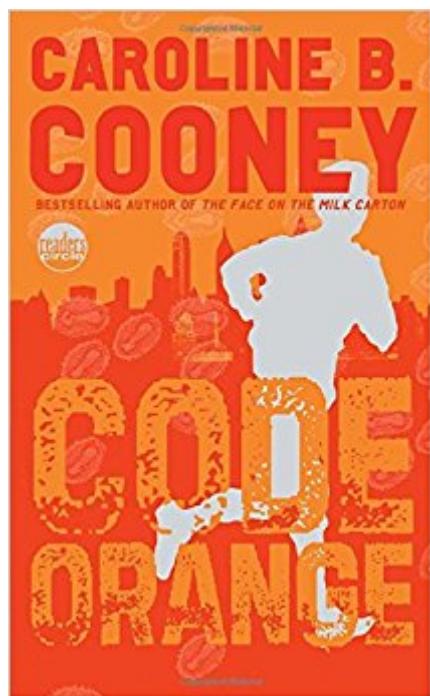


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# Code Orange



## Synopsis

Walking around New York City was what Mitty Blake did best. He loved the city, and even after 9/11, he always felt safe. Mitty was a carefree guy—he didn’t worry about terrorists or blackouts or grades or anything, which is why he was late getting started on his Advanced Bio report. Mitty does feel a little pressure to hand something in—if he doesn’t, he’ll be switched out of Advanced Bio, which would be unfortunate since Olivia is in Advanced Bio. So he considers it good luck when he finds some old medical books in his family’s weekend house that focus on something he could write about. But when he discovers an old envelope with two scabs in one of the books, the report is no longer about the grade—it’s about life and death. His own. This edge-of-your-seat thriller will leave you breathless. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0850 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 200 pages

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Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 104 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,125 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #77 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller #120 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up—Most readers will have high expectations from the creator of *The Face on the Milk Carton* (1991) and the *Out of Time* series (both Random), but they might be a little disappointed in this offering. Mitty Blake is a talented but underachieving student in advanced biology at a New York City private high school. He is more interested in his friend Olivia than in completing his

infectious-disease report, which could keep him from flunking. When he discovers a smallpox scab in an envelope in an old medical book, his research takes a somewhat urgent turn as he tries to determine whether he has contracted the disease. Searching for information on the Internet (thankfully, the high-achieving Olivia knows how to use a library), he inadvertently alerts a terrorist group to his situation. They kidnap Mitty with the intention of using him as a human biological weapon against the people of New York. This should be a highly suspenseful story, but the pacing is often slow and the characters underdeveloped. Even in this day and age, the terrorist angle seems far-fetched, and this underachiever's heroic efforts at the end seem out of character for him. Cooney's fans will undoubtedly read this book, but it doesn't meet the standards set in some of her young adult classics.â€œCourtney Lewis, Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, Kingston, PA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 6-9. In top, utterly terrifying form, Cooney leads a gregarious New York City teenager to a century-old sample of smallpox scabs. As dedicated to avoiding study as he is to getting closer to classmate Olivia, Mitty is oblivious to the danger he, she, and everyone else in the crowded city is in from his possible exposure to this hyper-contagious, utterly devastating disease--until he starts looking into smallpox for a school project. Drawing from several medical resources, which she lists at the end, Cooney lays out the illness's history and symptoms in precise, gruesome detail as a horrified Mitty writhes on the horns of a dilemma: Is the virus still active? Can he find a way to prevent an epidemic if it is? Should he tell the authorities, and look like a total dork if it isn't? Then, in a heartstopping twist, Mitty is kidnapped by terrorists intent on using him as a biological weapon. Readers won't soon forget either the profoundly disturbing premise of this page-turner or its likable, ultimately heroic slacker protagonist. John PetersCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mitty Blake is a high school student that does not care much for school. He does not even want to be anywhere near a school. He has a huge Science project about an infectious disease. He is away when he finds some scabs. These scabs help him pick his project, Small Pox. He no idea what Small Pox did to people, or even what it is. He inhaled these smallpox scabs; he has no idea if these are infectious or if they are not. He started doing as much research as he could on this topic. The only thing that he found is information about how dangerous the disease is. He does more

research and finds nothing else. Mitty is only trying to save his own life. Terrorist kidnapped him when he was walking through New York. What do these terrorist want with him? Will Mitty die of Small Pox? Code Orange is a good book. I give it a 4 out of 5 stars. I thought it was a good book, but not the best book I have ever read. I like how the author did not end the chapters in a boring way; she kind of left it as a cliffhanger for the next chapter. The author made me want to keep reading to find out what would happen. I thought that the author did a very good job describing what was going. The way she included realistic elements in this story was awesome. Bioterrorism is a tough topic to write about and to read about, but this book presented it in an intriguing way. This is one of the better books that I have read this year. The characters in the book are well developed and make the story real. The best character was Mitty. He is a teenage boy that is intelligent, courageous and innovative.

This novel attempts to engage the reader with a fascinating what-if scenario of widespread epidemic in New York City. Instead, the reader is subjected to erratically developed narrative and cliché character development. The characterization in the first several chapters is either typical or unnecessary. When the real conflict finally develops two-thirds through the book, it's not even the conflict that the main character suggests will occur. I kept hoping something big would develop, but it just fell so short of my already low expectations. The end was very anticlimactic and even felt rushed. I read a lot of books at this level of reading, but this one is not on par even for that low level. I'm a high school English teacher and I am really sorry that this was the pick for summer reading of incoming sophomores. That's the last time we will let a science teacher choose the novel.

Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney is a great book. Mitchell Blake is a below average boy in high school. He has to do a research project on a disease, so he decided to do smallpox, the worst sickness known to mankind. One day he came across a book about all sicknesses with an envelope in it. He opened it, sniffed it in, and put it back. However, he did not know that what he had sniffed in was the last remains of smallpox scabs. He began researching his project and found the most common symptoms of the virus. They matched how he was currently feeling; nauseous, headaches and, most of all, pain. He began to feel uncomfortable, so he emailed a couple of special doctors to see if he was in trouble. His emails were forwarded to many other people and even the FBI! They were also forwarded to a couple of evil terrorists. One day, when he was walking in the park, a van pulled up to him. A woman in it said she was from the CDC and was ready to run some blood tests to see if he had the sickness. He started running away but gave up of tiredness from the smallpox.

The woman was actually a terrorist! She and her crew forced him into the van and later into a cellar. There they kept him hostage until they were ready to unleash him. After many days he devised a plan to capture the terrorists. When they were giving him food, he faked having smallpox symptoms. They were kneeling beside him when he took off for the door and shut it. He then turned on a furnace and threw his shirt over it to create carbon monoxide, a deadly yet unscented gas. After a couple hours, Mitchell finally had a chance to call 911. It turned out that Mitchell had not had smallpox. Even though the ending was not very exiting, I still thought this was a great book

This book was a real page turner, and I honestly couldn't put it down. Unlike many books I've read, it was both haunting and reassuring at the same time, and I could really feel the struggles of the characters. This was a great book, and the best thing about it was that it wasn't quite sci-fi, but it wasn't action-adventure, fantasy, or realistic fiction either. This might be the best book I've read all year. I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys science fiction with a touch of reality, however if you're a squeamish person who doesn't like disease and death, then you should probably try reading something else. For me! this was an all-around amazing story

AS PROMISED, THANKS

Great book for young readers

I read this book when I was younger and it's still one of my most favorite books of all time. And now I get to own a copy - I am SO excited!!! I love the book and enjoy it. Things I like about this book:  
\*The characters are (for the most part) believable. Young, and dumb sometimes. (Hehe, you'll see.)  
\* The author has a brilliant writing style.\* You get caught up in the scene and it's like kapoof! It's very excellent and I highly recommend it.

Mitty Blake is a carefree hero. He is an average student, likes his parents and sister, and breezes through school with average grades. Everyone likes Mitty. When the terrorists kidnap him to get the smallpox virus scabs to destroy New York City, he uses what he learned from his parents to survive. Kids need to read books about good families and good kids. One of my favorite sections was when his worried sister came home to be with their parents while Mitty missing. A lot of books have single parent households, dysfunctional siblings and emotional problems. Code Orange had a close knit family, siblings who like each other, and an average guy who solved a major problem using his

head. Code Orange is my favorite Caroline Cooney book.

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