



## Capeville: The Death of the Black Vulture (Capeville #1)

*Matt Mikalatos*

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### **Capeville: The Death of the Black Vulture (Capeville #1)** Matt Mikalatos

Psycho mass murderers can wreck your summer so fast.

John Ajax planned to spend every sun-filled summer day playing Tread Battalion 2 with his friends. Then a super-powered goon tried to kidnap him, and his parents freaked out and sent him to "hide" in Capeville... a city populated entirely with superheroes and villains.

It might be okay if he could fly, or shoot laser beams out of his eyes, or crush a brick in his bare hands. Instead he has a drill-sergeant grandfather, a crush on his boss (Jupiter Girl, a flying, brick-crushing, psychic powerhouse. No laser eyes.) and a best friend with speedster powers and poor impulse control.

To make matters worse, the aforementioned psycho mass murderer is trying to kill every super-powered person in the city. If that happens John will lose his job, the respect of Jupiter Girl, and his best friend, too. So mass murder, that's where John plans to draw the line. He may not be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but maybe, just maybe, John can still be a hero.

### **Capeville: The Death of the Black Vulture (Capeville #1) Details**

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## **From Reader Review Capeville: The Death of the Black Vulture (Capeville #1) for online ebook**

### **Jason C. says**

Capeville is a fun book that takes readers on a roller coaster ride through an original superhero story. There's a lot of action and imaginative powers, and a plot that keeps you guessing until the end. IMO we don't see enough good superhero novels, and this is one that I'm happy to recommend for older middle grade and all young adult readers, and those adults who still love Marvel and DC.

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### **Tim says**

Enjoyed this one enough to stay up late and finish it. It reminds me of some of Margaret Peterson Haddix's books, in the sense that they are targeted to the same age group, and both explore their themes through a background of action and adventure. Capeville is just a little more edgy and more lighthearted, and the pace moves more quickly.

More than just a fun super-hero book, there is some themes embedded that are worth thinking about. It brings up worthwhile questions about what makes someone a superhero, and more importantly, what kind of impact actually being a superhero might have. This theme was explored from a very unique perspective that I appreciated.

The story also contains a ton of different superheroes, all unique to the Capeville universe. I appreciate the creativity of that; it must be difficult coming up with a truly new superhero, when the superhero genre has been coming up with new characters for 80+ years. I also appreciated the numerous nods, subtle and not-so-subtle, to superheroes from other creative universes. The author is clearly a fan, as well as a creator.

I'm looking forward to the sequel ... or sequels?

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### **John Otte says**

What a fantastic book! Matt Mikilatots has created a living, breathing world with an obvious depth of history and plenty of room to grow. His characters are fun and believable. If you like superhero stories, this is a great one to start with!

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### **Cheryl Boyd says**

Great read! Fun for old and young!

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## Mrklington says

I am clearly on a super-hero bender... first Ms Marvel. Started watching Jessica Jones... and now this.

Picture a world like "The Incredibles" with super heroes ... made illegal. Add in a ghetto island where they all have to live. Then have John Ajax sent to spend the summer with his grandfather on that island (Capeville). His grandfather who wrote the book (literally) that outlawed superheroes.

Then there's adventure, John taking up the mantle of Black Vulture, not to mention thoughtful reflections on justice, mercy and identity - it's a terrific mix. I'm already looking forward to the next installment, for sure!

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## Lisa Godfrees says

Everyone likes a good superhero story, especially boys.

PROS: Capeville is fun and original. I loved the island and meeting all its inhabitants. There's a wonderful cast of superheroes and supervillains in the story (complete with pictures and descriptions at the back of the book). I very much look forward to reading further adventures.

CONS: The story gets better as it goes. The beginning with John's parents and grandfather felt clunky to me. I would have liked to see more of their relationship to the main character balanced with the mystery and actions of the story. Still, it resolved well.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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## Noel says

This was such a fun book! Capeville introduces an original cast of superheroes (and supervillains) that were simply enjoyable to read about. The story is full of great adventures and light-hearted humor, while also exploring deeper themes, such as identity and justice v. mercy. Overall, it's just a refreshing take on the whole superhero genre, and I'm looking forward to next installment.

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## Chrissy Bissy says

While I might be a tad long in the tooth as far as the intended audience goes (although those who know me might argue otherwise if we are basing it off of maturity level), I thoroughly enjoyed this book!

I was already a fan of Matt's humorous writing style and this is an excellent example of it - fast paced, vivid descriptions, quirky yet believable characters. And puns. More than a few puns. (I will leave it up to you whether they are good or bad.) I very much enjoyed the main protagonists and it left me looking forward to learning more about them and their burgeoning friendship. I am particularly intrigued by Jupiter Girl. (And I also want her animated t-shirt.)

You can tell that Matt has a love of all things comic book super hero and that love permeates the story. I am eagerly anticipating the next book in this saga! (I also really need a spin off on the Avant Guard. Not even joking.)

## Reanne says

I was sent a free PDF of this book by the author. It sounded interesting. I really wanted to like it.

I got through a little over 100 pages.

This book would probably be a good choice for young middle-grade readers. It's pretty light and clean and would probably entertain a young kid really well. As an adult who's read a lot of books, it didn't hold my interest. There were too many little things that didn't make sense or didn't really follow. The author spells mannequin as "manikin" (if this is an intentional choice, there's no explanation of it) and refers to an M&M as "M and M". The MC gets a job and then checks in with the person who oversees volunteers; is he a volunteer or an employee? Said job involves working as a prison guard for elderly supervillains and his training consists of basically "Here's your instruction sheet, now get to it." At one point he and his friend travel in a big ball that's lobbed across the city, causing damage to buildings, landing on people (who would be dead if it didn't turn out they were robots), and no one goes, "Hey, maybe this isn't the best form of transportation."

I did like the scene at the beginning with his parents, especially the maniacal laughter part. It raises a good question which the part I got through never touched on again, and I'm not sure if the book ever gets back to his parents again (since he then goes to stay with his grandpa). His parents actually seemed like the most interesting characters in the book, so I was disappointed that they were left behind so quickly.

For a young kid, it's probably a fun book. It makes me think of the movie Spy Kids. For an adult who's read a lot of books and expects even kids books to make sense on examination, it just didn't work for me. I was going to recommend you consider it if you've got a young kid who's into superhero stuff, but then I thought of how the MC ogles both major female characters pretty much on first meeting them. References to the way said female characters' clothing hugs their curves are among the first things we read about them. Here's a quote: "The employee shirts were red and white vertical stripes. They looked ridiculous on John and Pronto. But on Jupiter Girl, the stripes hugged her body like the road hugging the side of a mountain, and John wanted his eyes to follow the road as often as possible. The top two buttons of her shirt were undone, and her smooth, clear skin looked like cream beside the white and red stripes." This is only part of the information on her appearance which we get before Jupiter Girl says or does a single thing. I get that the MC is a 15-year-old boy so this is probably an accurate portrayal, but I don't think it is appropriate for the apparent target age group for this book (which I would say is more 7-10 than teens), nor does it in any way challenge the 'books written by men for boys where girls are *other*' status quo of this genre. So, as with anything, I advise parents to check it out for themselves before giving it to their child.

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