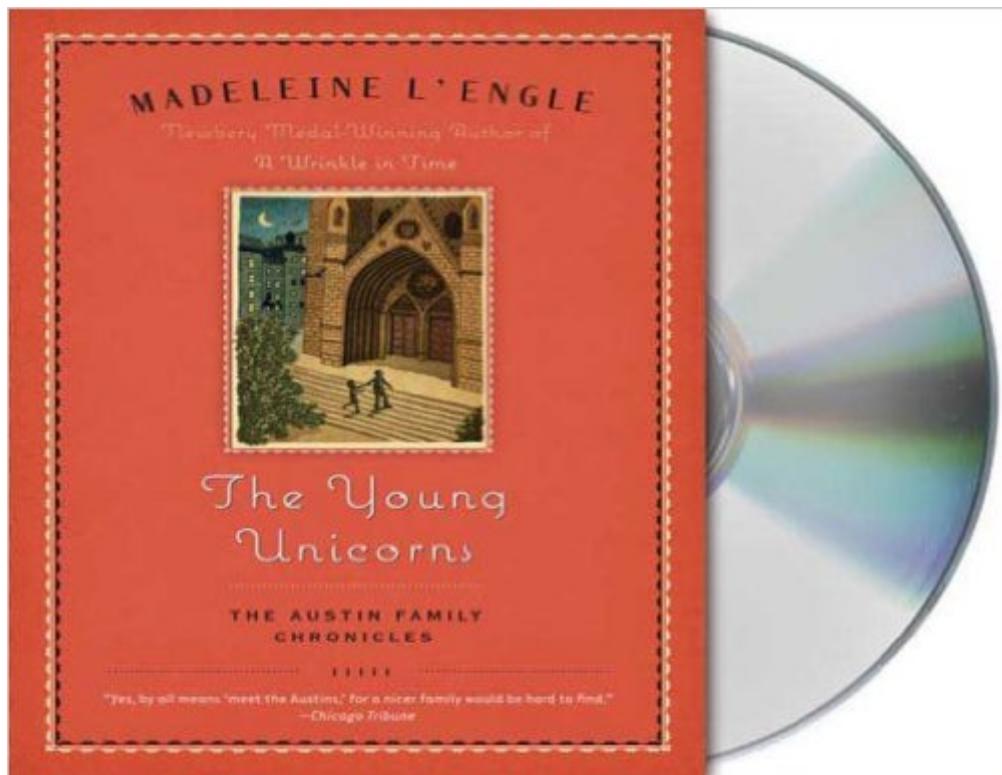


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# The Young Unicorns - CANCELLED (Austin Family)



## Synopsis

The Austins are trying to settle into their new life in New York City, but their once close-knit family is pulling away from each other. Their father spends long hours alone in his study working on the research project that brought the family to the city. John is away at college. Rob is making friends with people in the neighborhood: newspaper vendors, dog walkers, even the local rabbi. Suzy is blossoming into a vivacious young woman. And Vicky has become closer to Emily Gregory, a blind and brilliant young musician, than to her sister Suzy. With the Austins going in different directions, they don't notice that something sinister is going on in their neighborhood and it's centered around them. A mysterious genie appears before Rob and Emily. A stranger approaches Vicky in the park and calls her by name. Members of a local gang are following their father. The entire Austin family is in danger. If they don't start telling each other what's going on, someone just might get killed.

## Book Information

Series: Austin Family

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Young Listeners; Unabridged edition (September 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1427205817

ISBN-13: 978-1427205810

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.6 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,036,471 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > L'Engle, Madeleine #3979 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General #24233 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

## Customer Reviews

As she does in all her novels, Madeleine L'Engle hides several powerful themes in the plot and narration of "The Young Unicorns". It is about more than just a bizarre plot to take over New York--or the Austin family's year in the city--or a child prodigy who was blinded in a mysterious accident. It is about all of these at once, and more; and the way these threads are woven together is magnificent. The Austins (sans John, who is at M.I.T.) take supporting roles in this novel. On centerstage are a colorful, wonderful group of characters, new and old: Emily Gregory, the child

prodigy with such perfect hearing that she can echolocate; Josiah Davidson, both a former choirboy and a former gang member, who has become Emily's friend; Mr. Theo, Emily's crotchety, yet brilliant, music teacher; and Tom Tallis, an English priest who is also an international sleuth. The mystery begins almost immediately. Emily rubs a lamp and appears to call up a genie. Is there a connection between this incident and the attack that left her blind? A connection between the attack and Dr. Austin's secret medical research? A connection between the research and a plot to rule New York? A connection between the plot and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine? A connection between the Cathedral and a street gang called the Alphabats? A connection between the Alphabats and Tom Tallis, who just broke up a crime ring in Portugal? (For more on \_that\_, read "The Arm of the Starfish".) The answer is YES: mystery, suspense, sci-fi, good vs evil, and even coming-of-age themes all come together in this excellent book; and the setting, New York City in "parlous times," becomes very real.

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