



The Escape

Robert Muchamore

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Summer, 1940. Hitler's army is advancing towards Paris, and millions of French civilians are on the run. Amidst the chaos, two British children are being hunted by German agents. British spy Charles Henderson tries to reach them first, but he can only do it with the help of a twelve-year-old French orphan. The British secret service is about to discover that kids working undercover will help to win the war. For official purposes, these children do not exist.

The Escape Details

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Author : Robert Muchamore

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From Reader Review The Escape for online ebook

Katie Chan says

This book was really engaging and interesting and you can really connect to the characters.

Mella says

I really love the Cherub series but for whatever reason I've not quite gotten around to reading Henderson's Boys. Maybe the historical aspect put me off a bit. I never really seemed in the mood for it. In any case, I picked it up and this is great. Marc and Paul and Rosie are strong characters with both strengths and weaknesses. In other words, they're real kids thrown into extraordinary situations. Things don't always go well and they're not always nice or kind or brave or right. But they make the best of the situation and battle on. Much like James, I found them unlikeable at certain points but overall I enjoyed the characters and the plot. It's been awhile since I've read Cherub but I will say I can't quite remember it being so mature or so immature. The Escape focuses on more mature situations and realistically portrays the reality of war. That being said, the characters themselves were relatively childish and immature. It was odd but it may just be due to my own advancing age.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Robert Muchamore is the author of the very popular CHERUB series. These are series books about the orphaned minors who are members of CHERUB, which stands for Charles Henderson's Espionage Research Unit B, and modern day spies working with British Security Service.

The Henderson's Boys series is a prequel to the CHERUB series and takes place during World War II. It begins as people all over Paris are fleeing south before the arrival of Hitler's Army, with one exception. Marc Kilgour, 12, is an orphan who has just run away from the abusive orphanage he has lived his entire life in. He arrives in Paris and finds what looked to be a very comfortable, abandoned house to live in. That is until the Nazis show up and torture him for information about the real occupant of the house - Charles Henderson

At the same time, Paul, 11, and Rosie Clarke, 13, are pulled out of school by their father, Digby Clarke, a traveling salesman for the Imperial Wireless Company. They are loaded into his Citroën along with stacks of papers and head south to Bordeaux to try to return to England. On the way, the town they stop in is bombed by Nazi planes and just before he dies, Clarke tells the kids they must find Charles Henderson.

After the Nazis leave, Henderson returns home, finds Marc and after some very exciting adventures in Paris, these two also hit the road looking for Clarke and his children before the Nazis can find them and the papers Clarke has in his car.

The papers at the center of this story are the blueprints for a miniature transceiver designed by a French Jew named Luc Mannstein. France and Britain were both a little wishy-washy about acquiring the plans even though the transceiver would have been a real boon in the war because of its portability. The Nazis had a great deal of interest in it and promised safety in Poland if Mannstein would supply the blueprints to them. But, Clarke now has the blueprints, so there is a pressing need for him to get out of France.

Henderson's Boys: The Escape takes place over a short but crucial period of time during the fall of France. Part One covers June 5, 1940 to June 6, 1940 and Part Two covers June 14, 1940 to June 15, 1940. And France has been turned into a large, chaotic country for everyone, but especially for people who don't know each other to find each other - Will the Clark kids and Henderson meet up? And what becomes of Marc?

Henderson's Boys: The Escape is a brilliantly written, graphically depicted, gritty, action-packed novel and no one is more surprised that I liked than I am. I don't usually like these kinds of stories, and yet, Muchamore's novel held me spellbound. It truly spares no punches, is at times brutal, has mild language and sexual references, and lots of violence. It is not for the fainthearted, yet it really is no worse than many of the other popular YA novels kids read.

Curious? You can read the first two chapters and find out more about the Henderson Boys series here.

This book is recommended for readers age 12+

This book was purchased for my personal library

Orlagh Z says

I enjoyed this book a lot. I am new to the series and I like the adventure and theme of war fits well. I recommend this book and I am currently reading more in the series.

Campbell McIntyre says

The escape was an interesting decision for me when deciding as it was the prequel series to a series I've read before, *Cherub*. I looked at the blurb, the cover and gained advice from the person at the bookstore. In the end I just couldn't get enough of the book and had to purchase it.

The book has a strange setting of two people's view with a French boy in an orphanage and two children and their father. In the time it is set during WW2 and the German bombers are causing destruction all over the land. The two children and their father have plans to secret German warfare. The dad dies and then the children are left alone. All the dad said before he died was "contact Henderson." The children then work really hard and get in contact with Henderson. All while this is happening, Marc (the boy in the orphanage) is escaping. He just so happens to go to a small town where Henderson lives. Then Marc meets Henderson and gets a phone call from the two children. The Germans track the call and are coming for the plans off the children and Henderson and Marc don't have much time. Then Henderson and the three children all meet up and head for England with the plans to stop Hitler in his campaign.

My favourite character was Marc. I liked him for his cheeky character and good street skills to get him to southern France without getting killed. Even though he acts all tough deep inside I think it's a bit different as he's got a bit of a soft spot.

One thing I learned from this book is how ruthless the times of war and the fact that real humans like myself would go through these horrible things.

Kahlan says

Cherub est une célèbre série de livres d'espionnage pour adolescents, écrite par l'écrivain anglais Robert Muchamore et qui met en scène des agents secrets mineurs de dix à dix-sept ans au sein d'une agence gouvernementale fictive au Royaume-Uni. Suite au succès de cette première série, l'auteur s'est lancé entre 2009 et 2013 dans une série dérivée de la première, Henderson's Boys, qui décrit les origines de ce service très secret. L'évasion en est le premier tome.

Nous sommes à l'été 1940, les nazis fondent sur la capitale, incitant des millions de civils à fuir Paris en direction du Sud. Au milieu de cet épouvantable chaos, trois enfants : Marc, Paul et sa sœur aînée Rosie. Le premier fuit un orphelinat où il est maltraité sur une bicyclette volée, bien décidé à gagner Paris où il espère passer inaperçu ; les deux autres quittent Paris en compagnie de leur père, ressortissant britannique en possession de documents compromettants. Tous trois vont croiser le chemin de Charles Henderson, agent secret.

Destinée à un public pré-adolescent, cette saga se présente comme un pur divertissement. Il y a de l'action à revendre et c'est tellement plein de pep's que même les passages les plus prévisibles passent très très bien. L'auteur manie avec brio un contexte difficile, dur, parfois brutal et refuse de ménager ses héros. Les nazis et la Gestapo sont aussi atroces qu'ils l'ont été dans notre réalité et ces pauvres orphelins qui n'ont rien demandé se retrouvent seuls au cœur d'un conflit qui les dépasse complètement.

Le point fort de ce roman, c'est la crédibilité des enfants. Ils sont d'une naïveté tout enfantine et font malgré tout preuve d'une exceptionnelle débrouillardise. Marc par exemple, lorsqu'il voit les Allemands défiler dans Paris, ne peut s'empêcher d'être impressionné par leur prestance et leur équipement, il va même jusqu'à s'imaginer rejoindre leurs rangs dès qu'il en aura l'âge ! Il va bien sûr très vite déchanter en étant confronté à eux mais c'est ainsi, par petites touches, que l'auteur construit ses personnages et les fait grandir.

Au final, un roman jeunesse avec de belles qualités. Si le style n'a rien d'exceptionnel et si Robert Muchamore se contente d'aller à l'essentiel, il est efficace et maîtrise parfaitement son intrigue. Il sait ménager le suspense et réussit plutôt bien à retranscrire l'ambiance de l'époque. Accrocheur, ce livre offre un aspect historique particulièrement intéressant. A découvrir et faire découvrir.

Ethan Munson says

Book report

Basic details:

Title: The Escape

Series: Henderson's Boys

Author: Robert Muchamore

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

No. of pages: 320 pages

Published in: February 5th, 2009

Introduction:

This series is about how Cherub was formed, and its wartime history. This series sets up the Cherub series, which is the sequel to this series.

Summary:

It begins with Marc. 12 years old, in a French orphanage, forced to work the worst jobs in a farm while the men of the village fight the Germans who are rapidly taking over the country.

Meanwhile there's Paul, the British boy who, along with his sister Rosie, has just been pulled out of his school in Paris.

As Marc escapes the horror of his life, and Paul and his family run for theirs, they come to the notice of Paul's dad's friend, and British spy, Charles Henderson.

After Paul's dad is shot dead by the Germans, they go on the run, trying to escape the Germans, because they have an important document, that the Germans are trying to get their hands on.

Marc manages to go to Paris, and when he arrives, he breaks into the house of none other than the very last foreign spy in France, Charles Henderson.

As Charles Henderson tries to find Paul and Rosie, the Germans, thinking that Charles Henderson is still in Paris, breaks into Charles Henderson's house and finds Marc, and painfully interrogates him. After that, Charles Henderson goes back to his house and finds Marc

With the help of Marc, Charles Henderson goes out to find Paul and Rosie.

This book takes place in the year 1940, June 5 to 15, in France, during World War Two. This is the first book in the new fiction book series by Cherub author Robert Muchamore, and is the prequel to the Cherub series.

Analysis of book:

This book is in the first person. The author used different techniques, such as slow pace, because the story only covers 10 days, and he also uses a very attention grabbing opening scene, and he uses a few metaphors. I think that the author has really used effective language and he made the story really interesting and he makes the characters feel real. I think the main problem with this book is that sometimes, it feels like Paul's dad is not given enough time to get to know his character, because I think that he would have made the story a little bit more interesting. The characters have different values. Marc is brave, Paul is intelligent, Rosie is sympathetic, and Henderson is ruthless.

Opinion:

I think that this is a great book, and this book is the first book that I have read from cover to cover. I recommend this book to someone between the ages of twelve to eighteen.

Conclusion:

In conclusion I think that this book is really interesting and a pleasure to read, with an interesting plot, a cliff hanger at the end and characters that almost feel like you have a personal connection to. This book is my favourite book in the Henderson's Boys series. I hope you enjoy reading this book.

Robert Muchamore The Escape

Iffath says

The Escape is set during WWII and starts off in a French orphanage where a boy called Marc desires to flee his dull life. As soon as Marc gets a (risky) opportunity he takes it. Somewhere else Rosie and Paul are escaping from the German police after their father, Digby Clark, steals some significant blueprints from a Jewish watchmaker who is determined to sell them to the Germans.

But then their father is injured, and doesn't have a big chance of staying alive - his final wish is for the

papers to reach a man named Charles Henderson, a British spy.

With nowhere else to go, Marc finds a house belonging to Charles and takes refuge there. But Henderson comes back, being a part of the fewest British spies left in France, and with the help of Marc, he needs to find Rosie and Paul before the Germans agents do.

Most people are thinking that this book is just for boys, which I think is very wrong because I am a girl and I can proudly say that I thoroughly enjoyed it! Looking at the accuracy and dramatic (and very graphic!) descriptions used, I think that Muchamore has done his research and made this book very successful!

Caleb Christensen says

(I switched my 3rd book because I could not find a copy of original book)This was one of my favorite books that I have read so far this year. It took place during world war 2. There was 2 different perspectives. One of an orphan named mark who runs away from his terrible orphanage. The other is a perspective of siblings named Paul and Rosie Clark. They also have their father Digby Clark but he is killed in a bombing. They are all caught up in this when Mark breaks into Henderson's house. Henderson finds Mark living in his house and Mark volunteers to help Henderson who is a spy for the British. They then proceed to break into the German gestapo and kill a man who can build a portable radio that could immensely help the Germans advance across Europe. They then leave Paris to find the Clark kids who are also being hunted by the SS. Once Henderson finds the kids (who are carrying vital plans for the special radio) he takes them to a port to evacuate France. Henderson and Mark stay back because Mark doesn't have a passport. As the kids are sailing through the English Channel their boat is hit by a German Stuka dive bomber and sink. At the end of the book we are left wondering what will happen to the kids and the plans to the radio that could change the course of the war. The character what changed the most was Mark. He went from a boy in the orphanage shoveling cow poop to exciting car chases and killing evil Nazis. I think the theme of this book was never give up hope because you never know what is going to happen. This is because after the Clark's father is killed they don't know what to do a retired priest takes them in and cares for him. Same with Mark when he is running out of food and supplies in the city Henderson; finds him and helps him and stays with him. Overall, this was a very good book and I will definitely be reading more books in this series.

Romana says

For those of you who don't know, I absolutely LOVED Robert Muchamore's 'Cherub' series and read all of them super quickly. So I really wanted to love this just as much...and I just didn't.

I can still confidently say that I still love Muchamore's writing style and that definitely got me excited when I started reading. But it was mainly the story that was lacking for me.

Told in a dual third-person narrative, we follow Marc - an orphan who escapes his lifelong orphanage home - and Rosie and Paul Clarke - siblings who are thrown into their father's secret world as German's advance into France. The story is set in France during early World War 2 and I thought this aspect actually helped the narrative whilst not boring me with facts and dates etc. I'm really not a history fan so I would've been put off if the war element had been overdone (which it wasn't, so I was happy).

But although the initial story focus seemed promising, it didn't deliver much. I was expecting something similar to the first Cherub book - an introduction into the spy world and getting our protagonists involved in it. This felt like even more of an introduction than anticipated though, with little excitement and action. I

understand that this was the first book in the series so to an extent things needed to be 'set up', but the Cherub series had the same challenge yet the first book was much more interesting whilst being shorter. So the amount of action was disappointing.

Personally I think the dual narrative could be to blame for this. I appreciate the author trying something different and I know that both Marc and the Clarke's stories were important, but it meant I couldn't get immersed in the action. I would've preferred to stay in Marc's perspective (as I found his narrative more exciting) and consequently I would've had a chance to get to know his character more.

I ought to say some good things now...well I already mentioned the writing style and, although I wanted to know him better, I thought Marc's character was pretty good. And besides everything I've said, I have high hopes for the next book in the series. I think Muchamore has set up what seems like a promising adventure.

Having said that, I thought the ending was a little rushed and the epilogue was a massive disappointment. I used to love the Cherub epilogues so much but this one actually made me quite frustrated if I'm honest. But we'll leave it at that...I'm going to read the next one soon...

P.S. Sorry for comparing to the Cherub books so much, they are just one of my favourite series and it was hard not to.

Taine Wilson says

The Escape is in a series called Henderson's Boys which is the prequel series to bestselling CHERUB series. The book is written in third person but has two sides of the story, overlooking Marc Kilgour as well as Paul and Rosie Clarke. The Escape is set in summer, 1940. Marc Kilgour runs away from his orphanage as he sees the war as his best chance to escape. During the story Marc meets British Secret Service agent Mr. Charles Henderson and together they have kill some important people and also get some plans off Rosie and Paul Clarke (Digby Clarke's children - also British Secret Service and friend of Henderson) and get them and the plans safely to England before the Germans reach them and kill them.

When Digby Clarke died in the Paris bombings/shootings it made me think about how lucky I am to have my family and how lucky I am to not have to be in those situations. This issue is important to me because my great, great grandfather fought and died in the war and it makes me think how privileged I am to live a life where I'm not in war, and cared and loved by my family and live a very nice lifestyle. Back in the war it was carnage and hell, which although I truly dislike school, I'm truly very lucky that I am able to walk to school without fearing if I was going to get bombed by a foreign country. I'm very thankful for everyone who served in the war so I don't have to go to war and can live a truly great lifestyle with my friends and family.

Another important thing was how Rosie and Paul Clarke as well as Marc Kilgour had to ran away to safety and both got put through hell. This was important to me because they're about the same age as me and that could've been me running back in those years. Sadly our generation takes our freedom for granted. Kids back then were running from their home just to live, and some kids in this work has to work 24 hours to feed their family while us kids in New Zealand are complaining about not getting enough time on Fortnite and having to go to school to get an education so we can make a living later on in life. Marc was put through hell by Director Tomas at the orphanage which makes me sad because although it doesn't happen as often nowadays, child abuse still happens whether it is in an orphanage or it's parents or caregivers or teachers or coaches abusing children.

I recommend this book ages 12+. I liked this book because it had a good storyline and gave me a bit of

education about ww2.

Javil Seton says

In the novel *The Escape* by Robert Muchamore Hitler army has invaded France and millions of French civilians are leaving the country. Amidst the chaos, two British children are being hunted by German agents. A British spy Charles Henderson tries to reach the children before the Germans do with the help of a French orphan. This novel was a well written and never had a dull moment. It left you in suspension and had many twist in the plot. The chapters were not predictable and it had you guessing what will happen next in the next chapter which every novel should have you doing. Mainly the novel put you in the shoes of whoever the main character was at the time.

The Escape was such a well written novel because it left you in suspension of what was going to happen in the next chapter. Every paragraph you read left you wondering what the outcome was going to be such as when Marc the 12 year old orphan was beaten so badly by the director of the orphanage, and sister Madeline the nun who help out at the orphanage step in and told the director "Marc has had enough" then the director threaten her that if she did not leave the room and mind her own business she would be fired (pg31). This event made you think would she leave the poor orphan to get beaten to death or step up and do something. The novel was not predictable in anyway because most novel that you read you already know what will happen later on in the book.

In every chapter that you read it puts you in the shoes of the character that was the focus point at the time. In *The Escape* there was never a moment where you did not stop to think about what that person may be feeling about the situation that they were in. One moment where you was put in the eyes of the character was when a German agent had a barrel of a pistol against the bridge of Paul nose and told him "Be silent, or die" (pg. 38). If anyone was put in that situation what would they do and how would they reaction. This novel left you thinking of different scenarios if you were put the characters shoes. In all this has been one of the most exciting novels I have read in months.

One down side of this novel was that it had many cut scenes, such as there would be and event going on there it would go to other character that was in the same position similar to the character it was being based on, but at the time it was also irrelevant at the time an event was happening. The chapters ended to quick with one event that was happening at time. In doing this it made you upset, because you get so into that chapter and then all of a sudden it switches to a different character in the story. Many chapters should've continued with multiple chapters instead of switching every chapter.

In all *The Escape* was a well written novel that left you in suspension and had many twist in the plot. The chapters were not predictable and it had you guessing what will happen next in the next chapter which every novel should have you doing. Mainly the novel put you in the shoes of whoever the main character was at the time.

Melina says

This was simply amazing!

It begins with Marc. 12 years old, in a French orphanage, forced to work the worst jobs in a farm while the men of the village fight the Germans who are rapidly taking over the country.

Meanwhile there's Paul, the British boy who, along with his sister Rosie, has just been pulled out of his

French school.

As Marc escapes the horror of his life, and Paul and his family run for theirs, they come to the notice of the British spy, Charles Henderson.

This is the first book in the new series by CHERUB author, Robert Muchamore. I have been a CHERUB fan for ages, so I've been looking forward to this one for a while. There's definitely some similarities between the two series - Marc has some James-like qualities (though a very different background), there's the sense of risque adventure that runs through the CHERUB books (and appeals to 12 year old boys) and there's real human-ness throughout the book.

But there's differences too. I'm not sure how correct the history is, but it is there, and I know kids will soak it up. It ends on a cliff hanger, rather than wrapping up neatly. And there's a sense that it's part of something bigger.

When I heard that there was a new series called Henderson's Boys, I was a little worried. CHERUB has given great female characters like Lauren, Kerry, Dana and Zara. How would this compare. Luckily, I found plenty of good female characters - the nun who refuses to allow the Orphanage director beat Marc to death; Rosie, Paul's sister; the cafe waitress who helps Marc out; the phone operator who risks all to help out; and the surprising Yvette.

I highly recommend this book for around 11 years up - time to buy another copy for my classroom!!

Cindee says

I loved this book it was action packed and very realistic to the time period with the things that happen to the characters as the story progresses. I liked the characters very much the ones I liked best were Marc, Rosie and Paul they were well developed and so very like how children of the time period and their situations made them so very compelling to read about. I liked the story it was well written and a pretty realistic WW2 story with a great action-packed story. So overall I really enjoyed this book and will be reading more of this series soon.

Ashley says

Not even a full star, more like 0.2 stars.

And only because I managed to finish the bloody thing.

I was expecting to like this book based on the premise, but I was just disappointed.

First of all the events talked about in the blurb (of heading off to find kids who don't exist to save the world) doesn't happen until the last five chapters. And it's all over so quick.

The rest of the book I had to drag my feet through unnecessary violence, sexism, and heavy descriptions of nothing of importance.

Seriously, the supposed 'best spy' guy went into a stealth mission with a machine gun, A MACHINE GUN. To a STEALTH mission. He ended up in some glitch where he forgot he had a silenced pistol and just machine gunned the fuck out of the place.

Not only that but there's so much violence towards the kids, like Marc gets beaten so bad from the orphanage director he can barely walk. He's a CHILD. And everyone can already gather that growing up in an orphanage sucks but there was no need to have a very visceral description of his beating in the first chapter

we meet him. I just thought it a tad overtop to prove this kids 'toughness' through severe child abuse. Everything with a vagina was sized up by Marc. He's internalising some heavy misogyny and honestly, I'd feel sorry for him if I wasn't forced to read how he judges a woman's value solely on her breast size or prettiness. Because other than the sister (Rosie) of the other main character (Paul) there are no woman that hold lead roles. And Rosie's only descriptors are 'buffalo's shoulders' and 'a precocious set of breasts'. Y'know, aside from the fact that she's 'annoying, cold, and bossy' for simply trying to keep it together in the middle of war whilst taking care of her little brother. And while I can personally see that there are strong women in this book, I am enraged that none of them are treated with any respect or even a modicum of the awe they deserve. Instead this respect and awe is handed of to two preteen boys who do nothing but get carried by side characters the whole book.

The plot was slow moving for a middle-grade/early YA. Like seriously, who spends the whole first book setting up the characters. It wasn't the greatest writing decision. It made for a really tedious beginning, and a mind-boggling jumble of an ending. In fact I would've given this book 0.1 stars but added another 0.1 because the last five chapters actually had plot development that wasn't tainted in horrendous pre-2010 sexism because it was too busy scrambling after all the loose ends.

I don't think I'll be continuing the series.
