was great. I did like the movie very much and I dug a hole 6 feet under for the whole series not to be seen by my eyes again. Well, I think I broke one of the important rules of reading and watching book-tie-in stuff. I did watch the movie before the book so that made things worst but I was hoping not.

The last time I remember reading *Cornelia Funke* was when my mom go shopping in the nearby mall for 4 hours and I wait like a lap dog. Seriously, I'm very disappointed to *Funke* but I'm not yet done with her and I might try her other YA or children's books which will be nice *raw* (by reading reviews out of control).

When *Prosper* and *Bo* escaped from their cruel rich aunt they met this group of kids who helped and cared by the *Thief Lord*, which fed them and act like a grown man. Well, he was hoping to be a grown man

unfortunately something horrible scene happened in the end. They met *Barbarossa*, the antique dealer, and they are asked to meet with the *Conte* who only wish is to find a missing piece of one of his antique toys (quite big for a toy though) and so on.

Talking about the characters which one of them have their own different personalities and very interesting that *Funke* made 6 characters very well and very hard to familiarize each in the beginning of the story. *Prosper* and *Bo*, orphaned and living with their cruel aunt, and they escaped and found home in an old theater. *Musca*, the black boy who have love to water. *Hornet*, the reader and the only female in the band. She's quite a mother.

*Riccio*, sometimes called the weasle because of his, *eeew*, his ugly teeth! Lastly, *Scipio*, the Thief Lord and the one who acts as an adult in the pack (Alpha Dog). If I have the chance to become one of them, I might chose *Prosper*. He is a nice brother, caring but to possessive but I think he only protect his brother from their cruel relatives and of course safety. But I think my hopes will die along because they already made a movie!

I did expect a lot to this book since most of my friends really liked this book and the *Inkheart* series which I should not done before I started reading this book. This story is very unique, quite magical although there are not much of magical stuff inside and no popular book characters appeared. At least *Cornelia Funke* emphasize the city of Venice, how ancient, dark and historical the place is.

So far this is my 3rd book about Venice and I want more, hoping to go there soon, later in life. Jeez, don't think that I have to be 60 before I start traveling outside Philippines. The dark and childish aroma of this book is very fascinating for a young child, but not for me. Although I read a lot of children's books, this one is different, this one is more on adventure and deception. Kind of.

I recommend this book to those who love to read children's books and child at heart. Don't forget, this book was one of *Cornelia Funke*'s best book and guys you have to read this. But until now, I'm still been sued by many conspiracy behind this book. This is not as good as any book I read but not bad enough to be like and enjoyed in a series of minutes. Enjoy reading and see you to Venice in no time!

*The cast of the movie and Cornelia Funke. I don't have any idea where they took this photo but I can still remember the pigeon that mentioned in the story. The one that flew up high.*

Review posted on **Old-Fashioned Reader**.

**Rating:** *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke, **3 Sweets**

**Challenges:**

*Book #203 for 2011*

*Book #119 for Off the Shelf!*

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**Denise Bücherwunderland says**

Ach wie süß!

Ich habe das Buch schon einmal als Kind gelesen, aber ehrlich gesagt konnte ich mich nur an den

Anfang erinnern und wusste sonst nur noch schemenhaft worum es ging.  
Deswegen habe ich mir das Buch vor einiger Zeit nochmal gekauft und es jetzt gelesen ?.

Die Geschichte rund um Prosper, Bo, Wespe, dem Herrn der Diebe und den anderen, werden wohl viele von euch schon kennen ?.

Ich finde sie einfach süß!

Allerdings möchte ich nicht zu viel dazu sagen falls ihr das Buch noch nicht gelesen haben solltet?.

Für mich gehört "Herr der Diebe" definitiv zu den Büchern meiner Kindheit und ich könnte es immer wieder lesen ?. Immerhin geht es in dem Buch u. a. um Freundschaft, Zusammenhalt und um das Erwachsen werden ?.

Ich glaube "Herr der Diebe" war damals mein zweites Buch der Autorin, denn den Drachenreiter habe ich vorher gelesen ?. Auf jeden Fall kann ich euch die Bücher der Autorin nur empfehlen, egal wie alt ihr seid ?.

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### **Ahmad Sharabiani says**

Herr der Diebe = The Thief Lord, Cornelia Funke

The Thief Lord is a children's novel written by Cornelia Funke. It was published in Germany in 2000 and translated into English by Oliver Latsch in 2002 for The Chicken House, a division of Scholastic publishing company. It was also adapted into a film in 2006.

The Thief Lord follows the story of brothers, Prosper and Boniface (Bo), who run away to Venice, Italy. They are taken in by a group of street children who live in an abandoned movie theater - the Stella, and are led by a proud orphan named Scipio. He appears to steal valuables and the orphan group sells them to a sly shopkeeper, Ernesto Barbarossa. A customer of Barbarossa, calling himself the Conte, asks the "Thief Lord" to steal a wooden lion's wing for him. The runaway boys' aunt and uncle figure out where they are and set a detective, Victor Getz, on their trail. Victor recognizes the boys on the street and manages to initiate a conversation with innocent little Bo. Bo accidentally lets slip that he lives in an old movie theater. When the rest of the children see Victor, they cause a distraction and run away, taking his wallet with them. In his search for the theater, Victor visits the home of Dottor Massimo, the owner of the Stella, where he sees Scipio, who is actually the son of the rich Dottore. ...

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### **Jonathan Terrington says**

I've read more books than I remember. From the classy literature books (the classics) to the crummy excuses of children's novels thrown into the public libraries to con young readers into believing that they possess quality my reading has been deep and varied. Yet there are some novels I read as a child that impacted me enough to cause me to read them over again. *The Thief Lord* is one of those books.

What is *The Thief Lord*? It is a fantasy tale and an adventure story combined and set in modern Venice. The story follows two brothers who have run away to Venice and end up in the company of a group of juvenile thieves living in an abandoned cinema. At least they appear to be thieves to begin with. As one reads on one realises that perhaps these thieves are not quite the rogues they would have you believe. Which all leads into the job they are asked to do with their leader, the masked Thief Lord, at their head. They are asked to recover a magical artefact for a particular rich individual with no proper knowledge of what this artefact could do. The assignment and the squabbles within the group, added to the hidden secret of the Thief Lord lead to a fascinating conclusion.

This book, as I reflect, is essentially about the idea of empowerment as linked to age. The children within this book feel entrapped by the very fact that they are minors within society. In order to gain power the two brothers run away and the group of thieves hide out in the abandoned cinema away from the confines of the law. Hence the book proposes that children are far more capable than society seems to realise and that at times laws designed to protect appear to entangle.

This is one of those children's novels I would recommend for future generations as a fun and interesting fairytale type of novel. Would I go back and re-read it? Probably not at this stage as I would not want to ruin the childhood magic of this novel.

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### **Deborah O'Carroll says**

*Peter Pan* meets *Six of Crows* (a younger version) meets *The Boxcar Children* in modern-day Venice with a slight twist of fantasy near the end, in this gripping adventure tale of two brothers and their unexpected friends... especially a mysterious boy named Scipio. I adored how Prosper looked after Bo--it made me happy. (Also, pet tortoises! Poor Victor. XD)

Solid 4 stars throughout, might have made it to 5 stars if it had ended how I wanted... As it is, it's being kept from a disappointed-2-stars currently by remembering that I liked it most of the time and by pretending there's a missing chapter afterward. :P

(In which... **[alternate ending of my own imagination... don't read]**: (view spoiler) That's what happens in the chapter that doesn't exist, after the end, which I maintain should/could happen. \*coughcough\* ...It all COULD still happen! I insist. Ahem. \*folds arms stubbornly\*)

Basically other than a couple discontents about the ending ((view spoiler)), it was a great read. I just... am evidently enormously picky about my endings. >.> \*cough\* Obviously a flaw of mine... Somewhat disappointed, but I can pretend a missing chapter continuing the ending, so. XD

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### **Eryn✿ says**

★ 2 / 5 ★

It breaks my heart to say this, but this is my first skimmed/dnf book of 2018. I was *really* hoping I wouldn't have any this year ... oh well. I have to stick to my philosophy that "life is too short to push yourself to read books you're not into." I think most people can agree with that. So many books, so little time, you know?

Really, I don't have much to say. *The Thief Lord* started off promising (I really enjoyed Chapter One with Victor and his internal bluntness)—however, the other characters, I wasn't too fond of. And once I realized that nearly every chapter focused on Prosper and Bo, I wasn't into it.

There's nothing wrong with this book. There really isn't. The writing is fine and the story seems like it *should* be interesting; only I didn't think it was. Therefore, I'm going to chalk this up as a "me" thing, because I can see many people enjoying this.

I know this is a short review, but I don't have anything else to say.  
It's not a bad book—it just isn't for me.

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### **Gabrielle says**

still such a brilliant book reading as an adult.  
I love the imagination and beauty of this book  
AH SO GOOD.  
I hope Cornelia continues writing beautiful stories like this.

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### **Ginger says**

This was a cute read.  
Kind of a mix between Peter Pan/Robin Hood/Oliver Twist. I thought the magical aspect would run heavier in the story than it did.  
I enjoyed running around on the streets of Venice with these kids, seeing it through their eyes.

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### **Jenniferxoxo says**

Absolute 5 Sterne! Eine unglaublich schöne Geschichte, mit viel Emotionen Witz und voll mit Liebe. Ich habe es als Hörbuch gehört es wurde so schön erzählt und die Musik zwischen den Kapiteln hat das ganze noch wirklicher erscheinen lassen. :) auf Cornelia Funke ist einfach immer Verlass!

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### **Allison says**

Set in contemporary Venice (around the time of both answering machines and cell phones), this is not exactly what I expected, which was a historical fantasy with lighthearted, adventurous thieving in it. What I

got was a more realistic tale of runaways and orphans trying to make it in a contemporary city. Still, bonus points for Venice!

There was a little bit of thieving, but it was more desperate, the group of kids scraping by while living in an abandoned movie theater. It was sad, but heartwarming as well because of the friendships that they found. It honestly took me a while to warm up to it, until the second half when the focus shifted away from their sparse lives and into more of an adventure - what I'd been expecting in the first place.

There's a little bit of magic to it towards the end, enough to shake things up. There's payback that doesn't end up being malicious, and wishes coming true that end up not being quite what was hoped for. That made a bittersweet ending for some of the characters, and an arguably happy one for others, whether they deserved it or not. I like how it wasn't all black and white.

One drawback for me is that it was told in a very juvenile tone - it's definitely for middle grade readers. That, and some of the word choices in the translation didn't fit and were distracting (for example, "darn it" was used a lot). I'd probably give it 2 stars, given how much I don't usually enjoy contemporary, realistic stories. But it was good for its target age group, and I probably would have loved it when I was younger, so I'm bumping it up a star.

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## Peter says

Book of the Year Awards... Really? Is it unsympathetic of me to think that this book is... childish? How reductive should authors of children's lit be?

I've been working with a young student this summer, and *The Thief Lord*, by Cornelia Funke, is a big favorite on the sixth grade circuit. This particular boy had chosen it for summer reading, and so I picked up a copy for myself.

Enh.

Billed as a "fantastical journey" through "the magical underworld of Venice, Italy", *The Thief Lord* follows a pair of orphaned boys on the run from their condescending aunt. They survive with the help of a small gang of children run by one boy, Scipio, who takes on the titular moniker. Trouble comes their way, though, as the boys' aunt hires a detective to track them down and as the gang discovers a secret that their leader has been hiding.

Ok: Venice, gangs of child thieves, possessive relatives on the prowl... Prime fixin's for a romantic vision; sounds like the makings of a Dickensian tale. But as the story reveals itself--strict, impatient fathers; detectives with fake moustaches; grumpy shopkeepers--the more cliche and the less compelling it becomes.

*The Thief Lord* doesn't run too deep. It's a fun tale that takes the reader through modern day Venice, and it seems to begin and end there: a fun tale. Well, a fun tale for kids. Everyone acts like children in this novel. Even the grumpy grown-ups. Especially the grumpy grown-ups.

Even as a cultural piece (Venice!), the novel falls short. Aside from a few choice phrases in Italian, Funke doesn't take advantage of the opportunity to educate her readers (young and old) the way she could. The novel bounces from piazza to ponte, but everything--settings, characters, etc...--feels vague and undefined.

*Do I recommend this?* Not really.

*Would I teach this?* Nope.

*Lasting impression:* The world of *The Thief Lord* didn't glow with its own hidden knowledge the way Pullman or Rowling's worlds do. Characters move impulsively. "Brilliant" ideas don't seem so brilliant. Plot twists rely too much on coincidence and contrivances. Enh.

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## **aria [dear darling reader] says**

Venice would be one of the places I'd visit before I die.

The story of *The Thief Lord* weaved wonderfully with the gorgeous city of Venice.

If this story had been in a different location it might not have been as appealing.

I love it when a book takes me to places I have never been before.

I rarely travel so that factor is very important to me.

This book did just that.

It took me straight to Venice.

Not only did it take me to Venice, I felt like I was right in the midst of the story.

Like I was one of the kids who lived in the old cinema.

The story began with the Hartliebs seeking Victor Getz's services in locating Prosper and Bo, the sons of Mrs. Harlieb's deceased sister.

Prosper and Bo ran away because their aunt wanted to adopt Bo but not Prosper.

Prosper not wanting to leave his brother with their aunt decided to run away with Bo to Venice which was a city their mother loved dearly.

While in Venice, the brothers met Hornet who took sanctuary in an abandoned movie theater along with other children who were either orphans or abandoned.

The kids from the theater were cared for and helped by the Thief Lord.

He steals from the rich people of Venice and gives it to them so they would have food to eat.

The plot thickens when the Thief Lord was asked to find a missing piece from an antique collection.

It was a very interesting read for me.

I got my copy as a gift for Christmas.

(Thanks jzhunagev! :D)

I didn't know what to expect when I opened this book.

I thought it was something like Harry Potter but it wasn't.

I have read another book of Cornelia Funke which was Inkheart.

I liked Inkheart so I was expecting to like *The Thief Lord* too.

So I was not at all that surprised when I found myself liking this book.

It was not really that original for me because I watched *Neverland* (a TV movie) which was somehow similar to this.

*Neverland* was like a different version of *Peter Pan*.

Peter there was an orphan who grew up with a bunch other kids who were care for by a thief.

Things got messed up when they got a hold of a magic ball which turned out to be a portal to *Neverland*.

And in this case they were looking for a broken wooden wing for the merry-go-around.

They were different but the same at the same time.

The characters for me were very distinct from each other.

Each of them had their own distinguishing characteristic.

Prosper would have to be my favorite character.

I could relate to his character because I have younger siblings too that I need to protect.

I also liked the detective Victor.

At first I thought he was an evil man but turns out he was the opposite of that.

I liked his two pet tortoises.

It was a really cute touch.

I liked the setting, the characters but I had a bit of a problem with the magical stuff that happens near the end of the book.

Why did she have to put it near the end of the book?

Why now?

Why not earlier?

It was a good twist but then again, it doesn't jive with the rest of the book.

It was like a different puzzle piece that was forced to fit the puzzle that was missing a piece.

Anyways, I thought this book was still good.

The setting and the characters made this book a success.

This book was not bad but then again its not one of my favorites.

I still prefer Inkheart over this one.

I did enjoy it.

This is the first book I've read about Venice and it didn't disappoint me.

I look forward to reading more of Cornelia Funke's work in the future.

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## Iida says

I read *The Thief Lord* two years back when I was in Venice for a skiing holiday. The book is excellent, and combined with the right surroundings I was smitten.

Venice in the winter is misty and dreamy, and when we walked around the city, I could almost see the Thief Lord running around with his friends, cunningly planning their theft, getting more and more mixed up in the plots of grown-ups around them. Funke's storytelling is wonderful, her characters believable, and, for a children's book, *The Thief Lord* is stunningly good.

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## Tamlynn says

### SPOILER ALERT

I hate hate hate it when a book introduces magic 3/4ths of the way through! I like fantasy, that's not the problem. But the ordinary people are supposed to discover the magic at the beginning of the book. You

know, the children run through a mysterious old house in the country, hide in a wardrobe, and bam! they're in Narnia. Perfect. Don't try and tell me a realistic story and then suddenly change/solve everything with magic that the characters just accept and move on. I was adoring this book until that point.

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### **Clarissa Amabel says**

What a wonderful story!

My favorite character, aside from the kids, is Venice herself. Cornelia Funke has weaved her story so brilliantly in a gorgeous setting, describing the city as if it had its own personality. I think the story wouldn't be as awesome if it were set somewhere else. The mystery that is Venice, the beauty that is Venice... it took my breath away more than once. I also adore the simple illustrations that began each chapter, allowing us a glimpse of the wonderful world these kids live in.

Ah, the kids. My favorite out of the children has to be Prosper. I imagine him to be this sort-of emo kid who doesn't talk much but has very sharp wits and cares for his brother with his life. Um, maybe the emo part is not very cool, but I love him anyway. And what kind of name is Prosper? It sounds just splendid on your lips, doesn't it? I bet my Chinese grandparents would love that name.

The story itself is spellbinding, for me. I love to imagine how it would be, living in an abandoned movie theater with a bunch of friends. I imagined it a bit like August Rush and his hideout. Cornelia Funke has also created some action scenes that made my heart rush and my eyes read several lines at once, just because I couldn't wait to find out what would happen next.

Truly, though, the gold nugget lies with the story's characters. Victor the detective with his kindness and two pet tortoises, Ida the quirky bachelorette, and of course the Thief Lord himself, Scipio. Beautiful characters, with fun personalities.

The only problem that I sort of have with the book is the near ending, where the plot twist happens. The fantasy part was a bit out of tune with the rest of the book. I also didn't really like how Barbarossa got whatever he wanted--I'm a bit old fashioned, I think villains should be punished :p

But that said, the book managed to keep me up until 5.30 in the morning, and hopefully I'll dream of Venice tonight. How I long to run my fingers across the stone walls that hold so many stories! How I long to gaze at the proud winged lions that keep the city safe! How... strange that I am writing like this.

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