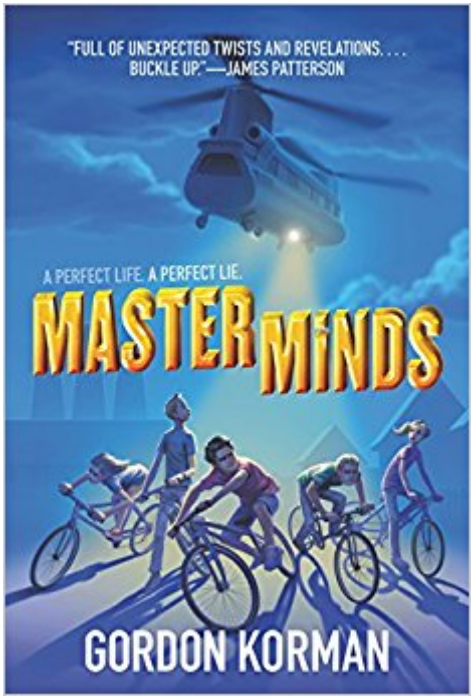
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Masterminds



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Synopsis

The first book in the action-packed series from New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman is perfect for young fans of James Patterson and John Grisham.Ã Â Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. The thirty kids who live there never lieÃ¢â ¬â •they know itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a short leap from that to the awful problems of other, less fortunate places.Eli has never left Serenity...why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known.The kids realize they can trust no oneÃ¢â ¬â •least of all their own parents.

Book Information

Series: Masterminds (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 105 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •Serenity, New Mexico is an idyllic community for all its inhabitants. Everyone has everything they need and no one lies. As the local newspaper boasts, "Serenity Voted #1 in USA for standard of living." Eli has always been happy with his life and never had any reason to want to leave. One day though, while on a bike ride past the outskirts of town with his best

friend Randy, Eli begins to feel sick. When he recovers from his illness he discovers that Randy, who convinced him to ride out, has to leave town. Randy tells everyone that he is going to his grandparents' house, but he is acting strange and no longer wants to hang out with Eli. After Randy leaves, Eli finds a note that makes him realize this may not be the perfect town after all. Eli and a few friends begin to uncover secrets and discover that honesty may not be at the heart of Serenity. They also realize that they can't trust anyone, especially not their parents. Korman has created a fun and creative story that delves into the philosophy of what makes us human and whether or not we are defined by our circumstances. Told in alternating voices, readers will get insight into life in Serenity and make life-changing discoveries with the characters. This unique and action-packed story is filled with twists and turns that readers will not see coming. A wonderful start to what promises to be a thrilling series.Ã¢â ¬â •Kristyn Dorfman, The Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] compelling, twisty mystery . . . [with] a truly gratifying payoffÃ¢â ¬Â• (Booklist (starred review))Ã¢â ¬Å“A terrific page-turner, full of unexpected twists and revelations. Buckle up.Ã¢â ¬Â• (James Patterson)Ã¢â ¬Å“Masterminds is a masterpiece - a mind-bending adventure in a shocking but all-too-possible present, a tale of friendship and ultimate sacrifice with characters who will reach inside you and not let go. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s that rare book that scares you to the core while youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re laughing your head off.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Peter Lerangis, bestselling author of the Seven Wonders series)Ã¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hard to express how much I loved MASTERMINDS without spoiling it. Real characters that make you laugh, twists that genuinely surprise, a plot that reveals itself perfectly. Another instant classic by one of my favorite authors.Ã¢â ¬Â• (James Dashner, bestselling author of the Maze Runner series)Ã¢â ¬Å“Masterminds takes readers on wild ride with terrific humor, a surprising mystery, and characters you canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t help but root for.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Brandon Mull, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Fablehaven and Five Kingdoms)Ã¢â ¬Å“This tense, fast-paced story will have readers racing toward the cliffhanger ending.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Ã¢â ¬Å“A fresh premise, good pacing, surprising twists and engaging characters all combine to make this a series worth following.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Ã¢â ¬Å“This unique and action-packed story is filled with twists and turns that readers will not see coming. A wonderful start to what promises to be a thrilling series.Ã¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Praise for UNGIFTED: Ã¢â ¬Å“Touching, without being overly sentimental, Ungifted is a gem for readers looking for a story where the underdog comes out on top.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))Praise for UNGIFTED: Ã¢â ¬Å“From its lovable-robot jacket art to its satisfying

conclusion, this will please KormanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fans and win him new ones.Ã¢â ¬Â• (ALA Booklist)Praise for UNGIFTED: Ã¢â ¬Å“Donovan has a goofy kindness that charms characters and readers alike Ã¢â ¬Â¦ The message is tolerance, and Korman expertly and humorously delivers it in an unpretentious and universally appealing tale.Ã¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Praise for UNGIFTED: Ã¢â ¬Å“Funny and insightful.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Praise for POP: Ã¢â ¬Å“A brisk, heartfelt and timely novel.Ã¢â ¬Â• (The New York Times Book Review)Praise for POP: Ã¢â ¬Å“Korman goes straight to the heart.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))Praise for POP: Ã¢â ¬Å“Thought-provoking.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Praise for POP: Ã¢â ¬Å“FantasticÃ¢â ¬Â¦Perfectly captures the football experience.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Newsday)Praise for POP: Ã¢â ¬Å“Funny, poignant and full of football action, POP hits you hard and doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t let up.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Tim Green, author of the New York Times bestselling Football Genius and Football Champ)

4th grade teacher and huge Gordon Korman fan. I read this aloud to my class, and they loved it (most agreed it was their favorite read aloud this year). It is told from multiple perspectives, suspenseful, adventurous, descriptive, and has well developed, likable characters. Can’t wait for the next book in the series!

I write middle-grade novels, so I like to read other books in that genre to see what other authors are up to. Masterminds is the best I’ve read in a long time. The author masterfully builds up suspense as you come to realize along with the characters that nothing in the sleepy little town of Serenity is what it seems. The characters experience some hair-raising moments as they scale walls and creep through duct work at the plastics factory - trying to evade the "Purple People Eaters" and discover the truth. What they find out changes everything and leaves them with just one course of action. Escape. Masterminds is skillfully written - alternating viewpoints between characters with clarity and ease. My only complaint is that it ends in a cliffhanger. Now I have to buy book 2!

This was a really fun, fast paced, well written story for younger readers. It kept me engaged from start to finish, as I couldn’t wait to find out what the big secret of this sleepy little town was. And when it’s revealed - boy, it really delivers! I also liked the unique presentation style, where each chapter was written from a different character’s perspective. I typically don’t care for that (nor for using the present tense over past tense), but it works really well in this book. The only criticism I have is that the book didn’t seem to have any kind of climax or resolution. It just ends, as if

mid-chapter. It's like it's only half of a larger book, and the author mysteriously decided to cut it in half so he could have two books instead of one. I have no problem with cliff hangers, but there should at least be a climax to the story. Nonetheless, this is still a great book that I think might get younger readers hooked (and certain adults, too!).

Neat little mystery....set in a town that's a little too perfect....and a note from a friend causes several friends to question everything...and everyone they know in their little world. Should slowly get your young reader caught up in the intrigue...10 year old grandson really enjoyed the book....and we had fun trying to figure out vague inferences given to the reader as to just what really is the secret behind their hometown.

I liked the book a lot, cool story, when reading the book, remember that each chapter Is from the point of view of a different kid. For example, the title of the chapter is malik bruder, the whole chapter if from the point of view of malik bruder, I but i definitely recommend this book

Great series for 4th graders. This book has an interesting premise which made me nervous but Mr. Korman handles the criminal mind aspect of the story in a completely kid-friendly way. Terrific adventure!

I use this book with 5th grade book club members, and they LOVE it! Korman has written a book that is packed with action, suspense, ah-ha moments, and relatable characters. Moreover, there are deep questions to discuss (nature vs. nurture, the ethics of cloning and/or human experiments, honesty vs. lying)As soon as you finish book 1, you'll be ready to pick up book 2. The only problem: we have to wait for book 3 to be published in Feb. 2017. :)

My 9 year old daughter thinks this series is amazing. She finished all the 3 books in this series and loved it.

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