



2020

The Book Case: An Emily Lime Mystery

Brooklynn Marshall

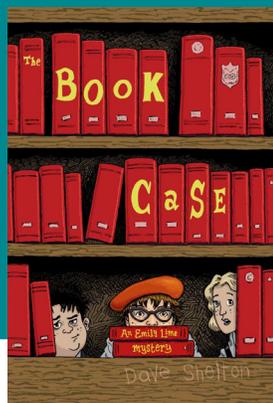
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Marshall, Brooklynn (2020) "The Book Case: An Emily Lime Mystery," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 7, Article 18.

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Book Review

Emily Lime Mystery #1 The Book Case.jpg

Author

Dave Shelton

Illustrator

Dave Shelton

Reviewer

Brooklynn Marshall

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Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

358

Year

2019

ISBN

9781489439956

Publisher

David Fickling Books &
Scholastics Inc.

Daphne Blakeway has been extended an offer for brand-new start, with a scholarship, and a job as an assistant librarian at St. Rita's School for Spirited Girls. But upon arrival, Daphne quickly discovers that this is no ordinary school. There's a crater in the driveway from a chemistry mishap, an alarmingly large hole in the dormitory floor from a cannonball, and questionable food in the dining hall. However, Daphne's most distressing discoveries are in the library. A recent fire destroyed the old library and left the shelves nearly empty, the head librarian who hired Daphne is on indefinite sick leave, and the small girl now running the library, Emily Lime, seems rather put out that Daphne is there at all. Amid the turmoil in this school, Daphne and the other student librarians band together to investigate and solve a series of curious mysteries, including a break-in, thefts, and a case of a missing student.

Shelton creates an energetic setting but falls short of a successful novel. Many amusing ideas create a frenzied story line, and there is lean character development. This results in a meandering novel that takes over a third of the story to arrive at a central plot line. The wandering feeling is intensified by subtitles and descriptions that seem incongruent with the content. For example, it is disorienting to pick up "An Emily Lime Mystery" when she remains a rather minor character with no personal inclination for sleuthing. This protagonist confusion is furthered by the negligent character development. For example, the story opens with Daphne going to St. Rita's because she got expelled. However, her actions were not congruent with this history, since she is repeatedly surprised by unruly behavior and questions inadequate adult supervision. Readers seeking slapstick nonsense will surely find that in this novel, despite its flaws.

*Contains mild language, mild violence, and mild substance abuse.