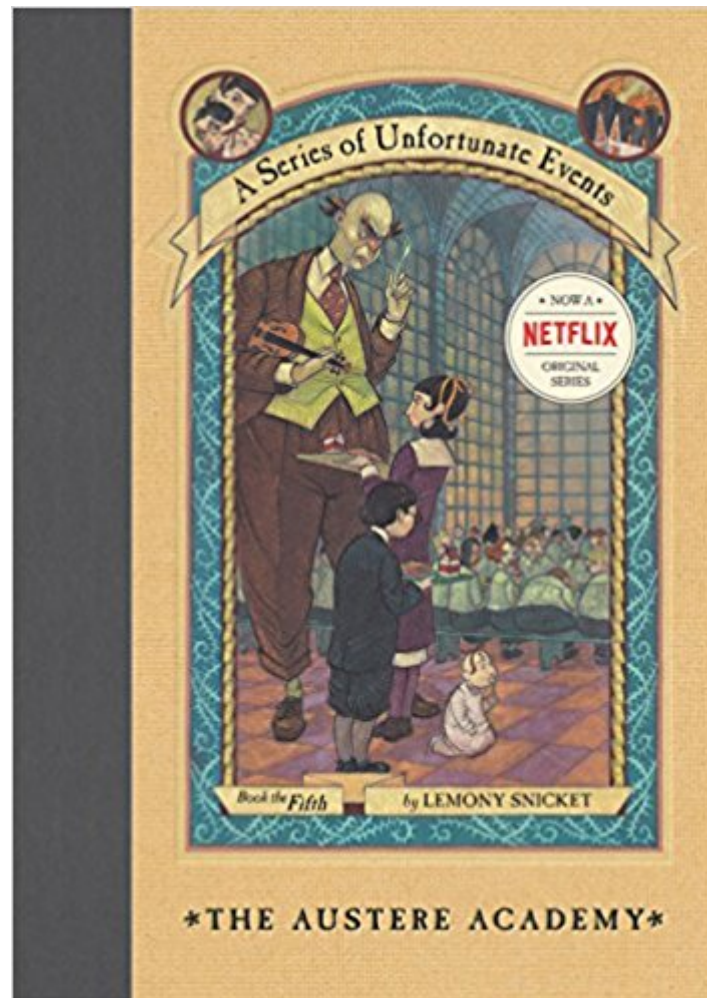




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The Austere Academy (A Series Of Unfortunate Events, Book 5)



Synopsis

NOW A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIESAs the three Baudelaire orphans warily approach their new home Prufrock Preparatory School, they can't help but notice the enormous stone arch bearing the school's motto *Memento Mori* or "Remember you will die." This is not a cheerful greeting and certainly marks an inauspicious beginning to a very bleak story just as we have come to expect from Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, the deliciously morbid set of books that began with *The Bad Beginning* and only got worse.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1120 (What's this?)

Series: *A Series of Unfortunate Events* (Book 5)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st edition (August 8, 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces ([View shipping rates and policies](#))

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 756 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #141 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #327 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

As the three Baudelaire orphans warily approach their new home--Prufrock Preparatory School--they can't help but notice the enormous stone arch bearing the school's motto *Memento Mori*, or "Remember you will die." This is not a cheerful greeting, and certainly marks an inauspicious beginning to a very bleak story. Of course, this is what we have come to expect from Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events*, the deliciously morbid set of books that began with *The Bad Beginning* and only got worse. In *The Austere Academy*, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are at first optimistic--attending school is a welcome change for the book-loving trio, and the academy is

allegedly safe from the dreaded Count Olaf, who is after their fortune. Hope dissipates quickly, however, when they meet Vice Principal Nero, a self-professed genius violinist who sneeringly imitates their every word. More dreadful still, he houses them in the tin Orphans Shack, crawling with toe-biting crabs and dripping with a mysterious tan fungus. A beam of light shines through the despair when the Baudelaires meet the Quagmires, two of three orphaned triplets who are no strangers to disaster and sympathize with their predicament. When Count Olaf appears on the scene disguised as Coach Genghis (covering his monobrow with a turban and his ankle tattoo with expensive running shoes), the Quagmires resolve to come to the aid of their new friends. Sadly, this proves to be a hideous mistake. Snicket disarms us again with his playful juxtapositions--only he can compare bombs with strawberry shortcake (both are as dangerous to make as assumptions), muse on how babies adjust developmentally to the idea of curtains, or ponder why the Baudelaire orphans would not want to be stalks of celery despite their incessant bad luck as humans. We can't get enough of this splendid series of misadventures, and can only wager that swarms of young readers will be right next to us in line for the next installment. (Ages 9 and older) --Karin Snelson

Grade 4-7-In this fifth entry in the saga of the three Baudelaire children, the siblings are sent to a boarding school where they are tormented because they are orphans. There is the usual array of stupid/evil adults including the ridiculous Vice Principal Nero, who mimics everything that Klaus and Violet say and employs baby Sunny as his secretary because she is too young to attend class. Brown-nosing brats like Carmelita Spats make the children's lives even more miserable. The ending is a cliff-hanger as the evil Count Olaf, disguised as Coach Genghis, the new gym teacher, drives off with the orphans' only friends. In these days of Harry Potter, this book is a pesky nuisance, with little plot to drive it, situations that fall short of being interesting or off-the-wall, and cardboard characters. The author strains to be eccentric and his constant interruptions in the narrative to define a word or phrase are jarring at best. Ann Cook, Winter Park Public Library, FL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My kid loves these books. As a parent I have tried to instill the love of reading into my son and it has gotten easier overtime and we are reaping the benefits of the improved reading. Sometimes it was difficult to match the content level with his advanced reading level in addition to his interest in the content itself, however these books have seemed to be a perfect storm of sorts. He is 9 but reading at a 12th grade level and it wasn't until this series that we really saw a passion for reading show, he always liked it and did it daily but never sought it out as feverishly as he did with this series, he is

sharing the story with us in addition to laughing and enjoying himself. I highly recommend them and we now own them all.

If you are reading this for your children, it pays to read and plan ahead. If possible, read all the stories! I appreciate that sounds odd, and expensive, but you will probably buy them all anyway... And why? Because over the next few weeks as you read the books, you'll find certain characters cropping up. You need to think about a) their voices and accents, b) adding special emphasis to certain characters who re-appear later, and c) dropping certain vocabulary or factoids into conversation ahead of actually reading the story, which saves time at bed-time and also makes conversations more fun with your children as they realise that you are laying a breadcrumb trail, as it were. Count Olaf, for example, is described as having a hoarse voice, so practise it in different accents. The hook-handed man re-appears, so give him a distinct accent, and be ready to use it with Fiona in book 11, as she is his sister (I chose Northern Irish). Esme Squalor re-appears in disguise at one point, so try to give her a distinct voice which you can imitate in two different accents (as Officer Luciana, I gave her Deep South Accent, whereas as the city's sixth-most important financial advisor she spoke with cut-glass received pronunciation). Mr Poe is Victorian, Phil the optimist was from Somerset, the VFD villagers all spoke with Scottish accents, the people in and around the Hostile Hospitals were all Australians and so on...

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Another unfortunate events to the Baudelaire orphans! But three siblings are clever enough to successfully get away from the dangerous hands of Count Olaf. Now I think the story needs to get into the depth. I want to know the meaning of the eye tattoo on Count Olaf's leg. If the same thing keeps happening in the next book (an encounter with a caretaker who actually cannot take care of the children, a trap of Count Olaf which the orphans cannot expect, etc.), this series will make the

readers bored. And that would be very unfortunate for this series.

This book was so rushed. The plot was almost an afterthought. I wished they could have went more into the new characters. We were so happy they had friends. On to the next one

I purchased books 1-5 on audio tape to listen to with my children while driving in the car. My how time flies when you are hearing about the perils of the Baudelaire children. I notice traffic doesn't bother me half as much while I am listening to these stories. Somethings in life could be much worse than sitting in bumper to bumper traffic. My children enjoy the stories so much that they don't just want to listen in the car anymore. Every night before they go to bed we listen to about an hour of the tape. Also, I think my children appreciate me more after they see what a hard life these children have. I would recommend these stories for older children (older then 7). Younger or overly sensitive children might get scared or become upset by some of the things that happen.

My son loves this Series. Perfect for the kid that is curious to read about horror and despair. Lemony Snicket is able to engage the child on such subjects without becoming to gruesome. Each page keeps you intrigued. My son, who is not a self motivated reader, could not stop reading this book.

This was a gift for my 10 year old grandson who has started reading the series. he loved this book and series! He likes to read but being a boy he is pretty picky about what he reads (no girly /romance stuff for him). I liked it because its not shhot em killem violent.

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