



2010

The Romeo and Juliet Code

Debbie Barr

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Stone, Phoebe. *The Romeo and Juliet Code*. Arthur A. Levine, 2011. ISBN 9780545215114. \$16.99. 300 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Historical Fiction;

Subject: World War, 1939-1945--Evacuation of civilians--Great Britain--Juvenile fiction;

Families--Juvenile fiction; Ciphers--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

It's 1941 and Felicity and her parents secretly sail from England to Maine to leave her with her uncle's family. Felicity's beloved "Winnie and Danny" go back, leaving no address for the eleven-year-old to send letters to. When her uncle Gideon receives a letter from Portugal in Danny's handwriting, Flissy gets suspicious. She sneaks a peek at the letter only to find that it's in code, and she and her cousin Derek begin to try to crack it. Meanwhile Flissy is learning how to adapt to her new home, one that seems always full of secrets. At Thanksgiving Flissy and Derek learn how to crack the code and realize Winnie and Danny are spies. No new letters have come for weeks, though, and Flissy is worried. Just before Christmas she learns that her uncle is actually her true father, and she comes to accept the new situation she has found herself in. Though the book ends with no news from Winnie or Danny, Flissy hopes for the best and feels at home with her new family.

Stone has woven a beautiful tale about the life of feisty young Flissy. While the characters in the book are fictitious, the events and roles of the characters--including Danny and Winnie as spies--are all part of the history of America and Britain just before World War II. With beautiful prose, fun literary references, and charming characters, *The Romeo and Juliet Code* is a sweet and satisfying historical fiction for young readers.

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