



Bad Taste in Boys

Carrie Harris

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Someone's been a very bad zombie.

Kate Grable is horrified to find out that the football coach has given the team steroids. Worse yet, the steroids are having an unexpected effect, turning hot gridiron hunks into mindless flesh-eating zombies. No one is safe--not her cute crush Aaron, not her dorky brother, Jonah . . . not even Kate! She's got to find an antidote--before her entire high school ends up eating each other. So Kate, her best girlfriend, Rocky, and Aaron stage a frantic battle to save their town . . . and stay hormonally human.

Bad Taste in Boys Details

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Author : Carrie Harris

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From Reader Review Bad Taste in Boys for online ebook

Midu Hadi says

Reposting an Old Review

So, what I liked about the book:

its cover is beautiful and related to the story-many beautiful covers have no connection to the story these days.

the story began and ended perfectly and I had no trouble getting into it.

it was the right length and a very fast read for me.

humor was done just right.

the balance between science and the paranormal elements was good.

What I did not like:

the female lead seemed to be head over heels in love with the coolest guy in school-how many more times is this going to be done?

the virus/infection was spreading in the school and none of the adults seemed to notice-didn't buy it.

All that being said, I can't wait to try the next book in the series because the author has a really fun way of writing a story.

Amy Jacobs says

I was first intrigued by this book because of the cover. I thought it was creepy and eerie with the frost covered lips. I also have been trying to read more books about zombies lately since they seem to be the new rage in the book genre. Unfortunately, this book fell flat as a dead zombie for me.

Within the first chapter of this book, I could already tell that it was not going to be a book I would enjoy. The character is suppose to be in high school, yet her actions and personality of her friends made me feel like I was reading a book focused more on the younger teens. The writing, in my opinion, needing much more work to be considered a young adult genre book. I would classify this one to be more middle grade in writing style. I wasn't a fan of the main character, Kate, who was suppose to be smart but was naive most of the time. Now don't get me wrong! I didn't hate the book, but it is not a favorite of mine.

This is more of a fun and light read that you could easily finish in a day. I took it as a mindless read that you don't have to put much thought into the plot as you read it. You just go with the flow and try to enjoy the story line that the author created.

XTabbyX says

THE REVIEW

Why this book?

I love zombie books

What I thought

Kate starts to realize something is wrong with some of the football players at her school and is determined to find out what. This was an amusing read with relatable characters and a great premise and of course zombies. It was a fast-paced and entertaining and altogether fun. I recommend it to anybody who likes zombies.

Heidi says

“Four stars: A zany and entertaining zombie book.

Katie is a high school science geek whose main goal is to get into a pre-med program. She is the student medical adviser for the school's horrific football team. Honestly, their team is epicly bad and they need all the help they can get. Unfortunately, for Katie and the team, the coach decides to pluck help from a seedy source. After another miserable loss, Katie finds a used syringe in the Coach's office. Later, Coach asks her to administer shots to the team, he tells her the unmarked syringes are Vitamin B 12. Katie, however, does not believe him and refuses. At a bonfire party following the game, Mike, the Neanderthal football player, lumbers up to her car as she parks and barfs horrible black puke all over the hood. This is just the beginning of the bad that is to come. Turns out, Coach went ahead and injected the boys himself with the mystery syringes. Now the players are showing strange symptoms, and acting erratic, kind of like zombies. Katie races to stop the virus before it spreads, but will she find a cure before one of those bad boys munches on her?

What I Liked:

*I enjoyed this book because it was a light, witty and entertaining foray into the zombie genre. It is without all the dripping gore and horror that you expect in a typical zombie book. If you are looking for a novel with shambling brain munching monsters, this isn't for you. If you want an off the wall zany read then give this a try.

*I adored the heroine, Katie. Sure, she is a geek and suffers from seizures but she takes it all in stride and becomes an unlikely zombie avenger. I loved that she is smart, snarky and all around funny. She doesn't really suffer from low self esteem, either which is nice to see in a nerdy brainiac character. I especially loved her witty dialogue. Seriously, the girl comes up with some funny lines.

*I loved Katie's geeky little brother, Jonah. He is a total nerd. He and Katie have a fun relationship, I really loved how they look out for each other. He is just adorable.

*The romance in this book is really cute. Katie has been crushing on a certain boy for a long time and then when he suddenly looks her way, well it is just fun. I won't say much more to avoid spoilers, but this is one of those charming little romances that will make you smile.

*I liked that the zombie element was toned down and that this was more of a slapstick read. This is a book that will definitely appeal to younger teens and even tweens as it is not dark or gory. It does have some zombie munching scenes and dropping of limbs but it is not over the top gross. I am certain that the humor would definitely appeal to the younger set as well. I could see this being made into PG movie.

And The Not So Much:

*If you are looking to find a book with a complex plot and intellectual storyline, this is not your read. The plot moves rapidly and at times is somewhat predictable, the resolution is a bit hasty, there are holes in the story, and the entire premise is completely improbable, but the humor makes up for the flaws.

*I actually wanted more of the zombies. Their presence overall is a bit limited and mainly focuses on Mike. I wish they were a bit more fleshed out (bad pun intended).

*The resolution to the zombie problem occurs very quickly and seems too easy. I would like perhaps a bit more development and further explanation on how exactly the cure works.

Bad Taste in Boys, is just a quick, funny and entertaining read. If you are in a bit of a reading funk and you want something a bit off the wall, give this book a read. The zombie factor is not overly gross or horrific so it can be enjoyed by younger readers. Katie is a smart and endearing heroine, one you will like. I am excited that Katie will be returning, for what I am sure will be another hilarious adventure, this fall in Bad Hair Day.

Favorite Quotations:

"She was puffy-faced and blotchy, like she'd been crying for the last sixty hours or so over her son's butt."

"I swung into the driveway and sprinted into our house. I'd run more that night than I had in my life. My gym teacher would have been so proud."

"The last thing I wanted was to sit down next to the lip chomper, but I couldn't come up with a good excuse not to."

"The fan was much more interesting than I was, or maybe he was sleeping with his eyes open. Id'd have said he was dead, but I was not going to make that mistake again. He was just being a tool, and it was ticking me off."

"Instead of AP Latin, I should have taken Talking to Boys Without Stammering."

"I didn't want to tell her it was the scent of fried hand."

"It amazed me how a stream of steaming water and some strawberry-scented shampoo could soothe the soul of the zombie-plagued."

"The missing foot wasn't going to suddenly come to life and stomp my family to death, right? That kind of thing only happened in horror films, in which case I would have been a lot blonder and more buxom."

"I had horrific mental images of zombie lunch ladies. Our lunch ladies were kind of scary to begin with. But zombie lunch ladies? Almost as scary as clowns."

"Dude1" said one of them. They were all taking pictures of the bugs with their cell phones and punching each other on the shoulders. Just another moment when I realized how little I understood guys."

"I jumped back and held my hands up like I knew karate. I didn't, but the zombies didn't know that."

"I stumbled into a clearing. In the springtime, it was probably the kind of place you'd like to hang out with sparkly vampires. But it was slightly less attractive in the rain. The blurry zombies didn't help much either." Posted @ <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/> Stop by for a hilarious guest post from author, Carrie Harris.

~Tina~ says

Bad Taste in Boys was kinda gross, kinda cute but it was also totally entertaining and ridiculously fun!

Zoraida says

Such a fun read! Kate is smart, witty, an everything you want in a high school science genius/kick-butt zombie fighter!

oliviasbooks says

"That puke was the most wonderful thing I'd ever seen. It was green and a little red. Technicolor, really, the color puke is supposed to be. It definitely wasn't black, and it didn't smell like toasty poop. This was a good sign."

I breezed through this book in one day. And let me tell you: I had an awfully good time, although I was very relieved that my commuter train compartment did not emanate the penetrating stink of stale sweat, greasy hair, beer and hamburgers gone bad like it usually does at rush hour in late August. I might have not been able to reign in my activated imagination otherwise and would have stared down the nose-offending passengers with a zombie-alert x-ray-expression distorting my face.

"Bad Taste in Boys" combines a wacky, deliciously hilarious story about "the world's worst football team" getting infected with a vampire virus instead of getting enhanced muscle-power thanks to being injected with the untested "Playwell" fluid and the female, geeky student coach assistant who saves the small town from being digested by them with a cute, wobbly-footed romance reminiscent of earlier Cabot books. A definite plus is the relationship between heroine Kate and her fifteen-year-old brother Jonah, a scifi-nerd who has recently joined the cheerleading team in order to impress a girl:

"Jonah squealed, jumping up and down and shaking his pom-poms. His skirt swished around his scrawny yellow knees. 'Jonah, can I give you a piece of sisterly advice?' 'Yeah' 'If you ever want to lose your virginity, don't do that again. Ever.' He dropped the pom-poms. It wasn't much of an improvement."

The best, however, is all that fun-dipped, unaffected goryness and the way aspiring future doctor Kate relates her experiences with gnawed-on ankles, ripped-off feet and black-putrid goo drizzling on the homecoming pancake grill. It felt like a trip down memory lane back to those times when a friend and I tried to outdo each other with nauseating stories from the make-belief "sanatorium" we both were stuck as the patients "Rrroberto and Alberrtina". (If you are shocked don't ask what other games I used to invent).

Since I had started with a quote, I will close with one as well:

"Excuse me if I feel skeptical," I said. 'Coach's foot fell off. How exactly do you propose to cure that? Superglue?"

Crowinator says

Well, that was just plain stupid fun. It would make a great horror-comedy of the B-movie persuasion, like a lighter, teen-ier version of *Cabin Fever* or *Return of the Living Dead Part II*, but much wittier and with better characters and a happier ending (and no nudity). Plus, you can read it in two, three hours. Yes, the entire story is ridiculous and has more holes than the movie *Holes*, but that's part of the fun. And Kate, the super-zombie-killing-science-nerd, is an appealing, self-deprecating narrator, confident and brave in the face of dismembered limbs and black zombie vomit and doing cell cultures to find a cure, but spazzing out every page over her crush, Aaron. My favorite Kate quotation: "I might not have been great with the romance thing, but no one was going to outscience me. Especially when there was a hot boy at stake." Kate is why this gets four stars.

I don't get the cover, though. It's undeniably eye-catching (I'm not sure I want to be seen with it in public, because close-ups of sugary-coated lips? will get weird looks from people.) but it makes the book look darker than it is. I mean, this is definitely more on the light side of black comedy; it's gory but silly and campy. This is not a book that takes itself seriously, but the cover doesn't show that. Also -- I don't see how the image relates to the plot. Then again, the title doesn't make sense either, really (Aaron is a doll, so it seems she has good taste in boys), so whatever. Now I'm just overthinking it and being too literal. I'm just saying, it doesn't scream horror-comedy. It screams gritty drug-addiction, co-dependent relationship book, to me. But perhaps that's just me.

Lovers of fast-paced, gory, minimally-plotted zombie comedies, take note!

Anzu The Great Destroyer says

I used to think anyone over the age of three who went by the name Kiki deserved to be drawn and quartered with a spork.

I'm with you on that sistah! But let me rephrase it a little bit.

I always think that anyone over the age of sixteen who writes a boring book about zombie fighting teenage geeks deserves to be drawn and quartered with a sledgehammer.

Much better, isn't it?

So, what is *Bad Taste in Boys* all about? Geeks gone wild. With zombies. I love zombies!

Every highschool geeky girl's dream is to have her long-time crush save her from a stampede of flesh eating black puking stinky slimy zombies. Pretty cool, right?

Yep.. Pretty cool..

The whole story started with a silly idea. I love silly ideas. The best things in the world come from silly ideas. Like rainbow cotton candy, gay unicorns, pink cookie monsters, and my personal favorite, skull shaped man eating trees.

Bad Taste in Boys is.. let's say not good enough to fit in that category.

Kate, our dearest heroine, is the newest weapon the US Government has to offer. She's a genius who single-handedly created a cure for the zombie apocalypse! Or almost single-handedly. But that's beside the point! Her magnificent brain is America's newest weapon against zombie terrorism! Those highschool zombie jocks don't stand a chance!

And speaking of zombie jocks, they're pretty popular in YAs, aren't they? It's weird that only these undersized teenage boys and girls get to be zombies and not, let's say, wrestlers, ninjas, giants or mass murderers.

And the cure being just a simple injection is also awesome, isn't it? Just... freaking awesome..

Back to my point. This book sucks. It's not a one-star sucking, but a two-star one. I admit it had some decent moments but the rest was a total borefest. Too bad the author seems like a cool person. I mean she used to dissect brains! How awesome is that??

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

I'm at a loss on how to rate this book. It's really in a league of its own. I was tempted to give five stars, but I just couldn't do that out of respect for *Feed*, *The Reapers Are the Angels*, *Raw Blue* and other books that blew me away and changed me forever. But in all (un)seriousness: this book is five star material and it's absolutely hilarious!

You know those comedies that don't make the least bit of sense? The ones you watch fully aware that they are stupid, and yet you can't help laughing your ass off? That's sort of how this is. The story has more holes than Swiss cheese, so if you're looking for a serious YA zombie novel, you definitely won't find it here. In fact, this book should come with a warning on the front cover: *Abandon logic all ye who enter here!* But the characters were adorable and they made me laugh out loud on almost every page. That alone made it worth reading.

Kate Grable is a science geek and the student trainer. She tends to minor injuries and hands out Gatorade to the players. Her job would be a lot easier if she wasn't taking care of the worst football team in existence. She also has to watch her crush, Aaron, get beaten every single time he plays.

They hit Aaron really hard; I heard the whoosh! his lungs made when all the air was forced out. I wanted to beat the heck out of the JV guys for that, except I wouldn't know what to do in a fist fight without a manual.

Kate soon discovers that the desperate Coach has been giving illegal shots to some of his players and that those same players are turning into zombies. She has to use all her knowledge and available weapons to prevent her brother, Aaron and her friends from becoming zombies as well.

The next time you need a few hours of pure fun, read this book! I promise you won't be sorry.

Nic says

Cute, entertaining, fast paced fun from start to finish! This book was a blast to read!

Oh and the cover is even more gorgeous when you see it up close!

Carrie says

I wrote it. If I didn't like it, there would be something wrong with me!

Okay, so there IS something wrong with me. A few things, even. Like I'm obsessed with Richard Simmons and I tend to do zombie impressions at inappropriate moments, but the not-liking-my-own-book thing is just going too far.

Shannon says

It is really disconcerting when I hate a book everyone loved. I don't look forward to writing these kinds of reviews (most of the time.) It especially pains me because Harris lives in Michigan, and I know she's been inside the book store I used to work at. **To be honest though, the writing was juvenile and amateurish, and the plot was even more ridiculous than I thought a zombie story had any right to be.**

At 200 pages, this short novel seems like it was written with middle-school children in mind than seniors in high school. Some of the subject matter would be iffy for a younger teen, but it's actually not especially graphic. The main character talks about "hooking up" with a boy, some body parts get torn or bitten off, and just about everyone pukes at least once. There is lots and lots of puking. None of this was especially surprising though, it *is* a zombie book, after all.

I thought this was supposed to be funny, but I didn't even smirk once while reading this. **I love zombie movies and I enjoy dark humor, but this book couldn't have fallen flatter for me.** The plot is steeped in so much pseudo-science that even though I'm practically a layman, the way the main character figures out a cure for the zombie virus really made me cringe. The "science" is appalling.

How about some young adult fiction clichés? Here's a handful for you:

1. Nerd girl with bad hair and no boobs lusts after the popular boy
2. Bratty younger brother is bratty
3. All parents are non-existent for the majority of the book (view spoiler)
4. Nerd girl constantly remarks on how much prettier her friends are, how much of an awkward dork she is, and constantly berates herself for being smart
5. (view spoiler)
6. (view spoiler)

Points go to all of the Polish last names, "pop" instead of "soda," and the beautiful cover. Everything else was a waste of time and I don't recommend this book at all.

Bonnie says

I can't remember the last time that a book made me laugh till I cried and made me feel like if I didn't stop reading right this second I just might wet myself. I think I timed this read at the perfect moment. I'm stuck at home on Friday night working from home... fortunately work is slow so all I have to do is sit here and... sit here. So I decide I'm going to start 'Bad Taste for Boys'. My Friday night did a 180° to the point where I'm actually enjoying 'working' from home right now. :D

Keep in mind, this book is meant to be funny... there is no seriousness involved, there is no world building, there are zombies, and NUMEROUS hysterical lines that had me dying to share them with someone.

Kate Grable is the student trainer for her school's football team. When Kate finds unmarked vials in the Coach's office she immediately thinks he's giving illegal steroids to the players in order to try and recover their losing season. Later that night at a party with her classmates, Mike, a football player, collapses and appears to be dead. As Kate examines him prior to the EMT's arriving she finds a bruise on his arm that looks suspiciously like an injection site. Thinking that he's dead and fearing the worst she's scared out of her mind when Mike suddenly jumps up from the ground and proceeds to grab her butt. When she regains her senses and takes a good look at Mike there's something about him... something's different and she doesn't know what. That's when he kisses her suddenly... and takes a chunk of her lip!

Being gnawed on had pushed me over the edge. Mike had always been a tool, but not the kind of tool who bit people when he had the munchies.

It's all up to Kate and a few of her friends to find the antidote in time to prevent the entire town from becoming mindless flesh-eating zombies!

This book is highly recommended for anyone in dire need of a good giggle. :D
Interested in more of my reviews? Visit my blog!

Jay G says

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

RANT REVIEW: <https://t.co/RrZo00KsA5>

Kate Grable is the student therapist for her high school's football team. She discovers that the Coach has been injecting his players with an unknown substance that is turning them all into zombies. She decides to take matters into her own hands to stop the spread of the virus before it's too late.

I really did not enjoy this book.... It seemed to me like the top contestant for the most cliches/tropes possible in a single book. Obviously we needed to include the nerdy, scientist girl who no one notices but desperately wants the popular boy to notice her... And who can forget the super popular jock who just so happens to be beautiful AND nice who falls for the nerdy girl because of her brains NOT her looks. It was annoying how Kate spent most of the book bashing herself for being nerdy, like girl come on, embrace your brain, be proud that you're smart! The way Kate spent most of her time fawning over Aaron was also incredibly annoying... One second he had no idea who she was then the next they're making out on the floor of the coach's office....? The whole plot line made absolutely no sense, which I'm assuming was the point? But it just seemed like there were too many holes in the story that really bothered me. I was hoping for a cool zombie book but was met with a teenage wannabe scientist who drools over the football star and that's about it. Zombies were mentioned about three times in the book and it was so anticlimactic, I'm very disappointed...

The most redeeming part of this book was how fast I flew through it. It only took me about 2 and a half hours to read. It was funny at times and entertaining for the most part, but generally not my style of writing. I think I would have enjoyed it a lot more if I had read it when I was younger.
