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# Montmorency (English Edition)

## MONTMORENCY



BOOK ONE

**ELEANOR UPDALE**  
*International award-winning author*

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(Get free) Montmorency (English Edition)

**Par Eleanor Updale : Montmorency (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Montmorency (English Edition):

### Description :

Prsentation de l'diteur1875: A small-time crook is rescued from death by an ambitious doctor. Released from prison, he uses the new London sewage system as a highway for crime. Above ground he creates a respectable image for himself, at the heart of high society. But which is the real Montmorency? Can he fight off the dangers that threaten both his lives?Montmorency is one of the most original, witty and delicious books to have arrived for a very long timemacabre, funny, suspenseful and humane an instant classic. Stephen FryThe first book in the award-winning Montmorency series, the winner of the BBC Blue Peter Book I Couldnt Put Down award.Revue de presseVoice of Youth AdvocatesJune 1, 2004In the mid-1870s, London is just finishing its first sanitary sewer system to transport waste out of the city. The eighty-three

miles of unmonitored underground tunnels prove to be the perfect secret transportation system for a petty thief just released from prison after a botched robbery attempt in which he was seriously injured. Upon accidentally learning the specifics of this vast network of sewers, he immediately recognizes its potential for traveling completely undetected by the police from the scene of a burglary to a safe distance away, and a very stinky version of the cat burglar is born. To make the most of his ill-gotten gains, the thief adopts two identities: One is the well-mannered and cultured Montmorency who lives in the luxurious and expensive Marimion Hotel, and the other is the grimy, smelly Scarper, sewer rat and Montmorency's servant. Scarper's undesirable personal countenance discourages people from close contact as he scuttles up back stairways at the hotel carrying heavy bags. No one ever looks close enough to discover that he and Montmorency are actually the same person. As Montmorency makes friends among the aristocracy, his ability to mimic the customs, behavior, and speech of others proves quite valuable and in the end leads him to an occupation in service to his country and well suited to his skills, divorcing himself from the unseemly Scarper side of his personality. Updale's story is well-written and easy to follow. It is a sort of spy-crime story with a tone reminiscent of the BBC. It might be a bit tame, however, for teenagers accustomed to the action-adventure movie genre with myriad martial arts battles, elaborate weaponry, and high-tech gizmos.-James Blasingame.BooklistMay 1, 2004Gr. 6-9. Sewage stinks, but rich people, on the whole, don't. This truism forms the core of Updale's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde-style crime story. When thief Montmorency isn't living the high life as a respectable gentleman, he plays the role of his own servant, Scarper, who skulks through sewage tunnels to steal from London's wealthiest neighborhoods. Instead of greeting Montmorency/Scarper's misdeeds with a karmic comeuppance, Updale openly admires the ingenuity of a con artist who is able to maneuver within rigidly stratified Victorian society. Many readers will find the absence of a moral slant refreshing, and Montmorency's heart-pounding brushes with discovery add a palpable layer of suspense. It's tough to pinpoint the target audience, though--some readers will react negatively to the absence of characters their own age, and find the abundant period details overly fussy (in one scene, Montmorency lingers over the subtle flavors of whisky). This will appeal the most to older kids who enjoy immersing themselves in historical atmosphere, including some adult devotees of Victorian detective fiction. A sequel is planned for 2005. --Jennifer Mattson Copyright 2004 BooklistPublishers WeeklyApril 5, 2004Updale employs a distinctive, wry voice in this debut novel to launch a series about a convict-turned-gentleman in late 19th-century England. After being paraded around lecture halls by the doctor who saved his life after a near-fatal accident at his capture, the cunning Montmorency develops a taste for the high life and a strategy for attaining it (involving a map of underground sewers, viewed at same lecture halls). The humor arises from the juxtaposition of the fellow's circumstances versus his aspirations. For instance, Montmorency hatches his plan as the prison's chaplain utters the blessing at the conclusion of services: "He would become his own accomplice. His old self would become the servant of his new self. One would live in squalor, the other in style." Updale credibly establishes the prisoner as intelligent and as a quick study in the art of mimicry (t