

# Blue Balliett



PHOTO © BILL KLEIN

**“Balliett offers readers new ways to think.”  
—*Booklist***

**“Any time you can get kids curious, they’re going to pay attention and focus in a different way.”—Blue Balliett**

Blue Balliett’s acclaimed and bestselling mysteries each combine real settings with an unlikely array of real-world ingredients. *Hold Fast* breaks new ground in ways that will startle. Or is it sparkle? In Balliett’s work, surprise at many levels is the name of the game.

Balliett has won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Juvenile Novel, *Chicago Tribune* Prize for Young Adult Fiction, Chicago Public Library Foundation’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Award, *Book Sense* Book of the Year Award, Great Lakes Book Award, Friends of American Writers Award, Agatha Award for Best YA Novel, *Chicago Tribune’s* Chicagoan of the Year for Literature 2010, and a place in the official White House library as *The Danger Box* was handed to President Obama in January 2011 as a gift from the American Booksellers Association. She has appeared twice on NBC’s Today Show.

Book Worm Angels, a Chicago-based organization that provides a steady flow of thousands of books to classrooms in public schools across the city, gave Balliett the 2012 Kermit W. Myers Achievement Award, for “extraordinary contributions to literacy.”

Balliett’s books appear in thirty-five languages.

Having grown up in New York City and studied art history at Brown University, Blue Balliett has lived in Chicago for many years. She was a classroom teacher at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools but now writes full-time, working in the laundry room of the Hyde Park home she shares with her husband. They have three kids who still love the neighborhood, a recent grandson, and a large and cowardly cat.

[blueballiettbooks.com](http://blueballiettbooks.com)

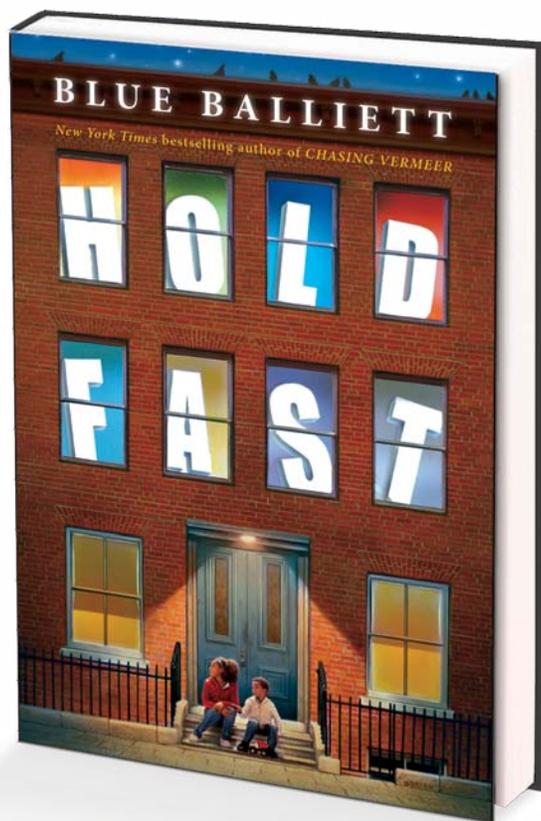
**A girl whose family falls into Chicago's shelter system must solve the mystery of her father's strange disappearance.**

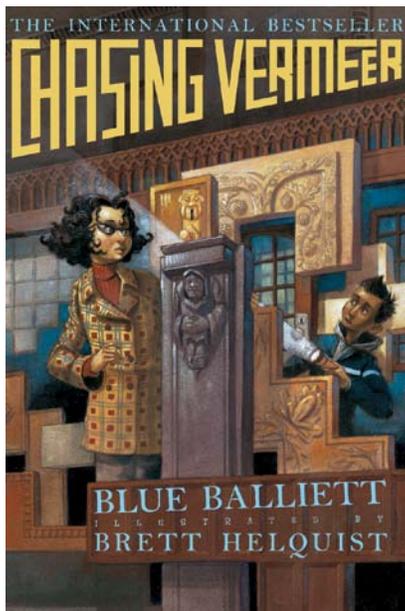
## Hold Fast

Where is Early's father? He's not the kind of father who would disappear. But he's gone...and he's left a whole lot of trouble behind.

As danger closes in, Early, her mom, and her brother have to flee their apartment. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to move into a city shelter. Once there, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers. Because her father hasn't disappeared without a trace. There are patterns and rhythms to what's happened, and Early might be the only one who can use them to track him down and make her way out of a very tough place.

With her signature, singular love of language and sense of mystery, Blue Balliett weaves a story that takes readers from the cold, snowy Chicago streets to the darkest corner of the public library, on an unforgettable hunt for deep truths and a reunited family.





## Chasing Vermeer

- ★ **“Smart...playful.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**
- “Suspenseful, exciting, charming, and even unexpectedly moving.”—*The New York Times***
- “A Da Vinci Code for tweens.”—*Newsweek***

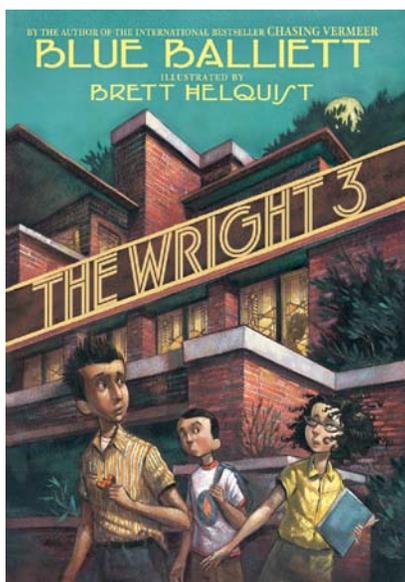
Two quirky kids find themselves chasing a stolen 1665 painting by Johannes Vermeer—with the help of a puzzling old neighbor, a set of pentominoes, a book of unexplained happenings, and perhaps even the painting itself.

*New York Times* Bestseller  
*Book Sense* Bestseller  
 Edgar Award Winner  
 Agatha Award Winner

*A Book Sense* Book of the Year  
 A *New York Times* Notable Book  
*Chicago Tribune* Prize for YA Fiction  
*Booklist* Editors' Choice

Illustrated by Brett Helquist  
 2004 • Ages 9–12 • 272 pages

Hardcover • 978-0-439-37294-7 • \$18.99  
 Paperback • 978-0-439-37297-8 • \$7.99  
 eBook • 978-0-545-54101-5 • \$7.99



## The Wright 3

- ★ **“Another tour de force blending art, math, philosophy, history, and literature.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review**
- “Fans will emerge energized by the invitation to explore.”—*Booklist***

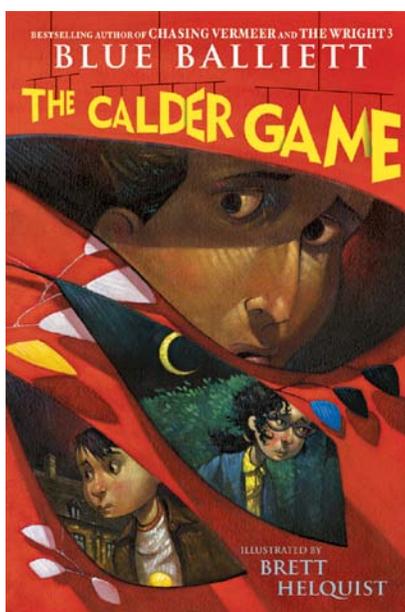
Joined by an old friend, two Chicago kids work to save Frank Lloyd Wright's 1910 Robie House from demolition—but find themselves caught in a tangled web of shadows, invisible threat, hidden treasure, and the living presence of what seems to be the house itself.

*New York Times* Bestseller  
*USA Today* Bestseller  
*Book Sense* Bestseller

*Chicago Public Library* 21st Century Award  
 A *Child Magazine* Best Book of the Year

Illustrated by Brett Helquist  
 2006 • Ages 9–12 • 336 pages

Hardcover • 978-0-439-69367-7 • \$16.99  
 Paperback • 978-0-439-69368-4 • \$7.99  
 eBook • 978-0-545-36232-0 • \$7.99



## The Calder Game

- ★ **“Balliett again offers readers new ways to think.”—*Booklist*, starred review**
- ★ **“Sophisticated...Balliett outdoes herself.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**
- “Intriguing, page-turning puzzles that explore art and the nature of friendship.”—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer***

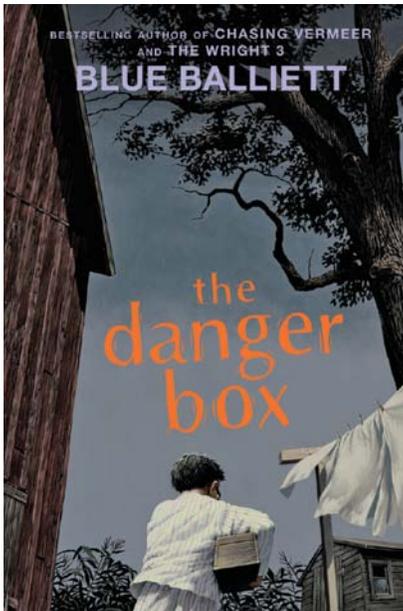
The artist Alexander Calder's mobiles and sculpture play a part in this mystery, as do hedge mazes, an ancient town in England, and a terrible night in which two Calder's—one a piece of art and one a boy—vanish.

*Publishers Weekly* Bestseller  
*IndieBound* Bestseller

*Friends of American Writers* Juvenile  
 Literary Award Winner

Illustrated by Brett Helquist  
 2008 • Ages 9–12 • 400 pages

Hardcover • 978-0-439-85207-4 • \$17.99  
 Paperback • 978-0-439-85208-1 • \$7.99  
 eBook • 978-0-545-27913-0 • \$7.99



## The Danger Box

★ **“This highly satisfying story will enlighten readers even as it inspires them to think.”**

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

**“Spine-tingling yet uplifting...an adventure that leaves no reader untouched.”**—*Chicago Sun-Times*

**“Wondrously mystifying.”**—*Los Angeles Times*

**“Laced with quiet intrigue...always thought-provoking...a great read.”**  
—*Scripps Howard News Service*

Tucked within *The Danger Box*, you'll find a boy in a small town who has a different way of seeing; a curious girl who doesn't belong; a missing father; a fire; a stranger; a death—plus a mysterious notebook that really *does* exist, really *was* stolen, really *did* belong to one of the world's most famous thinkers, and *really might be found*, perhaps even by one of the readers of this spellbinding new mystery!

History, crime and science collide as a unique boy in a sleepy town becomes part of something much, much bigger than himself.

Balliett explains, “Science is filled with as much controversy and as many questions as art. And the idea that so-called weaknesses can become strengths—that intrigues me. Are there not times when a physical disability can allow a person to accomplish things that others might not? I think this is an exciting question.”

2010 • Ages 9–12 • 320 pages

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eBook • 978-0-545-53229-7 • \$7.99