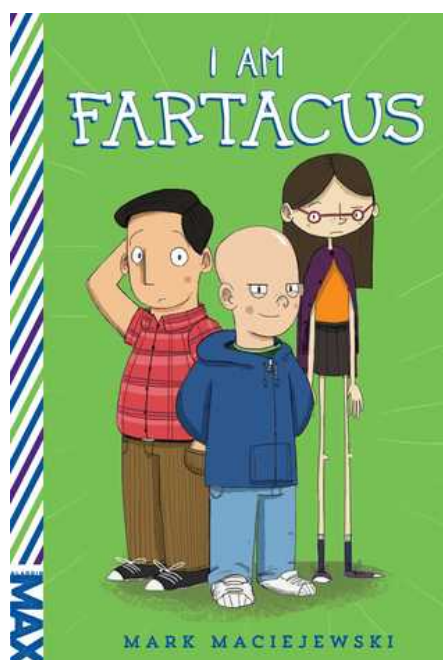




I Am Fartacus

Mark Maciejewski

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It's jocks vs. nerds as a tween and his cadre of misfits go to hilarious lengths to bring down their enemies in this laugh-out-loud MAX novel.

Chub is a short, accidentally bald, middle school outcast with no chance of ever becoming one of the popular kids. With help from his personal band of like-minded misfits (not to mention tactics gleaned from the Colonel, a US military vet with toenail issues), Chub's determined to bring down his nemesis, class hero and now potential class president, Archer, or the Arch—the very guy who betrayed Chub with the lice-killing potion that left him bald as a billiard ball. If the Arch gets to be president, Chub knows his life is officially over.

Chub's got a lot of dirt on the Arch: embarrassing photos and underwear about to fly from the school flagpole, for starters. But then he discovers that there are some very dangerous skeletons in Archer's closet, and more at stake than just a few middle school reputations.

With a lot of help from his friends, Chub sets off to bring down an evil empire—and inadvertently become the least likely hero that Alanmoore Middle School's ever seen.

I Am Fartacus Details

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From Reader Review I Am Fartacus for online ebook

Rob Vlock says

This book had me laughing out loud more times than I can count. Chub, the main character, is just the kind of kid I wish I knew in 6th grade -- more likable than Greg from Diary of a Wimpy kid, funnier than Percy Jackson and balder than... well, just about any other 6th grader you know. Plenty of fart jokes to enjoy (even if you won't admit you enjoy them) but a very on-point message about how cruel the pursuit of popularity can be. I loved this book! Thanks, Mark Maciejewski! I may not be able to pronounce your last name, but I can't wait to read your next book!

Allison says

This book is hilarious! The main character Chub's voice is unique and delightful, and the book is full of subtle and not-as-subtle references to pop culture that will make kids and adults smile, when they catch them. I also loved the complexity of the characters and plot - things aren't always what they seem, and I liked it that way.

Annalee Schnebele says

A story about middle school nemesises, a bald prankster, and all sorts of middle school foibles. As much fart and bowel movement jokes as one would expect for a book of this title, but a pretty fun and engaging story full of mysteries, plotting, and revenge.

Recommended for middle school students who are looking for a funny book about the underdog getting back at the bullies. Not quite as funny as I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil, but a great funny book about those who are your friends and those who used to be.

Margaret Boling says

12/28/2017 ~~ Funny, especially for people who like pranks and fart humor (but the title says that, right!) Requires some suspension of disbelief, especially near the end when tweens are impersonating adults at the gaming tables. I appreciated the growth of Chub as he came to understand the rivalry between him and The Arch was unsustainable.

Note: I won a copy of this book from the author in a twitter give-away.

D.S. says

You guys, this book. Remember when you were a male teenager and would buy Backstreet Boys stuff and claim it was for your sister, and you'd always stay up late with her to watch their new videos to be a good little brother? And you'd defend them because they were your sister's favorite band and their music was

actually pretty good in an "I'm not out yet and it's crap that society unfairly but, in this case, accurately labels me gay because I crush on boy bands, but at this time and age, I'm so not gay" kind of way? Oh, no one else? Well don't worry, because anyone can enjoy this book and you don't have to pretend it's for the kid you don't have or the nephew who hates books and generally disappoints you. This story is hilarious, and the characters are so relatable and loveable. They are mostly sideline kids that didn't get a voice in grade school because you're a jerk, Darrell, and no one cares how far you can throw a football! Yeah, give the underdogs a platform and let them tear down the hostile pillars of grade school society with butt chowder and purple kangaroos! Let Fartacus reign!

Donna Matney says

I Am Fartacus has the elements of timeless Middle Grade humor that crosses over into one adults will love to read too. The main character Chub has "voice" that readers will both relate to and find completely entertaining in a laugh out loud way. Chubs "cadre" is filled with vivid characters with their own rich character arcs. Themes of acceptance of others, teamwork and forgiveness is not pounded into the reader, but delivered with humor and unique storyline.

Ms. Yingling says

ARC provided by publisher, along with really cool socks!

Maciek Trzebiatowski (that's Maw-check Chub-a-tess-key for those of you who didn't grow up in Youngstown, Ohio) has some issues. His family runs a dry cleaning business and think it builds character for him to sort clothes from funeral homes. He lost his hair in a freak accident. His once friend, Archer, has become much cooler than Chub and now gives him a hard time. Luckily, Chub has a good friend, Moby, who has access to better video games and a very cool grandfather. He also has an ally in Shelby, even though he doesn't like her all that much. The three associates decide to make sure that Archer does not become class president, so they do their best to take down his campaign. "The Arch" is more evil than one would expect a clean-cut jock to be, and despite their best efforts, Archer wins the election and starts to use his power for evil. Chub is good at getting the dirt on everyone, including the principal. Will it be enough to keep Alanmoore safe for democracy?

Strengths: There is a subgenre of comic crime that involves a lot of middle school custodians and principals. Think The Great Greene Heist, The Fourth Stall, and I Am A Genius of Unspeakable Evil. I don't quite get these, but my readers love them. What impressed me were the laugh-out-loud funny lines and the general understanding of what the middle school mind finds amusing. I have to see how many times I can work the sentence "I would rather fill my pants with ferrets than spend the summer picking potatoes in Poland." That, my friends, is great writing!

Weaknesses: I was willing to suspend disbelief for many things, but when the plot devolved into gambling and impersonation, I had a hard time believing the book.

What I really think: I love the MAX imprint and can't wait to read more of these! This isn't a perfect book, but I will expect great things from Mr. Maciejewski! (That's "Maw-chee-es-key".)

This was originally entitled Chub and the Cadre of Evil, which I think is a MUCH better title, even if your average 12-year-old doesn't know how to pronounce "cadre".

WKPL Children's/YA Books says

Miss Lisa gives this book a 5 star rating for kids in 4th-8th grade.

Daniel Chan says

I loved it! The character interaction was amazing, and though I thought it was a little too fast, the plot was good! The only thing was, the author could have made the plans more complicated or complex.

Beth says

I got to read an ARC of this middle grade novel. Great humor, wonderful characters. Your kids will love it!

T. Kathleen says

Chub is the best bald middle school prankster of all time!

Maggie says

This book is awesome! Super funny. I love Chub and his cadre, especially the secondary characters of Moby and Shelby. It's a joy to read and I would recommend it to anyone who likes to laugh their butt off. It's perfect for middle school readers who are ready for a more complex plot with risks and challenges, but still like a happy ending.

Patricia says

A funny middle grade debut with a great cast of secondary characters. It's tough not to like this short, bald anti-hero and his Cadre of Evil.

mindy says

Ok, so this was not supposed to be a deep thinker, just a bunch of fun. The basic premise is an unpopular boy named Chub is plotting revenge on his former best friend 'The Arch' who is (obviously) the most popular boy in school.

I mean, you already know this plot. It's nothing new. But what I love is the adult references. At one point, the principal is talking about TPS Reports and of course the middle school is Alanmoore Middle. I was giggling through the book.

This was such a nice break from all my thrillers and trashy romance

Karen Kline says

Hang on to your toilet seats, middle school readers, this book is going to strike a loud, booming chord with many of you. Meet Chub an 11-year-old from an immigrant family who's pretty sure his parents are gonna send him to live with his Polish uncle to dig potatoes if they find out about all the trouble he's been causing at Alanmoore Middle School. It will all be worth it, though, if Chub can expose the school's most popular jock-cum-student-body president for the traitor he is. Archer or "The Arch" (as in "arch nemesis," get it?) has been on Chub's most despised list since second grade when a hair-raising incident renders Chub bald. Quirky characters and situations abound in this prank-filled book with a plot that the target audience will relate to. There's Chub's friend Moby, who has a tendency to go missing at predictable times based on his daily bathroom rituals or when he's expected to trim his grandfather's toenails. And there's Shelby, the vintage-sweater-wearing thespian who is determined to wedge herself into Chub's cadre of calamity-creating ne'er-do-wells. Goofball bathroom language abounds that will keep some reluctant readers turning pages just to see what wince-worthy shenanigans happen next. Maciejewski is cooking up his next book in the series -- Electric Boogerloo-- for fans that can't get enough.
