



## 13 Hangmen

*Art Corriveau*

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*“Some people won’t believe any of this story. You might be one of them. But every single word is true. Tony DiMarco does catch a murderer, solve a mystery, and find a treasure—all in the first few days after he moves, unexpectedly, to 13 Hangmen’s Court in Boston. The fact that he also turns thirteen at the same time is not a coincidence.”*

So begins the story of Tony and his friends—five 13-year-old boys, all of whom are living in the same house in the same attic bedroom but at different times in history! None are ghosts, all are flesh and blood, and somehow all have come together in the attic room, visible only to one another. And all are somehow linked to a murder, a mystery, and a treasure.

## 13 Hangmen Details

Date : Published April 1st 2012 by Harry N. Abrams

ISBN : 9781419701597

Author : Art Corriveau

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Childrens, Middle Grade, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Sports, Baseball

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## From Reader Review 13 Hangmen for online ebook

### **Jessica says**

After reading 113 pages of 13 Hangman by Art Corriveau, I chose not to read it for my second book report. I chose not read it for my book report because it's not my most favorite book in the world because I'm not a mystery person and this book is all based around a mystery with the dead boys and the treasure. Another reason I chose not to read this book was because Ms. Curtiss only gave it 4 stars and I know that's kind of good but she usually gives five stars to only the greatest books. Lastly, I didn't really think the mystery made since with all the boys trying to stop the Hangmans from getting the treasure. Because of these reasons, I rated the book 3 stars. However, this could change if I were to read the book in its entirety.

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### **Liviania says**

I almost didn't pick 13 HANGMEN up due to the baseball player on the cover. Let's face it, I know almost nothing about sports and don't care to know much more. But while love of the Red Sox plays into 13 HANGMEN's plot, the book is about so much more than that.

13 HANGMEN begins when Tony DiMarco's great-uncle Zío Angelo dies and his family moves into his town home: 13 Hangmen Court. The will stipulates that Tony must live in the creepy attic room, which he reluctantly does. Then he wakes up to find Angelo in the room. Pretty soon he figures out that Angelo was actually murdered and this younger version of Angelo is the key to finding the murderer.

I absolutely loved ghostly time travel stories like Mary Downing Hahn's TIME FOR ANDREW growing up. 13 HANGMEN has much the same atmosphere, where the apparitions are friendly but other forces are more sinister. But not only would I have loved 13 HANGMEN as a kid, I devoured it as an adult.

On top of being a mystery and a time-traveling adventure, 13 HANGMEN is a celebration of Boston. The events and people described within are fictionalized or made up, but they're based on the truth. Most interestingly, 13 HANGMEN explores the history of the Italians, Jews, Irish, and blacks in Boston's North End. The residents of 13 Hangmen Court kept the home and its secrets safe despite prejudice and a very nasty set of neighbors.

Art Corriveau doesn't ignore Boston's original inhabitants either. He doesn't sugarcoat that Native Americans were killed and their property destroyed when the colonists came. In fact, it is an artifact of the Algonquins that allows Tony to meet with 13 Hangmen's past residents. (The specific traditions in the book is made up. To quote the author's note, "This is partly to protect Native American privacy. Many tribes prefer to reserve their cultural and religious practices for members of their own community [ARC, 336].")

I am so happy that I took a copy of 13 HANGMEN and read it despite the cover. I loved it's blending of mystery, history, and the paranormal. While aimed at middle grade readers, I think more advanced readers will enjoy it as well. It's a rollicking ride to catch the murderer - and find the treasure of 13 HANGMEN.

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## **Taryn Pierson says**

Tony DiMarco is an endearing, empathetic, and totally unlikely hero. He has older twin brothers who are always lost in their own athletic world. His mom wants him to lose weight over the summer. And his dad is working hard to finish a PhD in history, which means the family doesn't have much in the way of disposable income. But then he receives a mysterious gift in the mail for his 13th birthday—a vintage Red Sox baseball cap, sent by his great-uncle Angelo whom he barely knows.

Then the DiMarco family gets more news—Uncle Angelo has died, and left his house in Boston to Tony and his family. Finally some of their money problems are solved, and Tony is even getting his own room. Once they move into the old house, though, Tony discovers it's hiding more than its fair share of secrets, and he's going to have to travel back through time more than 200 years to solve its mystery.

This book is part history, part mystery, and part magic, complete with a murder. It's also a festival of different cultures, with a roster of characters who are Italian, Irish, Jewish, and African-American. I don't want to give away exactly how Tony does it, but he finds a way to communicate with the other kids who lived in his attic bedroom throughout the years, starting with his great-uncle Angelo who sent him the Red Sox cap. I couldn't wait to see who Tony would meet next as he uncovered more of the house's history and encountered the various kids his age who helped shape it.

In this book, everything is intertwined—from Paul Revere's famous midnight ride, to a young Frederick Douglass launching his speaking career, to Ted Williams, a left-fielder for the Red Sox, to Tony himself, in 2009, trying to save his family's new home from their nasty neighbor, Mr. Hagmann, who will do anything to get the house for himself. Tony has to find whatever it is the house is hiding, and fast, or his family will lose their home and a hidden treasure will be lost forever.

You can find more of my book recommendations for grades 6-12 at [www.read-or-die.com](http://www.read-or-die.com).

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## **Bundles of says**

Title: 13 Hangmen

Author: Art Corriveau

Release Date: April 1, 2012

Publisher: Amulet Books (April 1, 2012)

Reading Level: 8-12 years old

Hardcover: 352 pages

Source: Publisher

Book Summary: “Some people won’t believe any of this story. You might be one of them. But every single word is true. Tony DiMarco does catch a murderer, solve a mystery, and find a treasure—all in the first few days after he moves, unexpectedly, to 13 Hangmen’s Court in Boston. The fact that he also turns thirteen at the same time is not a coincidence.”

So begins the story of Tony and his friends—five 13-year-old boys, all of whom are living in the same house in the same attic bedroom but at different times in history! None are ghosts, all are flesh and blood, and somehow all have come together in the attic room, visible only to one another. And all are somehow linked to a murder, a mystery, and a treasure.

**Author Information:** Art Corriveau holds an MFA in writing from the University of Michigan. His writing has received great reviews from School Library Journal, Booklist, Kirkus, and many others. Booklist praised *How I Got a Life and a Dog*, his first middle-grade novel, for its “vividly drawn” characters. He lives in Vermont.

**My First Thoughts....:** After I read the synopsis, I thought this was going to be such a thrilling mystery! And it involved my home team, the Boston Red Sox! I am not a huge fan of adventure books though, and the cover isn't my favorite. I went into this books with a so-so expectation, thinking it may be a 3.5 starred book!

**Story-Line:** This book follows a boy named Toni DiMarco, who just turned thirteen years old. For his thirteenth birthday, his great uncle Zio Angelo sent him a package. Toni has not heard from Zio, except for the occasional card sent on his birthday. Until this Thanksgiving. While talking to Uncle Zio practically all day, he was not bored like he expected. They had the same interest- baseball. That Thanksgiving was spent talking about the Boston Red Sox and Ted Williams.

Apparently, Toni left an imprint on Zio. For his birthday, he got an antique hat from the 1939, the time of Ted Williams. When showing it to his dad, his father suddenly burst into tears. Uncle Zio died yesterday. How did Zio know to send it in time? Toni has no idea, but he later finds out that the hat is not the only thing Uncle Zio gifted him for his birthday. He also gave Toni and his family his town house in Boston! Just around the corner from Fenway Park! What could get better than this? When they arrive, strange things start to happen....like a boy living in the room with Toni that he can only see. Who will he tell to get this kid out of here?

**Overall Thoughts:** This book is an okay book, more generated to middle grade boys. If you are a fan of baseball, you will like this more than those who oppose to them. The mystery sometimes becomes overwhelming and some of the scenes within the book are a little too much. Other than that, I enjoyed this book! I love seeing books more directed to boys because some boys love reading! Just the stories and covers out there are a little too feminine for them. A thrilling debut novel from Art Corriveau that hits a home run in my book!

4 Cupcakes

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**Traci says**

Cute kids read. Recommend to a boy or history buff.

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## Michelle says

Had I been forced to review *13 Hangmen* after the first third of the book, it would have been terrible. Corriveau tells the reader EVERYTHING. Nothing is shown, nothing is left up to the reader, the characters, setting, and plot all feel stilted, and it was just boring. The most exciting thing going on was the continuous (and often unbelievable) fight between Tony and his mom about his weight loss. However, when it picks up it really picks up.

Corriveau has a fascinating idea of history, and I love what he has done with it. Through a chain of thirteen year old boys who know each other - each meeting the one before him when he is thirteen and the one after him when he is an older man - Corriveau manages to tell the ethnically and culturally rich history of the United States. He does so in snapshots of great events while still showing that, though we mostly remember special dates, history is continuous. We are not isolated from history but a part of it. I won't lie, I had some serious problems with the way he mixed fact and fiction (and science and pseudoscience, for that matter) so seamlessly that they were at times indistinguishable. But, wow, he made history exciting! Once we got rolling on the mystery, I really couldn't wait to find out who the next boy would be or what he would contribute to the, well, history lesson, for lack of a better word. And, much to my peace of mind, Corriveau cleans up the fact/fiction melding at the end. (Not that I wouldn't trust middle grade readers to immediately fact check. Ahem.) Also, I just really wish he wouldn't have perpetuated some persistent myths. Corriveau adds his voice to that of Longfellow in muddying Revere's place in history. Obviously, the exciting exaggerations are a lot easier to remember - we have adults, who really ought to know better, still thinking Revere rode up and down the street ringing a bell!

There were some moments in *13 Hangmen* that were really trite such as a villainous tell-all monologue a la *Murder She Wrote*. By the time we got there I was really hoping for better. Also, Sarah has violet eyes, really? (Can we just clear this one up now? Unless your character is albino, it is biologically impossible for her to have violet eyes. Elizabeth Taylor didn't even have violet eyes - she had deep blue eyes that she played up with cosmetics, lighting, and wardrobe. Okay, now we've all got this, stop with the violet eyes already!) I also felt that Angey's assistance to and subsequent friendship with Tony later in the book felt very contrived; it just didn't fit with his character, and I was shown no character growth to account for this change. Plus, a conveniently left behind Ouija board? Again, a plot device that kept the story moving but required suspension of disbelief on my part. Also, the mystery itself was a little predictable - but I'm a twenty-eight year old woman who enjoys reading mysteries. I imagine a middle grade reader new to the genre might not find these things quite as implausible, transparent, or predictable as I do.

Overall, *13 Hangmen* was fun, interesting, and made me think about some things I know in a new way. (As a student of Geography, I have learned about the rotation of ethnic groups within a neighborhood throughout generations, but I have never really thought about the neighborhood itself as a sort of time capsule as Corriveau does.) I also love the way the boys are linked by objects that they pass on to each other. (I do feel most connected to my grandmother-the-young-mother when wearing her apron, canning or cooking for my children. It is a time travel of sorts that connects us - doing the same thing at the same 'time' of live with the same object.) Corriveau was absolutely at his best when recounting history, or placing the boys within historical settings and events. His handling of Jack as a boy and "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald were some of the most convincing bits of writing in the book. He manages to write about American history in a compellingly patriotic voice without finding the need to white-wash it - in any sense of the word. He holds no punches when describing the realities that a young African American, Jewish, Italian, Irish, Hispanic, etc., etc., etc.

13 year old boy would face at different points in history; and he acknowledges the very great contributions that each of these communities made to America. Plus, he pulls all that off without appearing nationalistic or nostalgic - a pretty impressive feat. (Truthfully, I would really like to see Corriveau turn his hand to some non-fiction histories or biographies for middle graders.)

*13 Hangmen* didn't wow me, but I enjoyed it - and I think that nine or ten year old me (she who hid under her blanket with a flashlight and *Nancy Drew* or *Alfred Hitchcock and the Three Investigators*) would have enjoyed it even more - if she made it past the first third of the book, that is.

ARC provided thanks to Amulet Books.

Blogged at [Chronicles of a Book Evangelist](#)

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### **Kelsey Badgett says**

13 Hangmen, an adventure book, follows a 13 year old boy named Tony through solving a mystery and changing as a person. When Tony turned 13, he inherited a house from a distant relative and got more. When the family moved in, they were disappointed in the house, but Tony soon became interested in the powers that were there, such as seeing other 13 year old boys from different time periods. Over the few days after Tony and his family moved in, Tony teamed up with the other boys he was seeing to solve rumors that were going around about a murder. While learning about each other, each of the boys also learned about themselves. As the story progressed, more information was learned of how each boy's story connected to the next and how they needed each boy to solve the mystery. Between following neighbors and tearing down walls, Tony was able to figure out the details of the rumor and clear his father's name. I would use this book with grades 4-6 because of some vocabulary that is in it. There are some words that would be on frustration level for 3rd grade, much less the meaning of these words.

I would use this book as a read aloud in my class because of how interesting it is. The students would be interested and engaged, especially since a mystery is being solved. This would hopefully lead them to do more independent reading of mystery novels if they enjoyed the read aloud. Another way this book could be used would be to talk about history. There are multiple historical references in this book that would teach students a thing or two about events that took place in US history. From Salem Witch Trials to prejudice, the history in this book is diverse and rich. This could be used as a story to take experts out of for certain history lessons or have students read the whole book and see what historical events they recognize.

This was a WOW book for me because of how engaging and interesting it is. History is something that I enjoy, so being able to read this book and feel like I was part of solving the mystery was fun. Mysteries are a good way to get people interested in reading.

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### **Bibliojunkies says**

“Some people won’t believe any of this story. You might be one of them. But every single word is true. Tony DiMarco does catch a murderer, solve a mystery, and find treasure – all in the first few days after he moves, unexpectedly, to 13 Hangmen’s Court in Boston. The fact that he also turns thirteen at the same time is not a coincidence.”

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Is it too early to claim a favorite for 2012? *13 Hangmen* was such fun reading that I can't wait to share it with my daughter when it finally comes out.

This thrilling story combines everything described above – murder, mystery and a treasure hunt. But the author has also added history, mythology and numerology into the mix. All of this is done so impressively that it's thoroughly engaging reading as soon as it gets under way.

On his thirteenth birthday, Tony inherits a house that belonged to his Uncle Angelo – a man he only met once and barely knew. The inheritance comes with some odd stipulations – he must live in the house until he's twenty-one, his bedroom must be in the attic and he cannot ever sell the house to any member of the Hagmann family who are perennial enemies of his family. This inheritance results in the uprooting of the entire family (his parents and his older twin brothers) from Detroit to Boston.

Getting used to his new digs is quite the task especially when he learns about what makes the house special. It all starts with an old Red Sox baseball hat and from there the adventure begins. I won't go into what happens next because it's honestly so exciting that I don't want to risk any spoilers. Suffice it to say that Tony somehow comes into contact with previous occupants of the house and delves into its history, the neighborhood and even a significant time in the country's past.

Since I was a kid, I have always, always loved history and what I love about this book is how imaginatively Corriveau blends historical elements and makes them work in this adventure through time. Even though he admits to tweaking certain details to fit the story, he makes history interactive, a neat reminder that some of the greatest events come about as a result of chance encounters. And Tony, a sensible protagonist who starts out in the shadow of his more outgoing brothers, becomes the hero when he gains confidence in his own abilities to eventually save the day.

I highly recommend *13 Hangmen* simply for its good writing and inspired storytelling. I was drawn into this book, eager with every turn of the page to discover the next clue in the puzzle. Anyone who's a fan of mystery or the *39 Clues* series will enjoy this.

~ Bel

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### **Chris says**

Fantasy-history-mystery with some sports thrown in. Slow start, but does pick up and ends well. Author gives true history at end and explains inspiration behind the parts he makes up and/or embellishes.

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### **Carol Turner says**

One of the best time travel books for kids I've seen. I don't believe it is still in print, but I'm looking. More grandkids who would like it.

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### **Glenajo says**

Great Fun, Interesting Premise

In 13 Hangman, Tony is approaching his thirteenth birthday when his parents receive the news that Tony inherited his uncle's house in Boston. Though Zio Anthony visited the family at Thanksgiving, they have never been close, but the will stipulates that the family must move to Boston and Tony has to live in the attic bedroom. Since Tony's twin brother drives him crazy, he is thrilled with the promise of his own room. However, when they arrive, immediately problems pop up beginning with the next-door neighbor accusing Tony's dad, Michael, of murdering Zio Anthony. When long dead thirteen year olds begin showing up in Tony's bedroom, it only takes him a little while to begin putting the mystery together, and save his family.

This book is well thought out, amazingly linked to history, and just great fun to read. The main character is a chunky nerd constantly on the receiving end of his brothers' ridicule. Like many kids today, he lives more in the virtual world, than the real world, but the move pushes him to make decisions and choices that he wouldn't have otherwise made, giving him power that all preteens yearn for and can relate to. The connections to history add depth for the history buff and might hook some others. This is an excellent addition to the middle school crowd that doesn't include vampires or witches. It could even be used as part of a lesson to research the fiction/non-fiction elements of the story.

Received Galley from NetGalley.com

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### **Jack says**

13 Hangmen is a mystery novel about Tony DiMarco and how he tries to figure out why his grandpa gave him a famous baseball player hat and why he is allowed to see him when he was younger in flesh and blood but still be in the same time period. I do recommend this book to anyone that likes a little bit of history, sports, and mystery. This genre of books is among my top 3 of favorites so I favored this book.

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**Bhavnit says**

This book is for people who are interested in history and mystery. This book is captivating and has a very creative plot, setting, and format. Tony is a young boy who inherited his dead great uncle, Zio Angelo's house by his last will. When his father is accused of murdering Angelo Tony sets out on a quest to find the truth. This book shows different perspectives in different times, and he also meets ghost from the past.

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**Elizabeth says**

It was hard for me to get into until chapter 12. It was interesting learning about the history of Paul revere though.

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**Caitlinleah says**

Really enjoyed this Boston based historical sci-fi. Did not expect it to be as good as it was. Enjoyed the supporting characters. I'm not left with too many questions at the end.

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