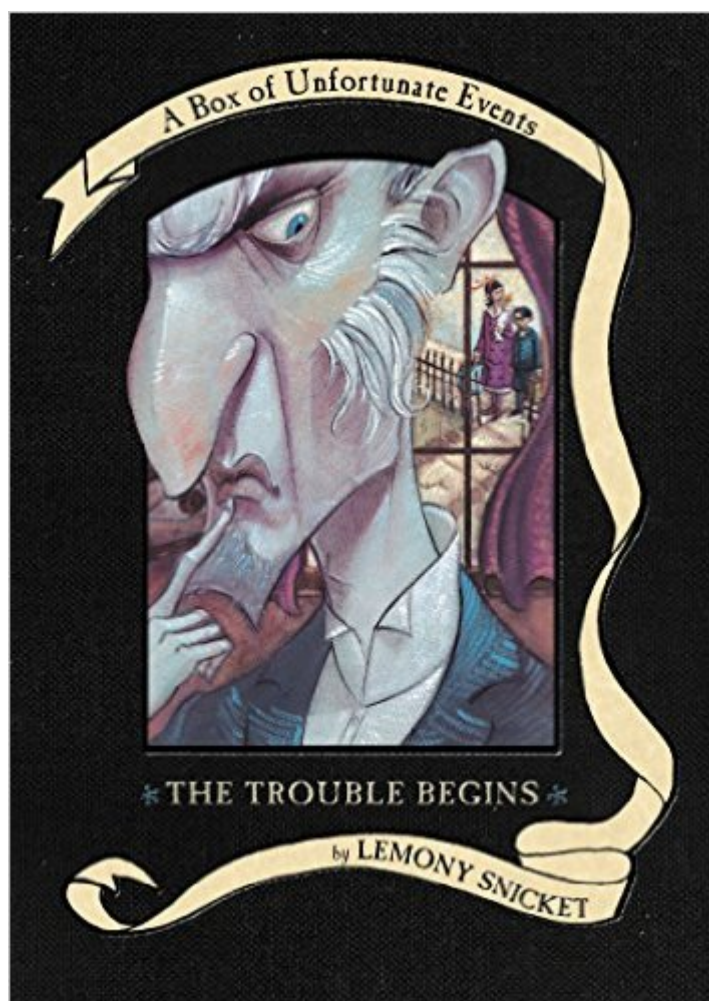


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The Trouble Begins: A Box Of Unfortunate Events, Books 1-3 (The Bad Beginning; The Reptile Room; The Wide Window)



Synopsis

The first Series of Unfortunate Events gift/box-set of this New York Times best-selling series. The set includes *The Bad Beginning*, *The Reptile Room*, and *The Wide Window*.

Book Information

Series: A Series of Unfortunate Events

Hardcover

Publisher: HarperCollins; Box edition (October 2, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006029809X

ISBN-13: 978-0060298098

Product Dimensions: 2.8 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (253 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

These books are amazing. As a big fan of quality children's writing, I was completely engrossed in these books. Each narrative is strong, compelling, and unique. The author retains his structure while not allowing the plots to get too formulaic and boring. While you can see by the end of book 2 that a pattern is emerging (that is all I'll say here) -- and the fact that the series continues -- it seems to me that this helps the reader know that somehow the children will survive whatever ordeal they find themselves in, which is a great device. It alleviates our anxiety, and more importantly, a child's anxiety, that real harm might come to the kids, while letting us relax enough to enjoy the story as it unfolds. I once read an essay by Maurice Sendac in which he described how hard it was to get published. The common thinking was that you can't write about things that scare children, like death. These dark fears are taboo. He argued that children do think about such things, and that writing about them in a careful way respects children and their real concerns and provides them with a place to air their deepest fears. The success of his books, I believe, is in large part due to his

respect for children. These books, I believe, provide the same sort of thing, though they are much funnier than Sendac. The children are so bright and clever that they are wonderful heroes. The grownups never seem to listen to them or realize that these are really insightful and intelligent people. I suppose this might be interpreted by some parents as undermining adult authority, but the writing is so good and the characters so ridiculous that bright kids would not see them as actual representations of real adults.

I absolutely had to write a review of this book after reading some of the idiocy posted here. First of all, they are called UNFORTUNATE EVENTS. Not HAPPY ENDINGS. These are NOT "The Happy Golden Years." They are not about Children as victims. They are about two smart cookies and a baby who don't accept the world around them as inevitable or inherently right. They have the best quality any person can have above intelligence: resourcefulness. To those who dislike these books, I can only imagine what technicolor idealist rubbish you would have your children read. Children these days know better than to believe everything ends happily. I believe that they are relieved to finally find in Lemmon an adult who understands and acknowledges *sometimes it's tough being a kid*. Children are smart enough to see what is pretend, and surely grow bored with books that have underlying psychological agendas, games where everyone wins, and protagonists who go through life with no negative events. Who can relate to that? As in the case of Cleary's Ramona books, life just isn't like that. I think that children who read these books (aside from those who have lost a parent or have a fear of losing parents) will see right through the farce and root for these small heroes. Sure, there are some shockers in plot, but the children solve their problems ingeniously. This story has great lessons, and smacks of epic poetry (If you can keep your head about you when everyone else is losing theirs and blaming it on you...) It is no more terrible than Hansel and Gretel. In fact, these children lost their parents to an accident, and I would fear that a child reading Hansel and Gretel would believe that a parent could be convinced to abandon his children.

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