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Kat de Falla

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Summer vacation is almost here! And Pea O'Neil is stoked to try out the new local BMX track which is finally open. He and his gang of friends can ride all summer long!

But when Pea tries a back flip, he unwittingly opens a portal to another dimension and hordes of flying mutant zombie rats are unleashed upon the city. With the help of an otherworldly talking cat sent to help prevent the demise of humankind, Pea and his friends must hunt down the hungry mutants and send them back before the portal closes.

But when the zombie rats attack a neighbor man, the boys have to enlist the help of a graveyard looney and the city's stray cats. With time running out, Pea and his gang track the monsters to the city's sewer system. But in the city sewer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, it's eat...or get eaten.

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats Details

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Author : Kat de Falla

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From Reader Review Flying Mutant Zombie Rats for online ebook

Michelle Stanley says

Reviewed by Michelle Stanley for Readers' Favorite

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats is a mystery for preteens by Kat de Falla. Pea O'Neil cannot wait for summer to begin so that he can ride his bike on the new BMX track with friends. He finally gets his chance and does a back flip, which unknowingly opens an outer space portal, unleashing multitudes of flying mutant zombie rats. These hungry, hideous creatures are intent on destroying humans with an infection that will make their victims have zombie-like behaviour and abnormalities. Then a wraith-like talking cat named Max offers to help Pea and his friends eliminate the zombie rats before the portal closes, in exchange for Fancy Feast. As the mutants increase, Pea and his friends gather all the strays they can find, and reluctantly agree to appoint Uno, the graveyard loony, their leader to assist them in destroying the mutants who have inhabited the city's sewers.

This was such a fun book to read and I liked the exciting calamity that Pea and his friends experienced. Max is an adorable, conceited cat who reminded me of Garfield. Pea is a typical preteen boy who cherishes his bike and likes doing outdoor activities. Pea handled the situation very well, considering how insecure and defenseless he often felt, especially at home. I hadn't realized how important BMX bikes were to most kids until I read this amusing story. Kat de Falla created a wonderful, suspenseful mystery with an awesome cover illustration. Flying Mutant Zombie Rats: Book One, Moto Maddie BMX Portal is recommended.

Tonja Drecker says

I had to read this just because of the title--honestly, my son's ears perked up the second he heard zombie rats. Throw in the BMX bikes, and you've got a boy book which screams to be read.

Part of me expected to find something like Captain Underpants, but this is a story driven completely on plot--and what a ride it is! 'Pea' is a great kid, who is about to live a great moment, the opening of a BMX tracks. He's got a great attitude, a huge heart and is simply a boy who's easy to root for. I really enjoyed his friends as well. They're true blue, a lot of fun and form a perfect gang, which is ready to handle anything, even Flying Mutant Zombie Rats.

There's a ton of fantasy in this story, and kids will easily be caught up in the adventure. I especially enjoyed the messages: don't give up and don't make fun of people when they fail.

There's a few gross moments (there are zombies involved, and we know what zombies like to eat!), so this may not be for the weak of heart. But on the average, boys ages eight and up will enjoy this story and be planning how to win their own battles, when a flying mutant zombie rat invasion heads their way.

Summed up, my son loved it, and I believe that many boys ages 8+ up will.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

I checked out this book because I am a fine, upstanding parental figure and I wanted to make sure the contents were appropriate for my daughter before I let her read it. That is absolutely the reason I chose to read this book. Yep. Ah-huh. Definitely.

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats. Flying. Mutant. Zombie. Rats. Who in Cthulhu's name can walk away from a book with a title like Flying Mutant Zombie Rats? No self-respecting horror-reading bookworm, that's for sure! Flying rats? Nah. Zombie Rats? Possibly. Mutant Rats? Maybe. Flying Mutant Zombie Rats? Shut up and take my money.

So, er, now to talk about something more than the title of the book, yeah?

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats was a fun read. The main characters are a bunch of BMXing seventh grade boys starting their summer vacation. They're good (albeit rowdy) kids, obsessed with their bikes, a solid group of friends, and they're going to save the city with nothing more than their wits and bikes. Right? Well, almost. See, there's not only Flying Mutant Zombie Rats, there's something else as well. (You'll have to read to find out.)

This is definitely a kids book, and unless you're well in touch with your inner child, it's not going to appeal to adults. It moves along quickly, there's some icky stuff, some training sequences, some heroic attempts at self-sacrifice, and lots of action. And given the title of the book, hopefully you don't go into it expecting realism in any area, because other than the biking scenes, there isn't any.

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats is a great book to engage a reluctant reader who is interested in the gross and icky side of things. Especially so if they like BMX biking. I'd definitely recommend checking it out.

Jenn says

This was a great kids book! It totally reminded me of when I would read Goosebumps as a kid. It was a quick and easy read and would be great for middle school aged kids! (And I'm a big kid at heart, so I loved it ;)

The characters were fantastic. Pea and his friends Paco, Tad, Thad, and Jules were just awesome. I loved that Paco and Pea had each others backs all the time, and the whole crew of kids stood up for their friends and stood up to bullies. They would protect other kids they saw get picked on and I thought this was great. Another thing I thought was awesome is the fact that their idol was a girl named Maddie (aka Moto Maddie). The BMX park that was just opening was named after her and they idolized her and how she became a BMX legend in their town. I just found that really cool.

The whole storyline of the crazy flying mutant zombie rats was just quirky and fun. Especially when the cat Max showed up. Even though I'm an adult now, it took me back to when I was a kid and would read Goosebumps everyday and loved reading stuff like this. The climax was great, and the friendship between Paco and Pea really stood out to me during that end scene. The only thing I felt was lacking was the ending.

It ended too quickly and I wish we had gotten to see a little bit more.

All in all this was a great kids book and I would definitely recommend it if you had a little girl or boy that loves crazy adventure stories!

Copy of book provided by author

Katie O'Sullivan says

Middle grade boys are a difficult audience to write for. Having active boys of my own, I know how hard it was at that age for a book to capture their attention for very long. Kat deFalla walks a fine line in her debut middle grade book between slapstick humor, supernatural adventure, and old fashioned boy bonding. Throw in some spot-on specific BMX dirt biking references and really creepy aliens and you've got something a boy can dig into.

Peabody "Pea" O'Neal is our hero, living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the early 1980s. He has a band of friends whose main interest is BMX dirt biking. The story begins near the start of summer vacation, and just as a new dirt bike track is set to open in town. Pea sneaks out of his house in the middle of the night to be the first to try riding on it, and gets spooked by a strange occurrence in the park. He doesn't tell his parents or friends, but then the next day a vortex opens and strange alien creatures fly into the park, creating havoc. It's up to Pea and his friends, and a strange alien cat, to save the world.

Parts of this story reminded me of the great Time Warp Trio series of books by Jon Scieszka, which were the stories that got my my oldest son to appreciate books on his own. The slapstick humor and frank, funny interchanges between deFalla's characters made me smile. Other parts reminded me of the boy bonding interactions in the 80s movie Stand By Me, which was based on a short story by Stephen King. While the adults played a slightly larger role in this story than in that movie, they are dismissed as periphery characters. The focus is the boys.

While I admit the loving detail given to the dirt bike race course and the riding tricks the boys perform kind of lost me, I am not the target audience. The only issue I had with the story line was the narrators assumption that everyone would be going to college when they reached 18, even his moronic stepbrothers. But this is a really trivial issue when the safety of the world is at stake, in danger from the flying mutant zombie rats of the book's title.

And I need to give a special shout out to the illustrator, Elayne Griffith, as the little cartoons at the beginning of each chapter are simply wonderful and very Simpson-esque. Love them!

Time for the kids to save the world! If my own boys were still this age, this would be in their summer reading pile for sure.

LitPick Student Book Reviews says

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats by Kat de Falla is a book about Peabody Cleveland O'Neil the Third, as he is called by his parents, or just Pea, as he is called by pretty much everyone else.

On the night before the last day of school, Pea can't sleep no matter what he does. Finally, he decides to take a stroll to the new BMX course. Once there, he looks at the awesome course, and all is peaceful for a while. Suddenly, a lightning bolt strikes the bush in front of him and a strange cat jumps out. Freaked out by what just happened, Pea goes home, falls asleep, and dreams unusual dreams.

The next day he sees the same cat from the night before, but goes to school and finishes his paper route nevertheless. Pea meets his friends at the BMX course to race and do tricks. He tells his friends he can pull off a back flip, which they all want to see. Halfway through the trick, he hears a weird ripping sound. Turning around, he sees a portal out of which flying mutant zombie rats are streaming! Pea and his friends must find a way to get rid of them before it is too late. However, they won't be alone; they find assistance in an unlikely ally. Who is this mysterious ally? Will they be able to get rid of the invaders? Find out in *Flying Mutant Zombie Rats*!

Opinion:

I thought *Flying Mutant Zombie Rats* was an enjoyable and humorous book, one with a funny plot line.

It was hilarious that the portal to another dimension opened while Pea was doing a back-flip on his BMX bike. Another part in the book I enjoyed was when a cat named Maximillian started talking; it was funny when Pea was surprised by it.

This book was a new kind of book for me. I have never read a book quite like this one; adventure, friendship, and tongue-in-cheek humor made it interesting. I felt that the storyline slowed in some parts, although it wasn't that often. At times weird, at times gripping, this book would appeal to many boys. I would have given this book five stars, but I didn't appreciate some of the gross humor. I would recommend this book to students ages nine through fourteen, or to anyone that enjoys books where kids overcome impossible odds.

Reviewed by a LitPick student book reviewer Age 14

Another LitPick student book review

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats is a book about a boy named Peabody (Pea) and his friends. They are going to a new BMX park that just opened. Summer is here, and what better thing to do than go to the brand new park?

Pea is racing on the BMX course when suddenly, wham, he crashes! Due to the crash, a portal appears right in front of him, and a flying mutant zombie rat comes out! Now there is an invasion, and the only people who can save the world are Pea and his friends. Will they save the world in time? Can the flying mutant zombie rats be stopped? Find out in this exciting book!

Opinion:

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats was an exciting book full of adventure and fun. Kat de Falla created a wonderful story! The characters were very funny and well described. For example, she wrote "Paco stood by the gate with his sparkling, almost all chrome, GT bike. He had a habit of constantly shoveling food in his mouth, but in spite of that he was wiry--and someone good to have on your side in a fight."

Pea was a funny, nice kid. He was very likable. I felt this book was too short; I wanted it to keep going because it was so enjoyable. I'd love to read the second book! This book is great for ages 9 and up.

Reviewed by a LitPick student book reviewer Age 12

Ben Mariner says

This book is really good if you're a kid, but that's exactly who it's for. For an adult, not so much. The story is kind of cute and well paced for a young reader, and there's some good stuff in there for the key demo. Overall, this is a good read for younger kids who like BMX bikes or zombies, but as an adult you could probably stay away.

R. A. says

This book is the hilarious adventure of five young boys who have the bad luck to be present when a portal opens from another world, allowing a horde Flying Mutant Zombie Rats through. They think it's their fault and that they must stop the rats before the entire city of Milwaukee has become zombies too.

Peabody, known as Pea to his friends, just wants to ride his bike, but when he tries to go to the brand new BMX track the portal opens, releasing strange alien creatures into the city. With the help of a talking cat who comes from the same place as the zombie rats, Pea and his friends find out how to fight these creatures.

This book has everything a young boy wants in a book. Adventure, BMX bike riding, five friends banding together to fight zombies, and, of course, a talking cat.

I've already read it twice, laughed both times and can't wait to share it with my son.

Laura Thomas says

I confess, the cool cover and title were the first things to catch my attention. Once I read the blurb, I was in for the fun.

Pea O'Neil is stoked. Summer vacation is starting today and the super cool new BMX track is open and calling his name. He's been practicing his back flip and can't wait to show off with his friends. He's nailing it until.... something knocks him flying. He's accidentally opened a portal to another dimension and nasty mutant zombie rats come pouring out, eyes glowing red, teeth gnashing, and they have wings.

It's a race against time to stop the horde of rats, especially after his cranky neighbor gets bitten and starts to act strange.

This brought back so many memories for me. That last day of school, the last bell rings, and the mad dash to freedom. I lived on a dead end street and there were tons of kids in my neighborhood. Pea and his pals remind me many of the kids from back then. The camaraderie and competition between them brings on the excitement as they battle the otherworldly rats. I couldn't help but laugh at some of the weapons they come up with.

Brave boys battling mutant zombie rats in order to save the world. And a smart aleck talking cat. What's not to love?

I received a complimentary copy. My review is voluntarily given.

Miss Meghan's Class says

I have to be honest: I really wasn't sure about this one at first. I mean, the cover is pretty cool and the book description had me curious, but the first chapter didn't grab and hold my attention. I am too hard-headed to give up, though, and decided to read it to some of the kids in my complex. They loved it. They loved it so much, they wouldn't let me stop reading. We ended up finishing the whole story in one sitting (which really doesn't happen with this group) and they were quite upset that there wasn't another story with the same people (not yet, at least). This turned out to be a really fun read, one I recommend to kids who love "this kind of stuff."

Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review. Please remember that this review is my opinion based on my personal impressions of the book.

Erica says

As someone who still watches cartoons with my boys, I was really excited to read this book. It was so neat. Intriguing for middle aged kids but still completely appropriate. My 12yo and I both really enjoyed the storyline and all the irony of the events in the story. The artwork on the cover and at the beginning of each chapter was really cool. The title made us both giggle and really want to read it. Really great read!

Lauren Stoolfire says

I received an ARC from Rockstar Book Tours for my leg on the blog tour for this novel.

Summer vacation is almost here! And Pea O'Neil is stoked to try out the new local BMX track which is finally open. He and his gang of friends can ride all summer long! But when Pea tries a back flip, he unwittingly opens a portal to another dimension and hordes of flying mutant zombie rats are unleashed upon the city. With the help of an otherworldly talking cat sent to help prevent the demise of humankind, Pea and his friends must hunt down the hungry mutants and send them back before the portal closes. But when the zombie rats attack a neighbor man, the boys have to enlist the help of a graveyard looney and the city's stray cats. With time running out, Pea and his gang track the monsters to the city's sewer system. But in the city sewer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, it's eat...or get eaten.

Honestly, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect with this, but *Flying Mutant Zombie Rats* by Kat de Falla is a lot of action-packed MG zombie and BMX bike fun. It's easy to get wrapped up in the adventure Pea and his friends find themselves in the middle of here. It really brings back the memories of when I was in middle school, especially that last day and finally getting out for the summer. It's great that he and his friends are so close as they work together against the titular baddies. I also loved that elements of horror here which get pretty intense for an MG read. Seriously there is a lot to like about this, but I'm definitely not the target audience. I high suspect that a reluctant reader could easily become hooked by Kat de Falla's storytelling.

Annastew1144hotmail.com says

Kat De Falla's childrens book really grabs your attention! She pulls this off by creating an interesting plot and adding a perspective on youth that allow her characters to learn and grow even in the most hilarious of settings. Needless to say the story line is interesting and action packed all the way through and her Flying Mutant Zombie Rats are the stuff of films. This one of those rare little books that you will thoroughly enjoy and want to tell your friends about.

Holly (Holly Hearts Books) says

Flying Mutant Zombie Rats is about a group of friends who open up a portal to another dimension at there new local BMX track and suddenly (you guessed it) zombie like rats with wings start pouring out of it and now they have to find a way to close it and dispose of these monsters before there town becomes apocalyptic.

This book was cute and fun. Not only was the cover just super cool to look at but the little illustrations introducing each chapter were quite fitting as well.

But this book had these horror elements that I was surprised to see in a children's book.

"Blood dripped and pooled around the feet of the old man"

"His skin was gray and his eyes were flat and dead"

The group of kids in this book were far too brave because if that was me in there situation, I would have soiled myself and ran!

Simon says

My son read it and insisted I did too! For someone who was enamoured with the original BMX craze this was a real ride down memory lane with the added boost of a humorous adventure. The author really has a vivid imaginations and gets into the mentality of her audience, From the outlandish adventure to the dialogue she hits the mark time after time.
