



## Under Locker and Key

*Allison K. Hymas*

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## **Under Locker and Key** Allison K. Hymas

Eleven-year-old Jeremy Wilderson teams up with his rival crime fighter to stop the stealing spree that's wreaking havoc on Scottsville Middle School.

Jeremy Wilderson is not a thief. In fact, he is his middle school's one and only retrieval specialist. Confiscated cell phones, stolen lunch money—he'll discretely retrieve it before the last bell rings. Business is good, and if it weren't for the meddling of preteen private investigator Becca Mills, he'd be happier than a gym teacher on dodgeball day.

But a new job shatters his comfortable lifestyle. Now, thanks to Jeremy, the master key to the schools' lockers is in the hands of an aspiring crime kingpin who doesn't exactly have Jeremy's strong moral character. Soon not even combination locks can protect the students' textbooks and jackets. Retrieving the key is too big a job for one crime fighter, and only one person wants the key returned as much as Jeremy does: Becca Mills.

Lockers are being robbed, the teachers are looking for the culprit, and the only person Jeremy can turn to is the girl who most wants to see him in the principal's office. Will Jeremy be able to trust Becca enough to get the key back in the right hands? Or could he end up in detention until the end of high school instead?

## **Under Locker and Key Details**

Date : Published April 18th 2017 by Aladdin

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Author : Allison K. Hymas

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## From Reader Review Under Locker and Key for online ebook

### Elizabeth says

Great, great book. It's not often that a book makes me giggle or snicker audibly, but this one did it. The writing is clever and tight, the characters are genuine, and the plot is endlessly thickening and twisting in delightful ways. Loved it. Pick it up for the characters you'll wish you'd had as friends in middle school, the fast-paced adventure, and the sparkling wit.

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### Alexandra Ott says

This book is so much fun! It's fast-paced and funny and clever, with a fantastic middle grade voice and tons of entertaining hijinks. I loved Jeremy and Becca; they make such a great duo. Recommended to all middle grade readers looking for a fun adventure!

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### Mark Maciejewski says

Under Locker and Key is a funny, fast paced, caper with a fantastic cast of characters. I love the voice of the MC and I especially love the ending. This is a book you want to put in the hands of a reluctant reader to show them how fun and exciting reading can be. It's the exactly the kind of book I wish I had when I was 10 years old.

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### LeeAnn says

4.5 stars. Jeremy Wilderson: light-fingered, thinking-on-his-feet, rule-breaking retrieval specialist (NOT thief). Becca Mills: brainy, by-the-rulebook, middle school detective determined to bring Jeremy down. The last two people you'd expect to form a partnership. But that is exactly what Jeremy and Becca realize they have to do when the master key to every locker--and who knows what else--in Scottsville Middle School ends up in the hands of a greedy, wanna-be crime lord. Best of all? We get to come along for the ride. Bumps, bruises, grappling hooks, and all.

Hand this one to readers looking for a new mystery-caper series or to those who just like humor and fun. By the locker-full.

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### Rebecca Ross says

Jeremy Wilderson is a "retrieval specialist" at his Middle School, which means he stays pretty busy helping the students who request that he recover anything from their stolen lunch money to stolen papers. Occasionally, that requires his lock pick and sticky fingers. But "J" is no "thief," as fellow student and self appointed PI Becca believes. While she is determined to find J breaking the law and order of Middle School life and land him in eternal detention, J is determined to continue helping the students who need his special services.

But when the master key of the school goes missing, and a crime spree begins to take over the school, J must work double time to right his accidental wrongs and catch the thief. But he'll need help to do it...he'll need none other than his true nemesis, Becca.

I was so lucky to read an ARC of this amazing debut! It's clever, witty and fun, with an incredible voice that soars right off the page.

Highly recommended!

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### **Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says**

Jeremy is a retrieval specialist, stealing back the stolen and returning the goods to the rightful middle schoolers. But when a job goes bad, it goes REALLY bad.

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### **Susan Tan says**

A great story with amazing, vibrant characters! I laughed out loud so many times while reading!!

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### **Donna says**

This is fun read! It doesn't release til Spring 2017, but keep it in mind. I thoroughly enjoyed the characters.

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### **Bonnie says**

A wonderful book for elementary and secondary students alike! The characters are well developed, loveable, and fun; the plot draws the reader in; and every line contains clever word play. An impressive debut by a new author.

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### **Rebekah says**

I loved this book!! I would recommend it for any middle grade child who likes action/adventure books. The characters are very relatable, and the pacing is perfect.

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### **Amanda Hosch says**

Fun!

UNDER LOCKER AND KEY is a great, fast-paced, fun read. Jeremy, the "retrieval specialist" has to team up with his school enemy, Becca, aka "the detective" to right a wrong. Jeremy's voice is hilarious and captivating.

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I was lucky to read an ARC of this totally captivating middle grade story.

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### **Wendy MacKnight says**

What a fun book! Jeremy Wilderson is his school's "retrieval specialist". But he may be getting a tad cocky. Lucky for him, his arch-enemy Becca is around to keep him in check. It's a lot of fun until one of his clients proves to be even more clever than Jeremy. If he's going to fix his mistake, he's going to need some help...

Hymas' debut is clever, well written and great fun. She expertly captures middle grade friendships and rivals and Jeremy's exploits made me think "Middle Grade Mission Impossible"

This book is a delight and a must-read!

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

Did not meet the needs of my collection at this time.

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### **Liz Friend says**

The story: Jeremy Wilderson is NOT a thief--he's a "retrieval specialist", and he only takes things that someone else took first. So when one of his ventures goes bad, Jeremy feels obligated to fix it, even when it attracts the attention of the school's self-appointed policewoman and do-gooder, Becca Mills. She wants to see Jeremy punished for his crimes, but he has other plans--plans that include getting her to work with him to bring down the real villain. (He never said it would be easy.)

June Cleaver's ratings: Language G; Violence PG; Sexual content G; Nudity G; Substance abuse G; Magic & the occult G; GLBT content G; adult themes (thievery and breaking of school rules, acts of breaking and entering and other delinquent activity) PG; overall rating PG.

Liz's comments: Hand this one to any kid who enjoyed Varian Johnson's "The Great Greene Heist". The characters talk more like 8th graders than 6th graders, but the snappy dialog is part of the story's charm, so kids aren't likely to complain. Fun for any kid who likes a caper story, and even the dreaded Becca grows a little as a character by story's end.

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### **Nancy says**

A fast-paced read for middle school masterminds! Lots of cloak and dagger, red herrings, good times.

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