

A Note to Parents & Teachers

In today's technology-laden world of political and social strife, life can get overwhelming at any age. **PIGNON SCORBION AND THE BARBERSHOP DETECTIVES** is set in a kinder, gentler era and provides a fun and fascinating reprieve for readers.

While the protagonist is an adult, **PIGNON SCORBION AND THE BARBERSHOP DETECTIVES** is appropriate for younger readers. It recalls the classic whodunits of Agatha Christie and recent blockbuster series by authors such as E. Lockhart and Maureen Johnson.

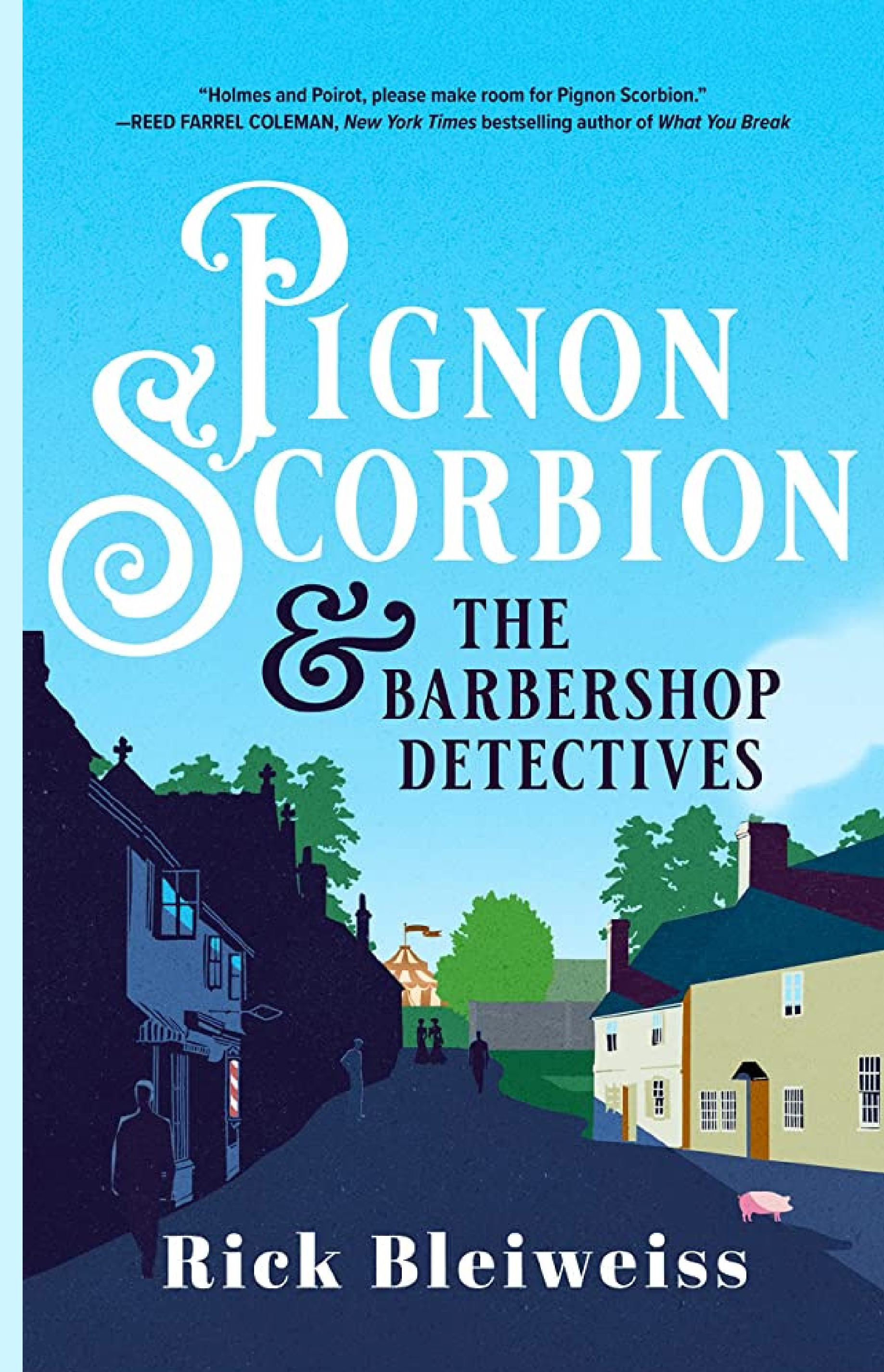
THIS IS A PERFECT BOOK FOR A YOUNGER READER WHO ALREADY LOVES OR WANTS TO BE INTRODUCED TO MYSTERIES!

PIGNON SCORBION AND THE BARBERSHOP DETECTIVES, the first in the series, is a fun and entertaining tale filled with mystery, humor, colorful quirky characters, and an accurate (albeit fictional) account of what life was like in an English countryside town in 1910. It deals with prejudice, Native American and settler relationships in the mid-1800s, revenge, impersonation and deceit, yellow journalism, the suffragette movement, literature, art, life in Haiti and Egypt, and interpersonal relationships.

The cast of characters includes a person who stutters, a short French barber, a shy insecure laborer, a young enthusiastic newspaper reporter, longtime friends, a brilliant nonconformist woman bookstore owner, a despicable newspaper publisher, a quirky colorful policeman, circus performers, a kindly doctor, a fortune seeker, a revenge seeker, and other interesting figures. The book explores three mysteries which are tied together by the characters and their relationships.

I have been thrilled by the reaction of young readers to the Pignon Scorbion series, and I look forward to hearing what you think of it!

-Rick Bleiweiss



Discussion Questions

- How would you describe Scorbion?
- How does Scorbion use the power of deduction?
- How does Scorbion use intuition?
- Who was your favorite character and why?
- Which character in the book would you most like to be?
- What is different about the way Scorbion speaks compared to the other characters?
- How do the barbers, the shoeshine man, and the reporter help Scorbion solve his case?
- What similarities and differences does Scorbion have to other fictional detectives?
- Were the Native American tribe's members justified in retaliating against the townspeople?
- What similarities do the prejudices in the book have with prejudices today?
- How did Scorbion's introduction to Freud's book affect him?
- In what ways is 1910 similar and dissimilar to today?
- What events were taking place in 1910 that changed everyday life for the average person and in crime detection?
- Does Faustin Hardcastle's Haxford Gazette newspaper remind you of any current media? If so, which and why?

This was a very exciting read. It is set in England in 1910, and we are introduced to Pignon Scorbion the new head inspector of the little town of Haxford. It was very exciting for me.

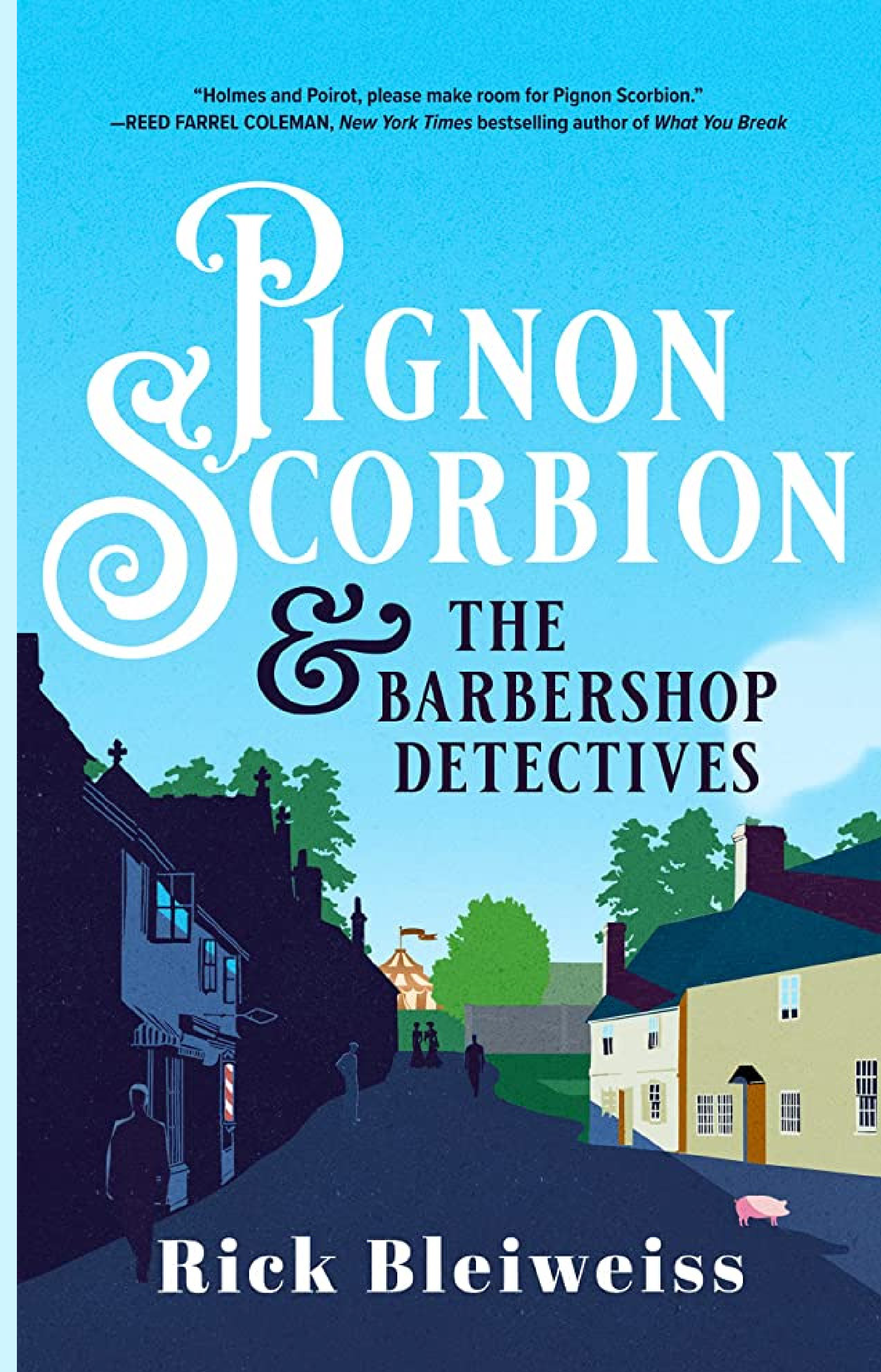
-Antonio Perez-Cansino, 16

I don't know why adults think young teens don't love mysteries. We do! My new favorite is the Pignon Scorbion series. Share this great series with your favorite younger reader, and they will thank you.

-Emma Wilson, 14

Fun Quiz

1. What color are Scorbion's shoes?
2. In what year does the story take place?
3. Which person in the book owns a bookstore?
4. Who is your favorite character in the book and why?
5. What is the name of the new King of England that summer?
6. Which character has a long, red, crackly beard?
7. What does Yves have to do to be able to cut hair?
8. What country does this book take place in?
9. What is the musical play Scorbion attended when he first wore his custom shoes?
10. Who is Scorbion's friend, in addition to being Sherlock Holmes' associate?
11. How many cases do Scorbion and the amateur detectives solve in the book?
12. What is the name of the elephant at the circus?
13. What newspaper is Billy Arthurson a reporter for?
14. What products does Mortimer Gromley sell?
15. What countries are Scorbion's mother and father from?



ANSWERS:

- 1: Black & White 2: 1910 3: Thelma Smith 4: There is no wrong answer; this question encourages critical thinking
5: George 6: Barnabus 7: Stand on a crate 8: England 9: The Mikado 10: Dr. John Watson 11: Three
12: Gargantua 13: Haxford Morning News 14: Linens 15: Haiti & Egypt