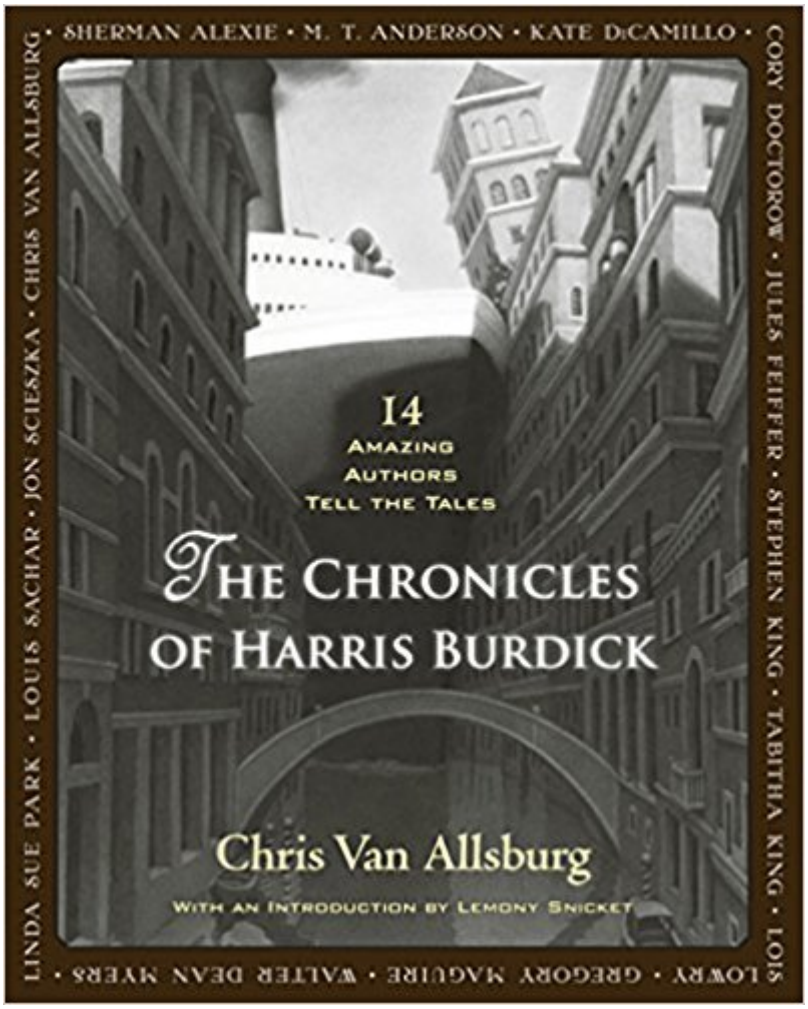
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# The Chronicles Of Harris Burdick: Fourteen Amazing Authors Tell The Tales / With An Introduction By Lemony Snicket




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## Synopsis

An inspired collection of short stories by an all-star cast of best-selling storytellers based on the thought-provoking illustrations in Chris Van AllsburgÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. For more than twenty-five years, the illustrations in the extraordinary Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg have intrigued and entertained readers of all ages. Thousands of children have been inspired to weave their own stories to go with these enigmatic pictures. Now weÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve asked some of our very best storytellers to spin the tales. Enter The Chronicles of Harris Burdick to gather this incredible compendium of stories: mysterious, funny, creepy, poignant, these are tales you wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t soon forget. This inspired collection of short stories features many remarkable, best-selling authors in the worlds of both adult and children's literature: Sherman Alexie, M.T. Anderson, Kate DiCamillo, Cory Doctorow, Jules Feiffer, Stephen King, Tabitha King, Lois Lowry, Gregory Maguire, Walter Dean Myers, Linda Sue Park, Louis Sachar, Jon Scieszka, Lemony Snicket, and Chris Van Allsburg himself. Van Allsburg's Harris Burdick illustrations have evoked such wonderment and imagination since Harris Burdick's original publication in 1984; many have speculated or have woven their own stories to go with his images. More than ever, the illustrations send off their eerie call for text and continue to compel and pick at the reader's brain for a backstoryÃ¢â ¬â •a threaded tale behind the image. In this book, we've collected some of the best storytellers to spin them.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 10 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 107 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,433 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #24 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Horror > Monsters #48 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, November 2011: Sublimely curious, strangely serious, terrifyingly hilarious--the 14 new short stories by authors Stephen King, Lois Lowry, Walter Dean Myers and other bestselling storytellers in Chris Van AllsburgÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Chronicles of Harris Burdick are a perfect match for the unexplained drawings that inspired them: the beloved, eerie black and white images, accompanied only by a title and caption, in The Mysteries of Harris Burdick, originally published by Allsburg in 1984. What could have been a basic writing exercise in the hands of these professionals unfolds as thoughtful, intriguing tales only masters could tell. With an introduction by Lemony Snicket, the stories close the loop on the mysterious drawings, but if they arenÃ¢â ¬â„¢t up to readersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ satisfaction, it can merely serve as another reason to gaze upon AllsburgÃ¢â ¬â„¢s layered pictures once again, 27 years later. --Alexandra Foster

Ã¢â ¬Å“Engaging, with strokes of brillianceÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Ã¢â ¬Å“This star-studded exercise in creative writing tests the wits of favorite authors and shows readers how even the big shots hone their craft.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Å“The stories embrace a range of styles and subjects, but, like their enigmatic and mysterious inspirations, each touches on the strange, the odd, and the fantastic.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Horn Book MagazineÃ¢â ¬Å“While the stories are distinctÃ¢â ¬â •by turns funny, sinister, and touchingÃ¢â ¬â •they have much in common, sharing an arch tone, a curious metaphysicality, and some familiar folk-tale tropes, and the authorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ commitment to the original conceit gives the volume additional cohesion.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist

What a gigantic disappointment this was!I have loved the Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg for years. (Reading that book is a prerequisite for reading this one.) It’s a book I have used in lessons, a book I have written about, a book that makes one dream and wonder. I was hopeful that those pictures in the hands of such amazing authors would be a great read.Not so. Actually, the stories my middle school children have written about the Harris Burdick pictures were better than the ones in this collection. I wanted them to be as fantastical as the illustrations they explained. Alas, they were, without fail, just really mediocre. The authors who wrote them are amazing, but the stories they wrote aren’t anything too spectacular. The best ones would have to be Stephen King’s and Lois Lowry’s contributions (of course). I wish I’d stopped with the original book and let my

imagination soar. Now, those illustrations are a bit spoiled for me by these stories that aren't nearly as great as what they attempted to describe. This is not a terrible book, despite my harsh words; rather, it's just okay. And, I expected so, so much more

I really enjoy "The Mysteries of Harris Burdick" but am torn as to whether the Chronicles is for children. Some of the stories are rather frightening for the younger set! I wanted to use them in 6th grade but am rethinking. The idea was good- authors imagining stories from the pictures- but the content may be too far out.

Some good, some ordinary, few as good as the illustrations!Ok ... there were good ones ... ok, there were even lots of good ones ... They ranged from readable to enjoyable. There were creepy ones, sci-fi ones, sweet ones.But ultimately for me it was like putting a bird in a cage. Like putting a limit on your dreams. Like watching TV rather than read a book.I find the intro and pictures in The Mysteries of Harris Burdick so vivid that they enthral your imagination. I have used it often in the classroom and each time I would take it out something new, different, wild or whimsical would come to mind. The "Mysteries" tantalises where the "Chronicles" serves it on a plate.Is there a place for it? Yes ... i can see that it is a good way to introduce children to a range of genre. Give them an idea and let them better it.

The fascination of the original book was filling your imagination with the possibilities as to the tales that would unfold with each illustration. A bunch of people who wrote stuff got together and wrote their interpretations of each story, and man...let me tell you, they're WAYYYYY off from my interpretations and visions as a child. There aren't enough decapitations, exploding nuns, face-eating jack-o lanterns, and Hitler impersonators to fancy my tickle. So if you're my age (79) and grew up with these illustrations, you'll be gravely disappointed that these stories lack these things.

Fun humorous stories that go with pictures.

Noted authors give their spiel on the illustrations. Just wonderful.

While Chris Van Allsburg's illustrations were beautiful and mysterious, the stories written by famous authors to go along with them were not able to live up to my own personal hype. They aren't bad, but they aren't amazing either. I kind of feel like Chris Van Allsburg's single mysterious lines to

describe each picture were better than the stories themselves because they left more to our imagination.

This is one of my favorite books. I share the pictures with my creative writing students. They first write a story of their own, then I read then story from the book. You can also purchase the book with just the pictures. I like to have both, however everything in the other book is contained in this book.

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