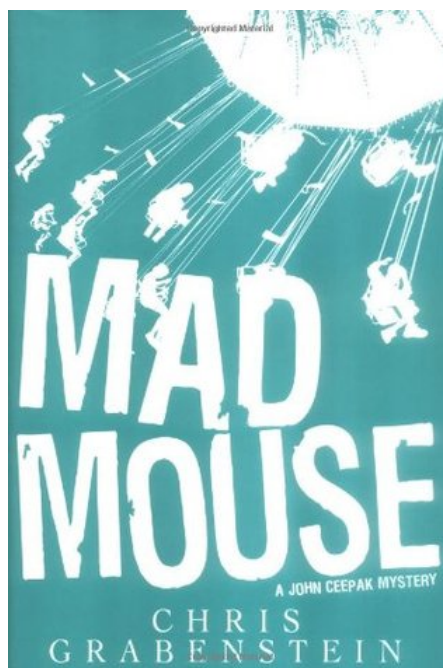




Mad Mouse

Chris Grabenstein

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It's almost Labor Day, and the end of summer could mean the end of someone's life in this exciting sequel to Chris Grabenstein's *Tilt-a-Whirl*. Young Danny Boyle, the part-time summer cop "down the shore" in Sea Haven, New Jersey, gets taken on a wild ride when he and his longtime beach buddies become the unwitting targets of a mad-man's twisted scheme for revenge. Fortunately, John Ceepak, the cop with a soldier's unshakeable code of honor, stays at Danny's side to help him negotiate the quick twists and turns that threaten to destroy his life, his friends, and everything about the world he loves. Whipping from the boardwalk to the beach and back again, *Mad Mouse* keeps zigging and zagging at a breakneck pace, all the way to the surprising finish.

Mad Mouse Details

Date : Published May 14th 2006 by Carroll & Graf

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Author : Chris Grabenstein

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From Reader Review Mad Mouse for online ebook

Ingie says

Review written April 13, 2017

4 Stars - Another goodfeel summer town mystery. I'm on this cozy journey and looking forward to get more

Mad Mouse is the second in this cozy fun contemporary mystery serial. I truly enjoyed the first part Tilt-a-Whirl (3.8 stars) back in November last year. No romance stuff but a lot of fun and really great audiobook narrator. ~ \$3 WSfV 8:10 hours audiobook narrated by Jeff Woodman ~ Well worth my time and coins.

Sea Haven, New Jersey US

« **John Ceepak**, a former MP just back from Iraq, has joined the *Sea Haven* police department. The job offer came from an old Army buddy who hoped to give Ceepak at least a summer's worth of rest and relaxation... ~~ He is partnered with **Danny Boyle**, a 24-year-old part-time summer cop who doesn't carry a gun and only works with the police by day so he has enough pocket money left over to play with his beach buddies at night. »

Still that first Ceepak summer and it was time for Danny to be a permanent "real" police. Unfortunately when this big police career event should be celebrated are Danny and his friends threatened by a mysterious paintball shooter.

... There is a new case to solve and a "bad guy" to look for in the (New Jersey US) summer paradise. — Our hero Ceepak is admirably good and doing everything properly right (following the Book) as usual and this MAN nowadays has two big admirers in me and young Danny.

Good stuff for nice audiobook moments. It will be more *Ceepak & Boyle* adventures for me soonish.

I LIKE - this cozy easy style and very sweet characters

Vfields Don't touch my happy! says

No sophomore jinks here!!!

Mad Mouse was as fun as Tilt-A-Whirl. I also thought the author made a very smart choice to just give us a bit more background of these characters but not too much.

Yup, I just went along for the ride and had a few big chuckles along the way. Good stuff!!

Eric_W says

This is one of those books that I think the reader makes. I'm not sure if I would be as enthusiastic if reading the book. Jeff Woodman just captures the wacky humor of the naive Boyle and Ceepak, the almost too-good-to-be-true cop and mentor. The titles of all the books are named after rides at the mythical Sea Haven amusement park.

In this one, someone is targeting Danny and his friends, first with paint balls, then bullets. The mystery is OK, the story fine, but what really makes this series (and I intend to read /listen to all of them is the very clever and often witty dialogue between the characters. Just a lot of fun.

Not for those who like quiche with their Proust, just us regular folks who enjoy love a good cheeseburger dripping in grease followed by a fudge sundae. I recommend getting the audio.

Ann says

Even better than the first book. Danny Boyle and John Ceepak are a duo I would follow anywhere around the town of Sea Haven. Danny's law enforcement career is in good hands with Ceepak as his mentor and partner.

Janine says

This started a bit slowly and I am not sure that I really enjoy the writing style with the attempt at humour.

Terry says

I love the Ceepak/Boyle books! I realize that they are not great literature as one reviewer complained, but it is truly entertaining reading. The mystery in this one is a little weak, but the play between "Yoda" Ceepak and "Skywalker" Boyle is wonderful.

Someone is targeting the "Marshmallow Crew," Danny and his friends from high school. Paintball and bullets are flying, but who would want to hurt this unassuming bunch of friends, let alone start killing them? And all on the eve of Danny maybe -or maybe not - being the one of the summer cops to land a full time position with the police department. I love Ceepak and Boyle.

John says

First off all: this series must be read in order. Otherwise, you're wasting your time. So, Do Not Start Here.

It's tough for a sequel to equal a strong first book, and this series is no exception. The plot takes an awfully long time to get going as there's no actual murder for quite a while. Also, I didn't really relate to Danny and his young friends all that much; to be brutally honest, they seemed a bit boring to me. But, okay

I give the book a fourth star as the villain was actually quite interesting, complete with an ending that one cannot reasonably expect, even if it's rather over-the-top. More importantly, the author makes the point that a) bullying can have consequences later, even if seems "fun" at the time, and b) so can rejecting your kids for not being what *you* deem "successful" early on. There's also an angle regarding Ceepak's discovering talent in a young man who seems anything *but* a success on the surface.

Wanted to throw in that while there's nothing gory or grisly here, one scene did fill me with complete horror: Danny stumbles across a young kid, around 5 in a wheelchair (presumably with developmental issues or Downs Syndrome, not really gone into), being bullied by a group of young men in their late teens who are going to have "fun" pushing the "tard" down a steep ramp (the kid is absolutely terrified). Call me a wuss if you'd like, but I was incredibly rattled for quite a while that such an event was even possible in real life.

Liz says

Just a fast paced, fun mystery.

Zach says

Great Lines:

description of smile as "country club smile"

Ceepak is so tough that GI Joe probably plays with a John Ceepak action figure.

I could not go home and hide under my bed--there's a lot of crap down there, dirty socks, dirty magazines.

Description of regaining consciousness--it was like the grumpy super in my brain had hit the circuit breaker in the basement.

Similar to the other Ceepak mysteries, the plot is interesting and the author keeps the story moving by creating multiple suspects but not dwelling on one for too long and also having a surprise ending, just when you think the story is resolved.

Carolyn says

I very much enjoyed this second book in the John Ceepak series by Chris Grabenstein. I like the fast pace of these books, and the wry humor of Danny Boyle, Summer Cop. Ceepak never disappoints, with his Code of conduct from which he will not stray, and the serious common sense, maybe even a 6th sense, with which he approaches his work. This is a mystery, and just by happenstance, I happened to be reading it over Labor Day weekend, the same time frame as the book's story. This is a great beach read! I recommend the book to anyone looking for an easy-reading, nicely paced mystery.

Lukasz Pruski says

There is nothing wrong with writing mystery fiction for children or for the so-called young adults. I just do not like them at all. I am unable to find the richness of life or truth about the world and people in such novels; they are cleansed, simplistic, and cartoonish. So, again, my dislike of this book is based on my deep dislike of the genre, same as with the “cozy”, the traditional “whodunit”, the “closed-room mystery”, or the paranormal genre.

Technically, Chris Grabenstein’s “Mad Mouse” is not a work of “young-adult fiction”. It purports to be a traditional police procedural, in which a young (25 years old) “summer cop” (one who is hired only for the summer period), Danny Boyle, helps an experienced cop, John Ceepak, who happens to be a decorated ex-soldier, in solving quite a difficult case. However, the writing is so juvenile that I have trouble reconciling it with the police procedural. Danny provides the first-person narration for most of the novel, and he thinks and sounds like a teen. Also, John Ceepak is a caricature. His moral code is so straight that it belongs in cartoons only.

The plot, once it actually starts in earnest, does indeed have many “twists and turns” (way too many for my taste) and the denouement is pretty clever (I think it might be too clever). Mercifully, the writing is less infantile in the second half of the novel. However, “Mad Mouse”, contrary to what some reviewers say, does not provide a good feel for the place, a New Jersey beach town. The plot could well be happening in beach towns in other countries.

I do not regret the pain of having to read through the first hundred or so lame pages, because the further I read the less pain I felt. Also, to reiterate, many other readers do and will love “Mad Mouse”; one of its main faults is that the writing makes the book read like a young-adult novel, a genre I despise.

Two and a half stars.

judy says

OK I'm hooked on this series but I'd only read it in summer. It's set on the Jersey Shore (don't panic--those people do not show up) and the book names come from attractions in an amusement park. The mysteries are ok but what makes them wonderful and hilarious are the characters--particularly a cop/former military named John Cepak. He's Dudley-Do-Right 100% but you can't help but love him. No doubt you'll find some of your own transgressions in the things Cepak points out. Kudos to the author for making a character we should hate,sweetly endearing.

?Susan? says

Danny, a fledgling police officer, and Seapack, a former MP and now a veteran detective, are on a mission to stop a sniper in their sleepy little town of Sea Haven. The sniper is smart, invisible and, for some unknown reason, targeting Danny's group of lifelong friends. Not one of his friends, in this tight knit group, can think of any possible reason that could have invoked this brutal unsolicited attack. Sea Haven is a cool, little costal

town that relies on it's summer guests to see them through the colder seasons, so in order to keep the situation quiet Seapack and Danny do thier best to keep the investigation under wraps. However, in a small, gossipy town that is not always an easy thing to do.

A fast pace, good mystery with the return of all of the series regular characters. Jeff Woodman does an outstanding job narrating as usual, so if your looking for a clean, relaxing series this is a fun new fangled kind of cozy.

Michelle says

The summer is almost over, and soon-to-be-named a full-time officer of the Sea Haven PD, Danny Boyle, is hanging with the friends he's known since high school. What starts as a prank involving using Danny and his friends as paint gun targets soon evolves to real bullets. With the help of his partner and mentor, Army MP vet John Ceepak, Danny and his friends must figure out who wants them dead before it's too late. This is a fun series that takes place in a little coastal town surrounding an amusement park.

Richard Derus says

Rating: 3.75* of five

The Publisher Says: It's almost Labor Day, and the end of summer could mean the end of someone's life in this exciting sequel to Chris Grabenstein's *Tilt-a-Whirl*. Young Danny Boyle, the part-time summer cop "down the shore" in Sea Haven, New Jersey, gets taken on a wild ride when he and his longtime beach buddies become the unwitting targets of a mad-man's twisted scheme for revenge. Fortunately, John Ceepak, the cop with a soldier's unshakeable code of honor, stays at Danny's side to help him negotiate the quick twists and turns that threaten to destroy his life, his friends, and everything about the world he loves. Whipping from the boardwalk to the beach and back again, *Mad Mouse* keeps zigging and zagging at a breakneck pace, all the way to the surprising finish.

My Review: Second verse, same as the first/Coulda got better....

I enjoyed the time off from the troubling events I'm seeing develop at Goodreads. I hid myself in this enjoyable, light-weight read...

...and *whammo* got the boom lowered on me. Every one of us has done things that, had we known what we were doing at the time, would never have been put into action. Fortunately for most of us, the people we've hurt or mistreated don't come after us with sniper weapons in hand and murder at heart. Danny Boyle, the cool kid from school who never left the town he grew up in, has some of those and here they come with guns and murder all at the ready.

Grabenstein's writing is smooth, very easy on the eyes and ears, and carefully crafted. He chooses the scenes of his story with a very practiced and able eye. He offers an interesting angle of view. But the impact of the story is never in doubt, since his main character is the one in the sniper's crosshairs. Readers of *Tilt-A-Whirl* are already invested in Danny, and those who start here are probably not that far behind.

In the end, though, after going on the ride with Danny, it's the perp that leaves one almost breathless in horror, pity, fear, loathing. It's all so, so pointless. Except to the unhappy victim. And I don't, this time, mean

Danny or his friends.

Very affecting.

What worked less well for me was the grafted-on feeling that the romance, which apparently blew up overnight, left me with; the Ceepak presence was deployed in an oddly spotty manner, feeling not exactly perfunctory but less personal than in the first book; and the new character Buzz was, well, here I can say it, perfunctory. Quick strokes, convenient presence, but not integral or maybe integrated, into the action.

A series I will pursue, no doubt, and with pleasure. Just a few clouds in the sunshiney sky. Nothing to suggest even a rain shower, still less a storm. I like finding myself in Sea Haven, and that says a lot.

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