The Inquisitor's Apprentice by Chris Moriarty is about how Sacha and his fellow apprentice, Lily, try to find out why someone tried to kill the great inventor, Thomas Edison. Sacha Kessler is a poor boy who lives in the Jewish tenements of New York. His family practices magic for practical uses, such as washing the dishes. His grandfather is a rabbi and studies the Kabbalah. Also, it just so happens that Sacha can see witches. Lily Astral is in a very different situation; she is the daughter of one of the richest men in New York and her mother is one of the prettiest women in the city. The two kids are apprenticed to Maximillian Wolf, the NYPD's best Inquisitor. It is the inquisitor's job to track down criminals using illegal magic.

Edison has created a witch detector that could set off the biggest witch hunt in history. This means that every witch has a reason to kill him.

Once they are apprenticed, they talk to J. P. Morgaunt who witnessed and stopped the assassination. He said that it was a dybbuk. Dybbuks are Judaic mythical creatures that are made from the dark part of one’s soul. Eventually, dybbuks replace the actual person; they devour their soul so the real person is a husk and then the real person is gone. Only a Kabbalist can summon Dybbuks after that happens. So, in essence, Morgaunt was accusing a Rabbi of summoning it.

As the book progresses, they interview different people who do different things, and may or may not be suspects. One is Moishe Schlosky. Moishe is the head of the IWW or Industrial Witches of the World Unite. They are trying to organize a strike at Morgaunt’s factory. Another is Edison himself; when they interview him, Sacha finds a locket that belongs to his mother and was stolen at the beginning of the book. Then they interview Edison’s lab assistant, whose name is Rosie DiMaggio, but who goes by Rosie Darling. They interview all these people on one day, plus Harry Houdini, the famed escape artist.

The next morning when the kids get to work, they are told by Wolf’s assistant, Payton Phillip, to go fill a growler with coffee. However, on the way back they get beaten up by the Hell’s Kitchen Hexers, one of the area’s gangs. Luckily, Payton comes in to help deal with the Hexers.

After the fight, Wolf takes Sacha and Lily to Shen Yunying, who agrees to teach them Kung Fu. They go to lessons weekly.

A few days later, after synagogue, Sacha talks to his grandfather about dybbucks. He learns about how it will eventually replace Edison and become as solid as regular people in the process.

Soon they begin to interview rabbis. The first three they interview all are different types of Kabbalists. One is a Jungian, another is Freudian, while the third is an Analytical. When they talk to a fourth and final Rabbi, he just rambles on. So, when Wolf
said he was looking for a Practical Kabbalist, one rabbi suggests they go and interview Rabbi Kessler, Sacha’s grandfather.

After work that day, Lily invites Sacha over for tea, even though she makes it very obvious she doesn’t want to do it. Once they get inside, they run into Maleficia Astral, Lily’s mother, and she asks if he would like some tea. Even though Lily mouths the word “no!”, Sacha accepts. After they have tea, Lily talks with Sacha again and tells him that she can’t figure out why her mother is being so nice to him. Sacha then asks if Lily thinks he’s not worth talking to because he’s poor. And sadly, Lily says yes. Only a few moments later, Sacha realizes that Lily is ashamed of her mother, so ashamed that she was as desperate to keep Sacha from meeting her as Sacha was to keep Lily from knowing he lived in the tenements.

So, will Sacha ever tell Lily his secret? And will they figure out who’s trying to kill Thomas Edison? Read The Inquisitor’s Apprentice to find out!

This book contains a very important theme and even more Jewish values. The theme that was demonstrated was to embrace everyone. This was demonstrated because Sacha embraced everyone from rich Lily to famous Edison. There was a very important theme that was not demonstrated though, which is to not be afraid of who you are. Sacha told lies about who he was. He told people he lived in a middle class house, in a middle class family, instead of in the tenements. This book had more Jewish values then I can list. Some of the highlights include celebrating Shabbos, keeping kosher, having a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and studying the Kabbalah.

This book related to my life in a few ways. Some are that Sacha celebrated Shabbos, had a Bar Mitzvah, and went to synagogue. I celebrate Shabbos, and go to synagogue. As well, I had my Bar Mitzvah. This means that the book relates to my life in another way, because Sacha and I are the same age.

This book was very enjoyable. It is easy to relate to and has a very engaging plot. Get a copy and find out the answer to the mysteries!