

Front Street • ISBN: 1-932425-09-8; 13: 978-1-932425-09-3 • Fiction • 8-12 • \$16.95



When their parents are sent “up the river” for embezzlement, Ray and Ivy are left to live in luxury with Marietta Noland and her husband. But life at the big house is not all it’s cracked up to be. A hilarious lark as Ray and Ivy case the joint, get the skinny, and show Marietta she has met her match.

Children’s Notable Book
American Library Association

A Book Sense Children’s Pick
American Booksellers Association

Parents’ Choice Silver Honor Award
Parents’ Choice Foundation



FRONT STREET
An Imprint of Boyds Mills Press, Inc.
815 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431
www.frontstreetbooks.com

School Library Journal

★“In a real departure from her previous novels, Coman has created an enjoyable romp of a mystery. ... It’s all great fun with lots of matter-of-fact, potboiler detective slang spoken by the children. Shepperson’s drawings make the story even more amusing. This farcical, pseudo-Victorian drama of crime and punishment is sure to be a crowd pleaser.” STARRED REVIEW

Kirkus Reviews

★“This funny, thoroughly entertaining change of pace for Coman seamlessly blends fantasy and reality in that wonderful way children can, and Shepperson’s splendid, Quentin Blake-style illustrations further enliven an engaging story of espionage, family loyalty, and justice prevailing.”

The Horn Book

“Cut from the same cloth as Lemony Snicket’s Baudelaire orphans, the resourceful siblings try to make the best of their comically gloomy situation. ... [T]his arch gothic mystery shows that being a pillar of society isn’t a prerequisite for being a loving parent.”

Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

R“Coman’s combination of one part comedy to three parts puzzle works well, and the slightly disheveled, wavy lines of the illustrations complement the enthusiasm and energy of the child protagonists. Ivy and Ray are an appealing duo that will bring out the evidence-collector in many middle-grade children and reluctant readers.”

RECOMMENDED

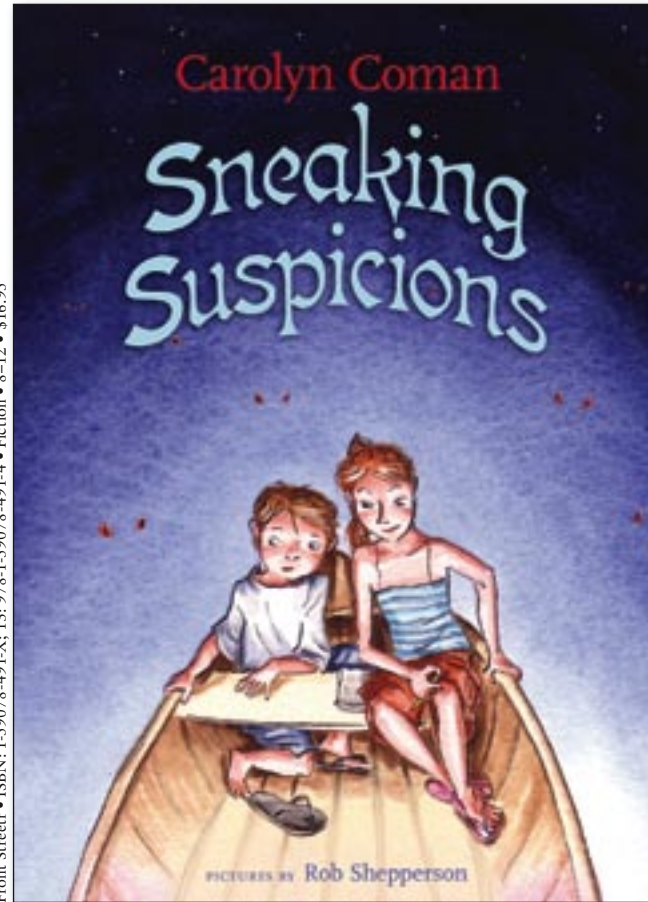
Booklist

“Dickens and Damon Runyon meet Annie in a story that has a fresh voice. ... great.”

Publishers Weekly

“Coman displays her versatility with this sly comedy. ... [An] affectionate portrayal of familial relations.”

The return of Ray and Ivy, the unforgettable characters from *The Big House*



Front Street • ISBN: 1-59078-491-X; 13: 978-1-59078-491-4 • Fiction • 8-12 • \$16.95



When Ray and Ivy’s father, Dan, proposes a road trip to visit a long-lost relative, neither of them is particularly excited. Then he shows them the giant ruby he discovered in a hollowed-out book in the library. So they load up the limousine and with Veddy, their trusted chauffeur, they hit the road.

They don’t get far before the plans change and Ivy has lots of doubts about what’s going on. Is Dan on the up-and-up? Is the ruby real? How they meet Wolfgang the counterfeiter, race each other on a roller coaster, find a super-honker at a real gem mine, and end up stranded in the middle of a swamp surrounded by alligators makes a rollicking romp of a story.



Carolyn Coman introduced Ray and Ivy in *The Big House*. She is also the author of *Many Stones* (National Book Award finalist and a Michael L. Printz Honor Book), *Bee and Jacky*, *What Jamie Saw* (National Book Award finalist and a Newbery Honor Book), and *Tell Me Everything*. Carolyn divides her time between Waymart, Pennsylvania, and South Hampton, New Hampshire, where she lives with her family and Shadow, her dog.

Rob Shepperson lives in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, with his wife and two daughters. His droll editorial drawings appear regularly in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*.



Ray and Ivy's Can't-Go-Wrong Questions Guaranteed to Generate Stories



- What's the most complicated thing you've ever tried to understand?
- What's something you have serious doubts about?
- What's something you worried about that turned out to be really OK?
- Did you ever suspect that someone was up to something no good?
- What are three expressions that you use or hear around your house?
- Do you think the glass is half-empty or half-full?
- If you could build your own town, what would you name it?
- What would be one rule everyone in your town had to live by?
- If you made a fortune, how much of it would you give away and to whom/what?
- Can you think of a good example of crooked thinking?
- Who is the most generous person you know? What does the person give?
- What does your family have that you think is worth the most?
- What is something you have that you consider terribly valuable?
- What foods are you afraid to eat and why?
- What's a story you know that has more than one version?
- Which version do you like best?
- What's the most real thing in the world to you?
- What's something you consider fake?
- What's the most valuable thing you ever lost? Did you ever find it?
- How would you design your family crest? What would the motto be?
- What's the best present you ever gave someone?

