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The Recruit (CHERUB)



Synopsis

CHERUB agents are highly trained, extremely talented--and all under the age of seventeen. For official purposes, these agents do not exist. They are sent out on missions to spy on terrorists, hack into crucial documents, and gather intel on global threats--all without gadgets or weapons. It is an exceptionally dangerous job, but these agents have one crucial advantage: adults never suspect that teens are spying on them. James is the latest CHERUB recruit. He's a bit of a troublemaker, but he's also brilliant. And CHERUB needs him. James has no idea what to expect, but he's out of options. Before he can start in the field he must first survive one hundred grueling days of basic training, where even the toughest recruits don't make it to the end....

Book Information

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Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

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Robert Muchamore was born in London in 1972 and used to work as a private investigator. CHERUB is his first series and is published in more than twenty countries. For more on the series, check out CherubCampus.com/USA.

This book is amazing!!! I read this book in a day, i was so in love with the characters and the storyline. I have never picked up a book series and have been so amazed by words on paper. Robert Muchamore has a serious skill for making you feel as if you are standing right in the middle of these stories. Once you read this incredibly book, there is several more books to pick up after this. Trust me once you read the first chapter you will fall in love with these books!!The Recruit by Robert Muchamore is a book that you will plough through without even realising how much you have read and at that stage you will realise your done.Stop reading this review and go buy it!!!!

I am eleven and a good reader I was tired of boring stuff like Alex Rider which in my opinion after you read you can predict. I was on a trip to Amelia Island so before the trip I convinced my mom to get a book and this was it. At first I was a person not liking James but you have to read farther. The action in this book is amazing and isn't predictable as Alex Rider. The one thing that got me hooked was that this isn't really kid like where there is no cussing or fights, or any older content that you may have to read later on in life you can't read picture books when your forty years old. THIS WAS AN AMAZING

BOOK!!!!!!!!!!!!

James is a troubled 12 year old living in London, England. His mother dies, his half-sister is taken by her father, whom both she and James hate, and James is put in a group home. Because of his poor choices he ends up in a police station with a threat that he will go to jail if he's brought back... the next night he's brought back! Then he wakes up in a place he's never been before, the Cherub campus. He's told that if he can make it through basic training that he will get a good education and will be a spy working with MI6. He has nothing to lose, so he jumps at the chance. But of course all is not as it seems at Cherub and if he survives basic training, then he still has to figure out just what Cherub does and how he fits into it.

I am thirty years of age, and enjoy reading young adult fiction in my spare time. I enrolled in a children's literature course as a freshman in college, and have been hooked every since. I was browsing on , looking for another good read, when I stumbled upon Cherub: the Recruit. It looked interesting enough, so I thought I would give it a go. This book was fantastic in its pacing; I never wanted to put it down, even when it was time to go to work or to sleep; this book resulted in several late nights for me. The beginning of the book deals with James's troubled home life, ensuing tragedy, and his recruitment into Cherub. The beginning and middle of the book were the strongest spots of storytelling; they kept you hooked and interested, generating a healthy sympathy and concern for the protagonist. I particularly loved the 100 days of training; it was very intense and suspenseful. The characters were also well written and conceived, and the author caught a realistic sense of the insecurities young adults face in their social lives. The way most characters reacted to situations were realistic, and took me back to my dreaded middle school days. Still, the book's references to pop culture (PlayStation 2 and clothing brands) were a bit outdated, dating the book and hurting the reader's ability to stay in the world created by the author. Most of the dialogue was great, even funny at times, but there were also several "rough" conversations that felt forced, particularly towards the end of the book. The third "act" of the book involves James's first mission. While I did not hate this part, it definitely fell short of the first two acts, creating a sense of disappointment in the overall story development. Basically, James's actions help to thwart some terrible plot, and he is rewarded for such actions. The problem is, the actions are not terribly heroic, and there is a play for drama where there really is none; it felt cheap, and I know the author could have constructed a more "fun" mission for James to cut his teeth on. Despite the disappointing third act and outdated popular culture references, I would still recommend this book. I believe children will find it entertaining, while also relating to it. Do keep in mind that this book is part of series due to

the current trend in children's literature right now, which is to write a long series, and hope to score big (think Harry Potter money). Because of this, your children may want (or need) you to purchase all of the books, but encouraging children to read is important, even if I do not believe in extending a series entirely for profit. Therefore, I say take the plunge, accept the mission, and earn that Navy shirt.

I have seen these books in bookstores for quite some time. When I finally read the first book, 'The Recruit' it was not what I expected, but I was not disappointed. I'm not a fan of spy adventures as a rule, but I do enjoy Youth Fiction and this had all the elements of a book that children and young people will enjoy. This is the kind of book that boys who are reluctant readers (cliche, I know), will enjoy, but it's also a book that a teacher won't have qualms about recommending to students. It's well written, the characterisation is excellent and the plot lines are well thought out. What I particularly liked was the way the child and teenage characters are portrayed. They're gritty and at times unsympathetic, but they are real teenagers, and I say this as someone who teaches high school English. Some adults/parents may not like this darker aspect but I thought it was very refreshing to see a YA author who didn't sugar coat their characters. Another good thing about this series is there are so many books, so once you've started reading, or your child/student has and they come back wanting more you can point to a whole shelf of them. Lastly, the spy adventure aspect. It wasn't as James Bond as I had expected, which is due to my own naivete. This is a far more realistic look at what intelligence agencies do (or at least it seems more believable). The Recruit is a great start to an impressive and original series, which I would highly recommend to anyone who likes engaging characters, intelligent plots, and good quality writing. If nothing else read it for a clear-eyed portrayal of adolescents.

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