

**The Capitol Ghost Mystery-  
Youth One Book/One Denver Award 2013  
Colorado Children's Book Award State List 2011**

**Tie Yourself Up in a Twisted Tale**

ARTICLE | NOVEMBER 12, 2013 - 8:12PM | BY VIVIAN WEIGEL  
YourHub.com/NextGen (University of Colorado Denver)

In "The Capitol Ghost Mystery," young Silvie Blake goes on what seems like a regular class field trip to the Colorado state capitol. Just the day before, the portrait of Abraham Lincoln was taken from its spot on the third floor. It seems like a perfectly normal robbery until things start to unravel: the eyes on a picture seem to be following her; a capitol worker suggests Silvie can figure out who stole the painting; and the old elevator that has not worked in years suddenly begins to move. This story also involves historic figures in Colorado history such as Silver Heels and Baby Doe Tabor, as well as portraits that the State Capitol actually has.

Michelle Barone, an award-winning author, is also a principal at Montview Elementary in Aurora, Colorado. She was inspired to write her latest book, "The Capitol Ghost Mystery," because she took her 5th graders on a class field trip to the state capitol and heard many enchanting ghost stories. Barone's writing style is unique and has flair, with a sensational use of metaphors and similes sprinkled throughout the book. I loved the way the mystery took you in and did not let you out, until the end. The way the author painted pictures in your mind was like watching a movie. This is definitely one of the best written books that I have ever read.

I recommend this book for ages 9 and older, but this story is still fun to read for older kids. No bad language is included but it does have some difficult vocabulary. I think girls might enjoy this book more, because the main character is one, but boys who like fast-paced thrillers (143 pages) still may take interest. If you are intrigued by mysteries and would like to learn a little Colorado history, this is definitely the book for you.

**The Capitol Ghost Mystery**

**Midwest Book Review -The Mystery/Suspense Shelf**

Everyone has fantasized about being a detective at one time or another; "The Capitol Ghost Mystery" Silvie takes that fantasy a bit further. When the portrait of Abraham Lincoln is stolen from the Colorado State Capitol, a young girl on her fifth grade field trip breaks from her class mates and searches for answers to the mystery of the stolen painting, along with several other mysteries about herself, her friends, and her family. A riveting adventure aimed at young people, "The Capitol Ghost Mystery" is highly recommended to elementary school library collections as an easy reader novel.