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***Middle School: Treasure Hunters -
Peril at the top of the World*** by James Patterson and
Chris Grabenstein illustrated by Juliana Neufeld

Publisher: Penguin Random House: Young Arrow

RRP \$19.99

The Kidd family are an adventurous crew with twins Bick and Beck as the two main characters. They have parents who are ex-CIA spies, an older sister with a photographic memory, and an older brother who frequently falls in love.

When the Kidds decide to holiday in Florence, Italy, they are really on an undercover mission. Priceless works of art are being stolen from art galleries and there seems to be a link to a shadowy group known as the Enlightened Ones.

What follows is a full-on treasure hunt combined with art history facts, travelogue, environmental disasters, 'Da Vinci Code' intrigue, an emotional teenage millionaire, plus a horde of villains. The story scampers along as the Kidd family travel through Europe to Russia and the Arctic. Along the way they are thrown into jail, escape enemies, eat disgusting food, face wild wolves, get stranded at the North Pole, and encounter many other challenges.

Copious black-and-white illustrations add humour and detail to the characters and plot. Fans of the Middle School series will enjoy this latest collaboration between the authors and artist. A light-hearted mystery novel for middle-primary and intermediate-age students, there's even a competition for readers to win prizes.

Authors' websites:

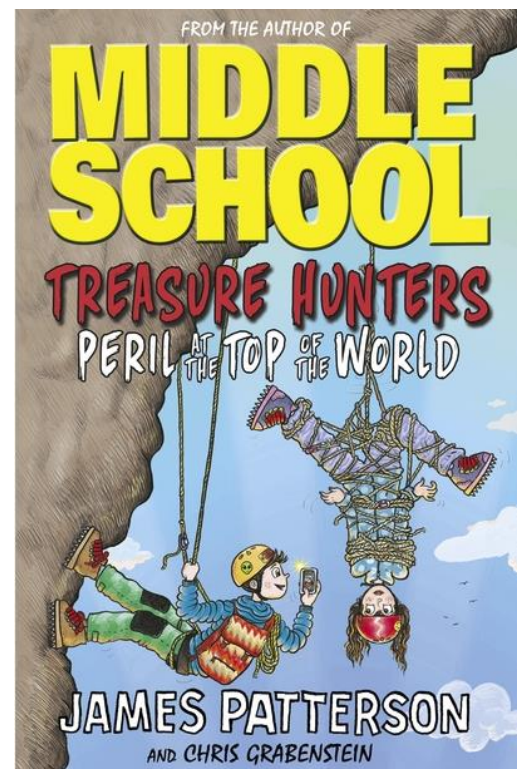
<http://www.jamespatterson.com/biography>

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Illustrator's website:

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Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett



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