



Al Capone Does My Homework

By Gennifer Choldenko

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Alcatraz Island in the 1930s isn't the most normal place to grow up, but it's home for Moose Flanagan, his autistic sister, Natalie, and all the families of the guards. When Moose's dad gets promoted to Associate Warden, despite being an unlikely candidate, it's a big deal. But the cons have a point system for targeting prison employees, and his dad is now in serious danger. After a fire starts in the Flanagan's apartment, Natalie is blamed, and Moose bands with the other kids to track down the possible arsonist. Then Moose gets a cryptic note from the notorious Al Capone himself. Is Capone trying to protect Moose's dad too? If Moose can't figure out what Capone's note means, it may be too late.

The last heart-pounding installment in the *New York Times* bestselling, Newbery Honor-winning Alcatraz trilogy is not to be missed!

"Superlative historical fiction." -- *School Library Journal* (starred review for *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*)

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-8-This conclusion to the trilogy picks up four months after *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* (Dial, 2009). Moose still feels the burden of looking out for his loved ones: protecting his father, newly promoted to Associate Warden; and caring for sister, whose latest challenge is learning to make eye contact with people. One night when he is babysitting Natalie, a fire breaks out in the family's apartment. Moose fears it's his fault because he fell asleep, and the resentful Trixle family blames Natalie. Moose and the Alcatraz kids (Piper, Annie, Jimmy, and Theresa) band together to find out what really caused the fire. Adding to the mystery, island residents are suddenly receiving anonymous gifts. Multiple reveals keep the pages turning quickly. Choldenko is unsurpassed at interweaving plot with historical detail, drawing a touching parallel between Natalie and first-term President Franklin Roosevelt. She uses Capone's celebrity status as a foil to Moose's father, which helps the 13-year-old appreciate his father's understated strengths. The trilogy ends on an uplifting note for Moose and Natalie. Choldenko hints that Natalie's math skills could lead to a meaningful life for her and Moose won't always have the weight of the world on his shoulders. His dad reassures him: "All you can do is try to inspire each person to be their best self." While the book ably stands alone, it delivers a satisfying conclusion to readers who've grown fond of this cast of characters.-M. Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY ©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Starred Review In this final installment in Choldenko's Alcatraz series, Moose Flanagan has a mystery to solve. His father has been promoted to associate warden of the infamous island prison, drawing negative attention from cons and guards alike. When their family apartment is burned down, gossip points to Moose's older sister, Natalie, and it falls to Moose to discover the truth. With baseballs, bottle caps, and carrier-cockroaches, he and the other island kids take on gambling debts, missing knives, a murder plot, a counterfeit ring, even pixie secrets—any of which might or might not be related to the fire. Choldenko supports all of this with the strength of her generous narrative, weaving in resonant emotional elements like the complicated family dynamic circling Natalie's autism and Moose's budding romance with Piper. (Or is it Annie?) Especially noteworthy is the author's sensitive ability to humanize heroes and villains alike, grounding the tense action in palpable reality. With rich characterization, tender drama, and sleuthworthy clues, this poignant mystery makes for a thoroughly satisfying conclusion to the landmark historical trilogy. A detailed author's note highlights elements of truth uncovered in her research that made their way into the story. Grades 5-8. --Thom Barthelmess

Review

+Delivers a satisfying conclusion to readers who've grown fond of this cast of characters." — **School Library Journal**

"Rich characterization, tender drama, and sleuthworthy clues, this poignant mystery makes for a thoroughly satisfying conclusion to the landmark historical trilogy." — **Booklist, starred review**

"Choldenko consistently excels at penning pitch-perfect dialogue and balancing a large cast of original characters, and this title is no exception....A satisfying finale to what has become a cornerstone series in contemporary children's literature." — **Kirkus Reviews**

"Choldenko's multifaceted novel offers something for everyone—history, mystery, intrigue, and humor.

Ultimately, though, it's this extremely likable boy working through friendships and crushes, on the one hand, and wrestling with family and community problems, on the other, that has held our attention through three books." — **The Horn Book**

"Choldenko continues to infuse the Alcatraz community with warmth and originality. . . Despite being 'the roughest hard-time prison in America,' by the end of this winning series, it's also a place Moose comes to proudly call home." — **Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"Choldenko's storytelling is compelling, portraying human decency as a force more powerful than heroism." — **Newsday**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Lyons:

The particular book Al Capone Does My Homework will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very ideal to you. The book Al Capone Does My Homework is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Thomas Barreto:

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Al Capone Does My Homework can be the response, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Ralph Scott:

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Patricia Howland:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update concerning something by book.

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