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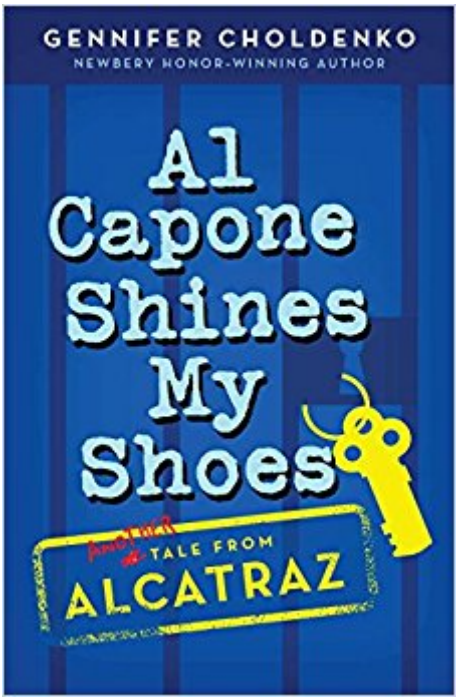
Al Capone Shines My Shoes



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Synopsis

What do you do when your neighbors are a bunch of hit men, con men, and mad dog murderers? Well, if you’re Moose Flanagan, you ask the most notorious convict of them all, Al Capone, for help. But when that convict comes through for youÃ‘and then asks you for a favor in returnÃ‘suddenly it’s a whole different ball game. Picking up where the NewberyÃ•Honor winning Al Capone Does My Shirts left off, this lively second romp featuring Moose, his friends, and some of Alcatraz’s "finest" is just as satisfying as the first.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0620 (What’s this?)

Series: Al Capone

Paperback: 304 pages

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6â “8â ”Readers who enjoyed Al Capone Does My Shirts (Putnam, 2004) will find this lively novel a worthy sequel. Most of the large cast has returned and, as in the previous book, the 1935 Alcatraz Island setting is well realized through glimpses of its infamous prison, inmates, and island life. The narrator is Moose Flanagan, whose father works as a prison guard. The 12-year-old baseball-loving boy is both naive and wise beyond his years. He loves Natalie, his developmentally disabled older sister, despite her unpredictable behavior; when she has good days, he says, "it feels as if the sun has come out after sixty straight days of rain." Along with the warm

family drama, there’s the intrigue that comes of living among notorious prison inmates on a tiny island. They are a source of free labor, and, once again, Moose finds terse messages in his laundry. Apparently inmate #85, aka Al Capone, engineered Natalie’s acceptance into a special school at the boy’s request, and now Moose receives a note saying, "Your turn." How he responds to this menacing correspondence makes for an involving yarn, and Choldenko layers her narrative with comical and poignant plot twists. At times, her canvas feels crowded with less-involving characters and subplots, but her sprightly writing ensures that this novel never loses its grip on readers’ imaginations. This is superlative historical fiction, but it will be most appreciated by those familiar with the first book.â ”Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA END --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

"Heart-stopping+heartrending+heartwarming." -San Francisco Chronicle"Choldenko seamlessly blends laugh-out-loud humor with high drama in this fast-paced book." -Sacramento Bee"A tender, engaging book that captures both the imagination and the heart." -San Jose Mercury News

My son and I read this book together over the course of a month before bedtime. I really enjoy the way the author mixes a historical figure like Al Capone with the fictional characters on Alcatraz island. Meaning much of this book is fiction with a sprinkling of reality. The story does provide tremendous insight into how life was like for the families that lived on Alcatraz island. These are the families of the prison guards and other support staff including the warden. Kids that grew up just outside the prison walls and spent their days in school in San Francisco and their evenings, weekends, and summers on Alcatraz island playing sports, and just being kids. It’s not just fun and games all the time. The main character faces plenty of challenges with his sister, friends, girls, and of course Al Capone.

Al Capone Shines My Shoes is a direct sequel to the first, "Al Capone Does My Shirts." Although these books would probably be rated for young readers, I, as an older man, enjoyed them both immensely, and can hardly wait for Gennifer to release her upcoming third in series. The story has a wonderful interest partly because it takes place on Alcatraz Island in the year 1935, when Capone, Machine gun-Kelly, and other depression-era gangsters were imprisoned there. The story is told from the viewpoint of "Moose," a young schoolboy who lives in civilian quarters on the island because his father works there as an employee of the prison. These are the most enjoyable books I have read in a long while. Great characterization, and genuine descriptions of depression-era

Alcatraz complete with aerial photos of the island with key areas noted. Thank you, Gennifer Cholenko !

My fifth and fourth grade students love these books!

Probably my favorite of the three books in the series, although they are all outstanding.

my students loved the book. Great for reluctant readers.

Great book for history and very entertaining. My daughter and I read it together. She had alot of quesions about the time and era. I enjoyed it and it was a very well writen, appropriate for children book. Highly recommend

This book is the second book of the series and what I love about these books is that it gets my son to really think. Not only are these books funny but the characters are so well developed that my son feels like he actually knows them. I've had a hard time finding a different series for him to read and enjoy after the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and these books were a great fit for him. He just started the next one in the series this morning and I can only hope that there is another book in the series soon.

We listened to the first audio book, "Al Capone does my Shirts" when we checked it out from the Library. As a family, we listened during a road trip to New Jersey. The story was amazing and wonderful. One of our sons has Autism and is non-verbal. He loved the story and wanted to listen to the audio book again and again. Needless to say, when the sequel was written, we had to purchase it. On another road trip to New Jersey, we listened to all of the disks. All three of my children were glued to the radio listening to what happened to Moose, Natalie, and the rest of the kids. It was better than T.V.! I think I saw a tear or two. You will enjoy this book, and you must read/listen to the first one too.

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