



Curiosity (Paperback)

By Gary Blackwood

Penguin Putnam Inc, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Intrigue, danger, chess, and a real-life hoax combine in this historical novel from the author of *The Shakespeare Stealer* Philadelphia, PA, 1835. Rufus, a twelve-year-old chess prodigy, is recruited by a shady showman named Maelzel to secretly operate a mechanical chess player called the Turk. The Turk wows ticket-paying audience members and players, who do not realize that Rufus, the true chess master, is hidden inside the contraption. But Rufus's job working the automaton must be kept secret, and he fears he may never be able to escape his unscrupulous master. And what has happened to the previous operators of the Turk, who seem to disappear as soon as Maelzel no longer needs them? Creeping suspense, plenty of mystery, and cameos from Edgar Allan Poe and P. T. Barnum mark Gary Blackwood's triumphant return to middle grade fiction.



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Reviews

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