



My Zombie Hamster

Havelock McCreely

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A laugh-out-loud funny middle-grade debut with a scary twist, *My Zombie Hamster* will appeal to readers who like their animal stories mixed with chills. Fans of R.L. Stine's Goosebumps Most Wanted series will grab this one right up.

Matt Hunter and his buddies are looking forward to Christmas--actually, they're looking forward to receiving the latest sword-and-fantasy video game. But Matt's parents have other thoughts--they give him a fluffy little mammal, a hamster called Snuffles, for the holiday. And his grandmother makes it worse by giving him a hamster cage and wheel. But the hamster isn't all that cute--at least not after part of its cheek and belly fall right off--without bothering it a bit! And why is it staring at Matt with black beady eyes and a lean and hungry look?

Say hello to Anti-Snuffles, the zombie hamster! Or better yet, run!

This series combines middle-school readers' passions: humor, animals, and scary stories, into one unbeatable package.

Releases simultaneously in electronic book format (ISBN 9781606844922).

My Zombie Hamster Details

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Author : Havelock McCreely

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From Reader Review My Zombie Hamster for online ebook

Moon Shine Art Spot ~ Lisa says

BOOK DESCRIPTION:

A laugh-out-loud funny middle-grade debut with a scary twist, My Zombie Hamster will appeal to readers who like their animal stories mixed with chills. Fans of R.L. Stine's Goosebumps Most Wanted series will grab this one right up.

Matt Hunter and his buddies are looking forward to Christmas--actually, they're looking forward to receiving the latest sword-and-fantasy video game. But Matt's parents have other thoughts--they give him a fluffy little mammal, a hamster called Snuffles, for the holiday. And his grandmother makes it worse by giving him a hamster cage and wheel. But the hamster isn't all that cute--at least not after part of its cheek and belly fall right off--without bothering it a bit! And why is it staring at Matt with black beady eyes and a lean and hungry look?

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REVIEW: 5 *****

I loved this hilariously spooky book I received free from the publisher to provide an honest review for. I hoped my son would find it as funny as a zombie goldfish book he recently read, but this story was a little scary for younger kids who are afraid of zombies. It is quite funny for mid grade readers because it is more humorous than scary. The characters have become used to living a "normal" life (TV, water, food, homes, school, etc) inside the city walls. The "deadbeats" or zombies live outside the walls. All is safe and settled into "normal".

Young Matt and his friends were looking forward to receiving sword / fantasy games to play together until Matt's parents decided to surprise him with a pet hamster. His grandma contributed with a hamster care. Matt is not only quite disappointed, but he comes to find out the hamster was bought without the chip every human & pet has in them that notifies the authorities of they become a zombie & need immediately picked up!

Needless to say, one thing leads to another & Matt finds himself with a zombie hamster on his hands who seems to be recruiting all of the animals (pets too) into some sort of animal zombie force. Matt and his friends try to solve the problem to prevent his father getting in trouble & all goes to woop.

In the mist of all of the action he & his gang of knuckle head buddies get into trying to save the town, there are plenty of laughs, lessons, and lots of imaginative goings on to fill a youngster's mind.

Fully of fun, adventure, humorous observations from Matt's original point of view and some genuine friendship & heroism too. A+ writing with so many laughs.

Angelc says

4.5 Stars

This book is seriously adorable. I was chuckling the entire time I read this one. I loved the author's style of humor, it was so witty, and he has a knack for making every day observances so funny! The author sets up a world where zombies live with humans that is believable and easy to understand. The characters are great as well, but I think the real stand out element of this book is the humor.

Matt is a great lead, he's a real kid who most young readers should be able to relate to. I love his best friend, Charlie, who is one tough little girl! Anti-Snuffles himself is hilarious. He really doesn't have a huge number of appearances in the book, so when you do get to see him and his antics, they are so fun to read about.

The book does take a turn that I didn't expect, which turns out to be a great plot element. It really ends up being the heart of the story, and you learn a valuable lesson as well.

This time, you can judge a book by it's cover, because this story is just as fun, adorable, and quirky as that great cover!

digital copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

Mehsi says

*Now the first thing I hear you all say and do is probably this: "OMG a hamster!! Sooo cute. <3 <3 I want to hug and hold and love it. <3 <3 *squeee*"*

DON'T. This little dear is actually plotting to take over the world, one critter, one pet at a time, only to go to bigger things after that! Believe me, I have experienced it, and I am here to warn you for these little overlords of doom and despair.

Ah, I hear you are laughing, I hear you saying I probably conked my head on something heavy. Go on and laugh, laugh all you want, it will probably be the last time you will laugh forever. Read the book, that is all I will say, read the book and be warned and spread the word!

Now let me tell you about this book. Well what can I say about this awesome, epic, hilarious, special, lovely book, oh and did I mention terrific, you will love it, funny! Yes this book is that awesome and I truly loved it and I do hope there will be more books coming. Especially with that foreboding ending.

I loved the world building. At first I thought it would be just a zombie hamster in a normal world, but actually the world is stuffed to the brim with zombies and cities/towns are walled off. Adding a zombie hamster to that and his army of zombie critters just made that world all the more awesome. The one thing I

missed though were pictures, or at least a lovely map of the town/city that our main guy lives in. I would love to see how big it was (or how small) were everything is (school/work/wall etc.). Hopefully in the next book? If there is one?

The characters were truly my favourite part next to all the zombies.

I loved the main character and I could just understand how he didn't want to tell anyone about the hamster and well the hamster being kind of (ok, totally) dead and kind of illegal. :)

He was really funny and I was just cheering for him when he and his friends went to go Hamster hunting.

Charlie was really my second favourite character, she was interesting and special. I won't spoil anything, but after a certain event she become much more awesome and much better. And she also gains a lot of importance points. I really liked her attitude and how she just blended easily with the guys.

Of course there is a bad guy, the mayor. Man, was he a bad leader. Only caring about himself and his stupid image. At times I was just hoping he would get eaten by the zombies.

All in all, I would truly recommend this book to everyone. Everyone (kids and also adults) will love this book.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Dana says

The story follows Matt, a young boy living in a post zombie world and the antics that happens after his pet hamster dies and turns into a zombie. This book is great for kids that want to get in on the ever popular zombie action. The story is interesting, creative and humorous. This is a great alternative for children who are perhaps a little too young for The Walking Dead.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Jim says

My Zombie Hamster is ... well, it's pretty much exactly what it says on the box. There's this hamster, you see. And he's a zombie...

Naturally, there's more to it. Let's start with the official synopsis:

Matt Hunter and his buddies are looking forward to Christmas — actually, they're looking forward to receiving the latest sword-and-fantasy video game. But Matt's parents have other thoughts — they give him a fluffy little mammal, a hamster called Snuffles, for the holiday. And his grandmother makes it worse by giving him a hamster cage and wheel. But the hamster isn't all that cute — at least not after part of its cheek and belly fall right off — without bothering it a bit! And why is it staring at Matt with black beady eyes and a

lean and hungry look?

Say hello to Anti-Snuffles, the zombie hamster! Or better yet, run!

This is a middle grade book set in the very near present. The zombie apocalypse has led to a society of walled cities and towns, but aside from the zombie-hunting cops wandering around to make sure you're still alive, and the presence of life chips that go off when you expire (alerting said zombie-hunting cops to come and dispose of your potentially brain-hungry corpse). On the other hand, Matt still has to go to school, still references present-day pop culture, and still lives a life that's in many ways pretty similar to most kids these days.

Similar except for the never-named-but-clearly-hinted-at ex-movie star who's come to town to take charge of zombie security, of course. And the mayor's big pet contest. And of course, Anti-Snuffles, who may or may not be building an army of undead critters...

It's a quick read, one the author describes as "a cross between Shaun of the Dead, The Goonies, and The Diary of Adrian Mole." The short, daily chapters are interspersed with Matt's lists of things to do, whether it's his plan for breaking into [SPOILER] or the things he plans to do once he becomes a megamillionaire.

Despite the undead hamster, the book isn't particularly gross or scary, so it shouldn't give young kids nightmares about the family pets. On the other hand, reading it as a not-quite-40-year-old, that also meant the stakes didn't feel quite as urgent to me.

One of my favorite parts was a subplot with one of Matt's friends, something I can't really talk about without spoiling things. But it was an unexpected development, and I really enjoyed the way the characters handled it.

It's a light-hearted story about a boy vs. his undead hamster. What else is there to say?

Shawna Briseno says

ARC provided by NetGalley:

This children's/young adult story takes place in the near future where zombies have taken over the world and civilization has been moved behind the safety of high walls. All is well until young Matt asks for a video game for Christmas but instead is given...a hamster. Not so bad, you're probably thinking. It's not, until the hamster dies and turns into a zombie. Little Snuffles, or Anti Snuffles as he's now known, manages to escape and seems to be on a mission to turn every animal, pet or not, into a zombie. I found this book to be quite entertaining and fun to read. It's high on the humor and low on the gore, even though it's about zombies. I can see this being a big hit with kids, especially boys.

paula says

All Matt wanted for Christmas was a Runesword, a fancy video game controller like his friends Charlie, Calvin, and Aren were likely to get. Instead, he got a hamster. A hamster that did nothing but eat and sleep and before too long turn into a necrotized slaving quadruped zombie mastermind.

Matt and his friends live in the walled town of Edenvale. Zombies prowl the woods on the other side of the wall, while inside, citizens - and pets - are implanted with “lifechips” that inform the Zombie Squad the moment their spark of life sputters out. Except the Zombie Squad never comes for Charlie’s dead hamster, and after escaping his cage, Snuffles is spotted around town turning other animals into zombies and plotting doom for the town’s annual Pet Show.

Packed with references to action and sci-fi movies, *My Zombie Hamster* zips along like a fluffy little rodent in an exercise ball. Minor gore will please Goosebumps fans, but it’s not enough to keep the squeamish away.

—Paula Willey for Booklist Online

Gisbelle says

Provided by the publisher via NetGalley

This one was a nice, fun and quick read. It was about Matt's adventure in a zombie-infested world. It all started when his pet hamster, Snuffles, became a zombie hamster. As the blurb started, it did remind me a lot of R.L. Stine books.

I liked the humor. Matt and his friends were very fun and I enjoyed their quest involving the capture of the deadbeat Snuffles, aka Anti-Snuffles. However, there should have been more scenes featuring the hamster. It felt like it was mainly more about Matt and his friends than about the hamster.

Susan Kaplan says

My Zombie Hamster is a very clever story of a young boy who lives in a town that is not only overtaken by zombies, but by animal zombies as well, led by his late hamster, Snuffles, or Anti-Snuffles (a pet he never wanted in the first place, but received from his often clueless parents for Christmas). Young readers will enjoy the adventures of Matt and his friends as they try to outwit the animal zombies, while protecting themselves from the formerly human zombies at the same time. When Matt's friend Charlie is bitten by a zombie, she is transformed into one herself (that's how it happens), but to everyone's astonishment she possesses all the kind qualities she had when alive and none of the unpleasant qualities of the undead. The characters are very clever, the story is amusing, and the local politics are hysterical. This is a good story for elementary school students who read chapter books, middle schoolers, and read aloud in the classroom activities.

While I enjoyed this story, I was not as captivated by it as much as I have been by other books in this genre. However, I am old enough to be the grandmother of anyone who reads this, and my four-star rating reflects my opinion of this book's appeal to the target audience.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Ami says

I received this book via a Goodreads' First Reads book giveaway and I thought it was very cute, funny and exciting. Perfect for new and reluctant readers, especially young boys. My six year old nephew is currently reading it and enjoying it and asked for a copy of this book to take and, in his own words; "Read over and over at home!", so I told him he could have this one. We, my boyfriend and his sister and my sister, have been trying to encourage our nephews and niece to be more interested in reading or being read to in the case of the very young, without getting bored, and this book is perfect for such an endeavor. Thank you, GRs, for sending it to me, it's made a huge difference in tempting the kids away from video games for at least a few minutes a day. (To start!).

Pop Bop says

Four Books in One, All Good

This really is a great example of how you can mash four different middle grade genres together and come up with a funny, exciting and very appealing book. This is a family foibles book, an alternate world book, a zombie book, and an adventures of a gang of four knuckleheads book.

The family foibles are along the lines of the Wimpy Kid pattern. Mom and Dad are unique and distinct personalities and a lot of the narrative is built on our kid hero's bemused but affectionate recountings of their behavior. (His explanation that he got a hamster instead of the video game he wanted because his parents were obviously experimenting "to see what kind of adult they can create by constantly disappointing me as a child" is priceless. As is his history of failed New Year's Eve parties.)

As to the alternate world, hero kid lives in a walled city. The city is walled to keep zombies out and there is a complete world built on remote Zombie Zappers, the Zombie Squad, citizens wearing life chips that alert the Zombie Squad if anyone dies and goes zombie, and so on.

The zombie action comes in the form of a pet hamster, which was a smuggled pet, got out, got zombified and is now terrorizing the populace inside the walls while our hero tries to capture it.

Finally, since our hero needs the help of a posse, we get his best friend, Charlie, a wiseguy take charge gal, and his two next best friends - Calvin, who's a bit dim and Aren, who's the brains of the operation.

And of course the glue that holds this all together is Matt, who has to deal with his family, explain how his city works, agonize over the zombie hamster problem, and keep his gang moving in the right direction. Matt takes you into his confidence right off the bat and his intimate and open style is winning.

One of Matt's most appealing characteristics is his exaggerated sense of calm and common sense - exhibited as the plot, his schemes, and the complications of having a zombie hamster spin more and more out of control. It is the working of the middle grade mind in the midst of chaos, (sort of like a young Buster Keaton), that I found very amusing and appealing.

The humor ranges from slapstick to clever wordplay. (Max names the zombie hamster, originally named "Snuffles", the "Anti-Snuffles". Girl pal Charlie likes "Auntie Snuffles" and will only help Max if they agree

the hamster's name is Auntie Snuffles. Max agrees, but only uses "Auntie" ironically. Dim friend Calvin stares at a carton of orange juice for half an hour because it says "concentrate" on it. I just think that's pretty sharp and clever stuff for middle grade zombie humor.)

So, funny, engaging, loaded with clever ideas and puckish humor, and populated by likeable characters. A very nice find.

Please note that I received a free advance copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

Mary Anne says

I won a free copy of this book through a GoodReads giveaway.

It's a fun and breezy early middle-grades book. Despite being themed around zombies, it is very un-gory and un-gritty, with some nice themes around friendship.

The precocious narrator is a fun little boy with a strong sense of how the interpersonal dynamics work around him, and is, unlike many books for this age group, blessed with parents who are present and engaged in his life, even if they don't know all the hijinks he and his friends are getting up to.

For the right kid, with a warped sense of humor, I think this is a fun book somewhat off the beaten path.

Rebecca says

Matt lives in a world exactly like ours, with cell phones and YouTube and school and cars, except that Matt's world is full of zombies. All towns are behind massive walls to protect residents. When Matt gets a hamster for Christmas instead of the gaming console he wanted, it quickly dies, becomes a zombie, escapes, and Matt is sure it's building a zombified animal army to attack the town. He enlists the help of his friends Charlie (a girl), Calvin, and Aren (a boy), but soon they're all too busy with a field trip sponsored by their new town Warden to do anything else. The Warden wants to teach them how to defend themselves in the wild against zombies, but some get a little too close—with, well, interesting results. For Matt and his friends as well as Anti-Snuffles, the zombie hamster.

This is fluff, only a teaspoon deeper than Scooby Doo. There's no logic—how could you have a world with all industry, agriculture, infrastructure, pop culture, movies, etc. intact if no one can leave their towns? But that's really not the point. Kids who like this kind of humor will enjoy it, and that's its only goal. There's no character development or grand revelations, though Matt's loyalty is commendable. From the ending, looks as though a sequel may be planned.

And I do have to give points to the author for name-checking The Famous Five.

Angie says

All Matt wants for Christmas is a Runesword so he can play the game with his friends online. What he gets is a hamster named Snuffles. Then Snuffles dies and turns into a zombie hamster. Snuffles escapes outside and starts building his zombie pet army, turning all the pets and animals in town into zombies. Of course there are people who are zombies also, but they are all outside of the town walls. Matt and his friends Charlie, Calvin and Aren devise several plans to stop Snuffles before he is discovered and Matt and his family get in trouble. All of these fail miserably. Then Charlie dies and becomes a zombie, but she isn't like the others. She still has her personality and doesn't want to eat brains. She is a new breed of zombie. Of course not everyone wants to find that out.

I am sure young boys will love this book. It is funny and gross and has zombies. I didn't think it was that great, but then I am not a young boy. The story was engaging and entertaining and at least kept my interest. It was a little light on the whys though. Why did Snuffles build a zombie pet army? Why was the mayor so obnoxious yet was still the mayor? Why were there zombies in the first place?

Melissapalmer404 says

Book #47 Read in 2015

My Zombie Hamster by Havelock McCreely (YA)

This was a cute, quick read. The zombie invasion has happened and there is a police squad to get rid of the undead. Matt is hoping for a video game for Christmas but is instead given a hamster named Sniffles. Sniffles soon goes to the big hamster cage in the sky and comes back as anti-Sniffles. Anti-Sniffles escapes from Matt. Matt and his friends need to find him and fast! Anti-Sniffles is apparently infecting other animals in the woods. The whole idea of what is a Zombie hits Matt close to home when an event occurs. There is a sequel coming out to this book in August. I would think that upper elementary and middle school students would enjoy this book.

<http://melissasbookpicks.blogspot.com>
