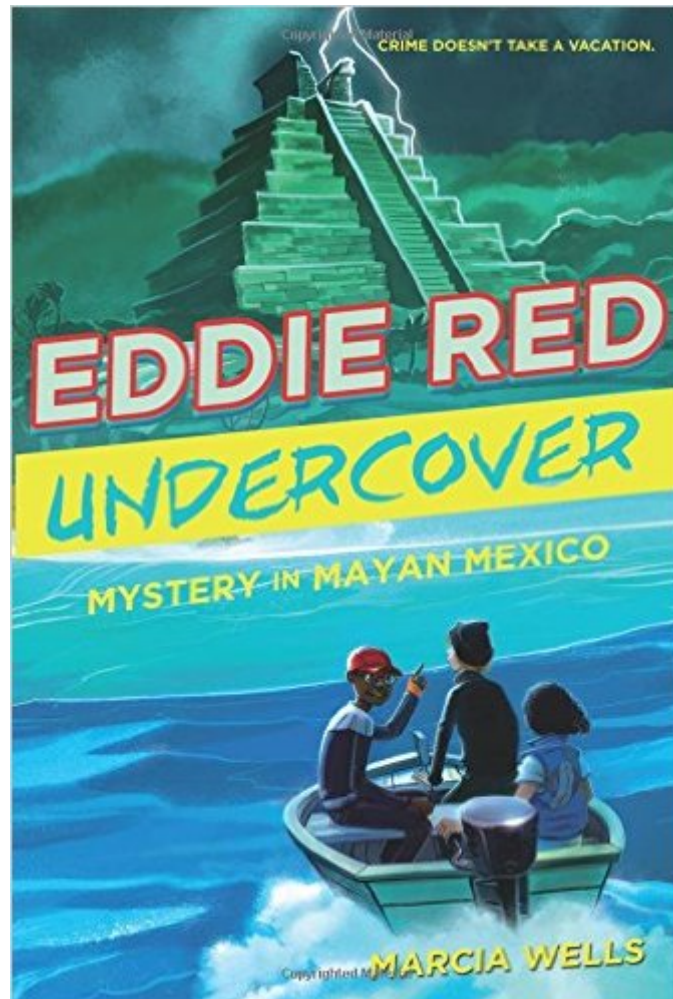


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Eddie Red, Undercover: Mystery In Mayan Mexico



Synopsis

Now that he has become the NYPD's youngest crime-solving hero, Eddie Red and his best friend Jonah are ready to relax on a family vacation to Mexico. But when Eddie's father is falsely accused of stealing, what they find is another complex mystery. Can Eddie – with his artistic talent and photographic memory – and Jonah uncover clues and catch the real crook in time?

"Fast-paced, funny, and a sure pleaser for Cam Jansen Grads" (Kirkus), the Eddie Red series stars a hero worth rooting for.

Book Information

Series: Eddie Red Undercover (Book 2)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 1, 2016)

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #94,844 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico](#) #343 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#) #403 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

I have been waiting to review this book until two of my children (9 and 10) read it. As a parent, I liked it. It was pretty intense. It was compared to "Cam Jansen", but that isn't close at all. Both of my children hated Cam Jansen, but enjoyed this book. It might be in the same "mystery" genre, but it is not necessarily aimed younger kids. For the younger advanced readers I do recommend it over things like the Percy Jackson series. It didn't have the adult themes that those books have. Those books are fitting for advanced readers as far as the words, but the themes are hard for the children to understand. It is a mystery book about this character Eddie Red, who is a young crime solver. He goes with his family on vacation and finds himself in the middle of a mystery. It does share a little bit

of historical information about the Mayan people, which I love in a book. This sort of sneaks in information in a fun way. I wish it would share more. I wish the details were a little more rich like the Magic Treehouse books. Having not read the first book, my 10 year old gave it 5 stars. He read it in 2 days. He is an advanced reader, and this was far below his reading level, but he thoroughly enjoyed the book. He loved the adventure and excitement. He liked the details of the book, and it made him want to travel to Mexico. Also not having read the first book, my 9 year old gave it 4 stars. He felt that the first was slow and it took a couple of chapters to get interested. He speaks portuguese, so was able to understand the spanish better than my 10 year old, but he said some of it they didn't explain. He liked the book and would recommend it, although he would recommend reading the first book. He said he would've been able to understand it better.

Although I'm seldom tempted to read and review books in the "Children or Pre-Teen" category, I'll have to admit that I decided to give "Mystery in Mayan Mexico" a try. This is, as it turns out, the second story in Marcia Wells' "Eddie Red Undercover" series. It has ample reference to the first, because, it seems, Eddie's parents were totally upset by his involvement with police work in NYC. That is, I think, a rather delightful touch of realism, invoked effectively in the preface titled "Dead Meat | Again". The main reason I DID choose to read this book is because of the locale. I like the idea of setting the story in Mexico, which I have visited on several occasions, though I've never had the opportunity to see the Mayan pyramids, one of which figures largely in the story. As I began reading, I found several other aspects delightful. Eddie himself is a charming character, with his "photographic memory" and his artistic ability. The book's illustrations by Marcos Calo, while not lavish, are delightful, and are ALMOST plausible for a greatly-gifted eleven-year-old to have produced. His friend Jonah is likewise vivid with his "obsessive" traits, which turn out to figure largely in the plot as well. The author brings in enough Spanish to add texture and charm to the story, and the peripheral characters, as well as the main antagonist, are interesting. The plot is nuanced, but not overly so for the age group, I believe. The culmination of the story, while a bit "nauseating" (when you read it, you'll catch my drift) is ironic in the extreme. To use a cliché that is often repeated by Eddie, this story is "A-ber" fun.

This is the second book in the series, but I haven't read the previous volume and I had no trouble picking up the story and running with the characters. Eddie Red has a picture perfect memory; if he sees something once, he'll remember it in every detail later. But Eddie's talent is extra useful

because he's also a talented artist, and he can reproduce what he has seen for other people. This combination of skills has led him to become a crime-solving sleuth who has already helped the NYPD crack a case. While vacationing in Mexico, Eddie is given a chance to sleuth again when his father is accused of stealing an ancient mask. Teaming up with his best friend Jonah and a clever local girl, the three kids rush to solve the mystery before Eddie's father is thrown in jail. This is a fun book for kids in the upper middle grades. It's pretty fast-paced as Eddie and Jonah rush all over San Pablo del Nino hunting for clues and suspects – a bit unbelievable to an adult (what kind of parents let their kids roam free in Mexico?) but a child will have no trouble getting sucked in. Facts about the Aztecs, Maya, and art history are slipped in so naturally that kids will end up learning a thing or two without even trying. A huge bonus to the book is the inclusion of Eddie's sketches, provided by the talented pencils of Marcos Calo. They're detailed and crisp, and kids will enjoy poring over them as they try to solve the mystery before the book's heroes do.

I haven't read the first book in this series, but I didn't get lost within this one. That said, I still recommend reading the first book before this one. I feel like I would have had a better appreciation for the characters and their quirks/abilities/personalities. Plot points from the first book are mentioned in this one, and knowing the full story would have been helpful (though not necessary). I LOVE that this series has an African American MAIN character (not a sidekick)! High fives all around for that AND for adding him on the cover, actually showing his face. I enjoyed the mystery and action/suspense parts of the story. Since the boys are in Mexico, we get to see a tiny bit of the culture there. While I do enjoy learning more about different cultures, I wasn't overly fond of the rubbing of peanut butter/jelly and blood on the idols. The boys would prick their fingers with a safety pin to get the blood and then rub it on the idol/doll's belly in order to "wish" for things to go the way they wanted. I know this was a way to educate us on the various idols in that culture (They go through several dolls/idols.), but I wish that we could have got that education in a slightly different way, especially with it being a children's book. (Just my personal opinion on the matter.)
:) Otherwise, this was a fun little mystery with a bit of action and suspense. I enjoyed it, and I'm now curious to read the first book.

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