



Axe Cop, Vol. 1

Malachai Nicolle , Ethan Nicolle (Illustrator)

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Bad guys beware Evil aliens, run for your lives Axe Cop is here, and he's going to chop your head off We live in a strange world, and our strange problems call for strange heroes. That's why Axe Cop -- along with his partner Flute Cop and their pet T-Rex Wexter -- is holding try-outs to build the greatest team of heroes ever assembled. Created by five year-old Malachai Nicolle and illustrated by his older brother, the cartoonist Ethan Nicolle, Axe Cop Volume One collects the entire original run of the hit webcomic that has captured the world's attention with its insanely imaginative adventures. Whether he's fighting gun-toting dinosaurs, teaming up with Ninja Moon Warriors, or answering readers' questions via his insightful advice column, "Ask Axe Cop," the adventures of Axe Cop and his incomparable team of crime fighters will delight and perplex even the most stoic of readers.

Axe Cop, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Malachai Nicolle , Ethan Nicolle (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Axe Cop, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Mandyhello says

Clearly the most genius work of illustrative and literary genius ever created.

Andrew Peters says

Having a five year old write this book makes it randomly hilarious. It also shows his perspective on different questions on the ask axe cop sections. It doesn't really have a full plot but the main story and the ask axe cop go together with all of the characters.

Alex Sarll says

The three-and-a-half-thousandth book I've read, according to Goodreads. And what better to mark such a milestone? Being written by a five-year-old, this is essentially the Platonic ideal of comics. In comparison, I'm now always going to be slightly disappointed by anything where none of the characters is a vampire werewolf shark wizard ninja from the moon.

sixthreezy says

3.5 stars.

I'm so lost on how to feel about Axe Cop. On one hand, it's a fully imaginative and silly premise of a story that only gets more absurd as you turn the pages. On the other hand, you can definitely tell it's "written" by a 5-year old because fights don't extend past chopping heads off, and all logic is thrown out the window. I really enjoyed the book for what it was, but it definitely is something you have to take in moderation. I think for kids, this would be a brilliant and super easy read, but unfortunately it's kind of violent for kids. Granted, it's nothing kids don't talk about or imagine, but I think even with the omission of things like blood and bad words, the older brother who draws the comic still depicts some of his little brother's ideas in a more adult mindset. So while the book is silly and childish, it is most definitely a time portal back to the days of imagining toy soldiers were more than just that, and where anything was possible. The notes by the author on the logic behind Malachai's stories are really informative, and serve the humor really well as to explain his thought process behind some things. The art is cool, and especially for what I'm sure is given to him as ideas. I also really enjoyed Ask Axe Cop, as those are probably the best part about the book. I really liked the one where Axe Cop explains the SECRET ATTACK!

I think it's probably more palatable and enjoyable as a weekly web comic, and not a one sitting read. Overall, a really genius and unique idea for a funny book. If you think little kids are funny and you don't find their simple, yet strangely humorous and complex imaginations annoying, read this book.

Josh says

An adult artist makes a comic from the ideas that come out of his 5 year old brother's mind. It's a funny and entertaining concept at first, as kids say funny things. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for the novelty to wear off and ends up not being very interesting after that.

Josh says

If an adult had tried to do something like this, I'm not certain that it would have worked. At the very least, it would have been incredibly different. The greatest appeal of "Axe Cop" is its innocent sincerity. It's entertaining, funny, bizarre, illogical, wacky, violent, crazy, dramatic... but at it's core, is the honesty of childhood imagination. It's fun to get inside that mind, not only for the entertainment, but also for the chance to see things a little differently. "Axe Cop" is a wild ride and a legitimately good time.

Ryan Rossi says

Axe Cop comes from simple origins; a five year old makes up a story, and its drawn out as a comic by his much older brother.

Axe Cop is crazy, silly and often make no sense. Which makes it a hell of a lot of fun, and a very easy to read. The art complements the story well, treating the vivid ever changing characters with just the right about of seriousness.

If you're up for a fun romp around a kids imagination, I couldn't recommend this more.

Max says

Axe Cop is possibly the greatest webcomic ever made. Written by a 5-year-old and drawn by his 29-year-old brother, the comic has all the insanity of a child's imagination combined with good art so you can actually tell what's going on. This trade paperback collection includes the first four story arcs and the first 42 episodes of Ask Axe Cop. Even though I've already read the material in the collection on the internet, this book was worth the fifteen dollars it cost for the commentary from artist Ethan Nicolle about the creative process behind Axe Cop.

Chris says

It seems I'm a bit late to this party since I missed Axe Cop as a webcomic. Nevertheless, I must now have my say: this concept is absolutely genius and the execution is one of the funniest things I've ever read.

A few years ago, Ethan Nicolle was playing with his five-year-old brother Malachai and decided it would be fun to take Malachai's imagined play and illustrate it as a superhero comic. It all started when Malachai took a toy police officer and added a firefighter's axe. They grabbed another figure and the nearest weapon-like

implement at hand—a recorder, which led to Axe Cop’s first partner, Flute Cop—and went to chop off the heads of dinosaurs and other sundry bad guys.

In his book *Killing Monsters: Why Children Need Fantasy, Super Heroes, and Make-Believe Violence*, Gerard Jones argues that the young use violent fantasies as a way of coping with their real-life powerlessness, smallness, and helplessness—the point is not mutilation and bloodshed but power, a desire to have some kind of ability to control their circumstances: *young people [use] fantasies of combat in order to feel stronger, to access their emotions, to take control of their anxieties, to calm themselves down in the face of real violence, to fight their way through emotional challenges and lift themselves to new developmental levels*. The violence is pretend in its purest form and in no way reflects any desire to do actual harm; it’s all about wanting to deal with forces beyond their control.

So in Malachai’s fantasies we see plenty of violence, but all in the quest for more power to vanquish scary bad guys. And because he is only five, we get none of the worries with logic or consistency or reality that too often limit the imaginations of older writers (as Dav Pilkey talks about with *Ook and Gluk: Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future*), with wild and hilarious results. Axe Cop doesn’t just have a pet T. Rex, he has a pet T. Rex that breathes fire, has a super-duper fast bite, wears cop glasses and a cop badge shaped like himself, has robot-machine-gun arms, feeds on bad guys, can fly to catch bad guys on the moon and sun, and has spikes that only stab you if you are bad (and whose worst enemy is a lamp that comes alive early in the morning). Axe Cop is constantly holding tryouts for more partners to make himself more powerful and even gets a part-time job at a fruit stand so he can afford to buy more guns. When he encounters a giant robot with two swords and one eye that is too big for head-chopping with an axe, Axe Cop from nowhere pulls out a baby with a magical unicorn horn to throw at the robot’s eye and explode its head. Axe Cop doesn’t just chop off the heads of bad guys, he also shoots them, blows them up, poisons them, and uses any other form of death-dealing Malachai can imagine. He also never rests because he spends each night sneaking into bad guys’ houses to kill them in their sleep. But don’t worry, there’s a morality to it all—if he could do anything he wanted, he would make a bomb that only kills bad guys and would make sure to turn all the aliens evil before killing them all, so that no one undeserving has to die.

Ethan takes these wild imaginings and brings them to life splendidly. His illustrations are fun and he does his best to accurately portray Malachai’s intentions without parody or satire, so they end up more “realistic” than cartoonish or stylized. If only all five-year-olds had someone like Malachai to bring their imaginations to life this way, because the opportunity to share in them is a joyful delight.

Keith says

I've read most of this book a million times online, so I'm not sure how well it will translate for new readers in the graphic novel format. For me, I missed being able to see each panel blown up huge on my computer screen. In book form I lost a lot of the details. But I really enjoyed the parts I hadn't seen before, especially the pages Ethan designed especially with the GN in mind, so who knows? I imagine it will still have that "crazy funniness overload" effect on everyone who comes across it for the first time.

Axe Cop is awesome. Everyone who just gets off on cool, funky weirdness in their comics should read it. It's the real deal.

Sara says

Has it been awhile since you laughed so hard you felt your abs getting a workout? READ THIS BOOK. The child logic of the story is so perfectly absurd, the art so perfectly makes fun of and serves the story, genuine creativity explodes out of the pages. I've read Axe Cop as a webcomic, and reading it again in print form was equally as entertaining, if not more. The notes added by Ethan are hilarious and touching, and give a great background on how the comic came to be :) Worth buying, even if you've already scoured the webcomic.

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

This is my 6th book that I read for the YALSA Best of the Best book challenge. I will also say, I would not have read this book without doing the challenge...and I'm glad I read it. But more on that later.

So Malachai and Ethan are brothers. They wrote Axe Cop together. Before each section of the book there is a note written by Ethan. In the first note I learned that Malachai is 5 and Ethan is 29 (or at least they were when they wrote/illustrated this). Ethan went home and was playing with his much younger siblings. Malachai pulled out a fireman's axe and decided they would play "Axe Cop". Ethan being an illustrator drew the various adventures that they "played".

Axe Cop is a zany character in an even more strange world. There is a baby with a unicorn horn on her forehead. Axe Cop's best friend is Sockarang, a guy who has socks for arms. There are moon ninjas that are also vampires (but good ones, don't worry). There is The Best Fairy Ever who is pretty much just like her name. And then there are the bad guys. There are ducks with exploding eggs, evil zombies that eat everyone, bad robots and aliens who are just plain bad.

There are parts that are various bits of Malachai's imagination. Then there are the "Ask Axe Cop" parts where people asked questions and Malachai figured out an answer. These were my favorite parts of the whole book. I literally laughed out loud on almost every page. I can see why this is such a popular comic!

I basically loved the book---which was unexpected seeing how I don't tend to like most graphic novels. I think the reason that I loved it so much was that I read it as someone who loves to see the crazy things that come from a kid's imagination. I think if I were trying to read a graphic novel that had an over arching story line that made me think for hours on end about life...I would hate this. But since I just love seeing how funny things are when a kid is in charge of a world (and a cool character like Axe Cop), then all I can say is "Where is the next one?!" The only thing I didn't like was at the end (**small bit of a spoiler here**) the main bad guys were an army of poop. Yeah, that is totally something a 5-year-old would come up with. And I can see a lot of people thinking it is funny. It mostly grossed me out. But, it doesn't mean that I still don't think highly of the whole Axe Cop process and the fact that they stuck with the storyline that came from Malachai. Good book. Funny read.

Demian Katz says

I would probably have found this amusing under any circumstances, but as the parent of a small child who (through no conscious influence of my own -- I blame day care) is obsessed with "defeating" "bad guys," I was doubly entertained. This perfectly captures the silliness of unconstrained childhood play while taking its own ridiculousness completely seriously. There's nothing else quite like it.

Shaela Woody says

This comic was dictated by a hilarious five year old. Enough said.

Melinda says

In addition to being a hilarious comic, Axe Cop is also a great reminder of what it was like to think the way a kid thinks. Ethan Nicolle (the artist and older brother) provides some notes about the creation process he goes through with Malachai (the 5-year-old younger brother and creator of the stories), which I really enjoyed reading about.
