



Go Jump in the Pool!

Gordon Korman

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When Bruno and Boots learn that Macdonald Hall is about to lose some of its best students to its arch-rival, York Academy, because the Hall doesn't have a swimming pool, they go on the warpath, determined to save the school. But their fundraising schemes turn to hilarious chaos!

Go Jump in the Pool! Details

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Author : Gordon Korman

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From Reader Review Go Jump in the Pool! for online ebook

Madeleine Haltorp says

Someone should have asked me to write a review when I was eleven, because I love this book too much to pick it apart.

Elizabeth says

The best children's books ever!!!!I used to read these and laugh and laugh. All about some kids in boarding school in Canada. They put Alka-selzer in the pool...my brother says the author, who wrote his first novel when he was 14, now lives in Long Island...

Jane says

I love this series, but found the really random and inconsistent updates to be jarring.

Anthony Granziol says

Years ago, when I was just a lad, I ate the first four books in this series from cover to cover...many, many times.

As time passed and I grew up, I remembered these books fondly but this one in particular remained in my mind as one that carried with it not only a great deal of fun but also a few sobering moments when responsibility, obligation, and consequence were thrown into stark relief by the actions of the main characters.

I'm not going to spoil those moments but if you ever want to give a child of middle years an example of how to accomplish anything, and of how it feels to deal with the fallout of those accomplishments, give this book a look. It's an easy read, the characters are delightful, and anyone can laugh with it.

Erin says

I just re-read this for the first time since I was about 12. At that age, I LOVED Gordon Korman's books. I am now collecting them for my kids. I have to say that Gordon Korman is still the funniest author I have ever read.

Alida says

My re-education begins!

Isis says

Another entertaining Bruno and Boots adventure. I actually read this one first but nothing was lost by the mis-ordering.

Katie Fitzgerald says

Canadian children's author Gordon Korman has had a long career as the prolific writer of humorous, exciting, and easy-to-read novels geared toward grades 4 to 9. He started writing at age 12, when he wrote *This Can't Be Happening at MacDonald Hall!* for a seventh grade English class. Over the course of nearly 20 years after the publication of this first MacDonald Hall book, Korman published a total of 7 titles about the boarding school exploits of best friends Bruno and Boots. This month, I read them all:

This Can't Be Happening at MacDonald Hall! (1977)

Go Jump in the Pool! (1979)

Beware the Fish! (1980)

The War with Mr. Wizzle (1982)

The Zucchini Warriors (1988)

MacDonald Hall Goes Hollywood (1991)

Something Fishy at Macdonald Hall (1995)

The series stars best friends and roommates Bruno Walton and Melvin "Boots" O'Neal, who are known pranksters on the MacDonald Hall campus. Though the two boys often butt heads with their headmaster, the long-suffering yet fair-minded Mr. Sturgeon, whom they call "The Fish," they also have a fond affection for their school. The boys and their classmates also have many associations with students at Miss Scrimmage's Finishing School for Young Ladies, which is located across the road from MacDonald Hall, and whose high-strung Headmistress frequently overreacts to late-night visits from MacDonald Hall students by wildly wielding a shotgun.

Each book of the series focuses on a different major scheme involving Bruno and Boots. Sometimes, they seek to make a particular improvement to their school, such as a pool or a recreation center. Other times, they go to war with a particular teacher who is making their lives difficult, or with an outside force that threatens to close the school. In the final two books, they even befriend a Hollywood celebrity and uncover a phantom prankster.

What I love about these books is their sense of humor. Last spring, I attended a talk by two children's illustrators who insisted that the key to humor in children's books is underwear and toilet jokes. I found this to be a disappointing underestimation of what kids are capable of finding funny, but I was also hard-pressed to think of many examples of funny books, especially funny books targeted at boys, that could make kids laugh without resorting to crude humor. Thankfully, I have been reminded that this series fits that bill exactly. Perhaps because Korman started writing these when he was himself an adolescent, he completely

understands what middle school boys find funny, and he delivers it in every single book. Pranks, schemes, disasters, explosions, science experiments, sporting events - these are the backdrops for Korman's jokes, and most of the time, they are clever, respectful and well-executed. Even when the characters disobey their teachers, they often do so in the name of a noble cause that helps their school or their friends.

Also refreshing is the complete lack of serious dating in these books. There are some storylines involving long-distance and unrequited crushes, but none of the preoccupation with having exclusive girlfriends and boyfriends that seems prevalent in more contemporary books. The girls of Miss Scrimmage's (particularly Cathy and Diane) are not presented as potential romantic partners for Bruno, Boots, and their friends, but as partners in crime, good friends, and pranksters in their own right. All the female characters are actually very well-done, including Mrs. Sturgeon, the headmaster's wife, whose affection for Bruno and Boots often keeps her husband from acting rashly in his punishment of them.

Are the MacDonald Hall books great literature? Probably not. But neither are they to be completely dismissed as "fluff" or 'twaddle." For boys who like funny books, but whose parents would prefer not to promote toilet humor (or worse, crude jokes with a sexual basis), they are the perfect escapist read. Interestingly, these books have also recently been turned into a series of films, which are all available to stream on Netflix. I watched half of the first one, *Go Jump in the Pool!*, and noted some differences, mainly in the age of the characters (MacDonald Hall seems to be a high school in the movie world) and in the character of Miss Scrimmage (who is now a peace-loving hippie and not an unhinged woman with a shotgun), but overall, I didn't think it was terrible. I would definitely recommend reading the books first, but fans of the series will probably enjoy the film adaptations.

This review also appears on my blog, *Read-at-Home Mom*.

Alex Ristea says

Hm.

It was Bruno and Boots, so I enjoyed it, but it didn't have the same punch as the first book. These are already pretty predictable and formulaic books, but this one was even worse since it was a series of "fundraisers" for the school.

There is good kids' humour, and Gordon Korman tried (and failed) to find that wit in this book.

I'm sad to say that my childhood throwback is at an end—I would prefer that the adventures of these two friends remain a cherished memory than for me to continue reading and spoil the magic.

Natalie says

This was my favourite Gordon Korman book when I was growing up (which is saying something, because his Everest books almost convinced me to dedicate my life to becoming a mountain climber)! I loved it enough that I 'borrowed' a copy from my elementary school library and I just discovered that copy still mysteriously on my shelf! Even being in my twenties and having read the book a million times, I still laugh

until I cry at parts.

Humour, vivid and lovable characters, and a touching moral about sticking up for your friends and your school are all woven together in this brilliant middle grade book. Seriously, if you have a kid (or are a kid), I definitely recommend this series. In fact, even if you're an adult in the mood of some fun and childhood memories, I recommend it!

Manybooks says

After rereading the second novel of Gordon Korman's *MacDonald Hall* series, I do realise that while Go Jump in the Pool! is in many ways both as engaging and often as uproariously funny as This Can't be Happening at MacDonald Hall!, as the first novel of the series, I have never (both then and now) found Go Jump in the Pool! quite as much of a personal favourite (and that also holds true if I compare Go Jump in the Pool! with the third instalment of the *MacDonald Hall* series, with Beware the Fish!). For albeit I certainly do very much love love love how both Bruno and Boots (as well as many of their classmates and even the girls of Miss Scrimmage's Finishing School) tirelessly try to raise the necessary funds for a state of the art swimming pool for MacDonald Hall (with especially the fact that Miss Scrimmage's Cathy Burton gives her cheque for a three thousand dollar first place bake-off wining prize to Bruno and Boots, for the MacDonald Hall pool fund, really always melting my heart), that entire scenario of Bruno and Boots (and of course classmate and financial whiz kid George Wexford-Smyth III) speculating on the stock market and raising well over twenty thousand dollars has always both felt more than a bit overly exaggerated (as well as rather boring to and for financially not all that interested me), not to mention that as an older adult rereading Go Jump in the Pool!, that Bruno and Boots are able to achieve their goals, that they are able to raise the necessary money for their school pool by using what can only be considered as insider trading information on a mining stock (to speculate and play the stock market), that does actually make me feel a trifle uncomfortable, as it is portrayed as considerably and entirely too positive a situation (an acceptable way to achieve an end) by Gordon Korman, and I for one would not in any way want young readers to consider that using insider information for financial gain and the like is to be lauded, or a to be imitated business practice. Three stars for Go Jump in the Pool! (but rounded up to four stars, as even with my mild criticisms and personal issues regarding especially the stock market speculation scenario, Go Jump in the Pool! is still very much a fun and diverting Bruno and Boots adventure, an entertaining and engaging so-called school story). Therefore also highly recommended, but just like with ALL of especially the earlier *MacDonald Hall* novels, I for one do strongly recommend and suggest reading the not currently in print original versions from the late 70s and early 80s and to steer well clear of the recent and in print editions, as they have been strangely and for in my opinion no particular in any manner good reason updated with regard to in particular technology (and yes, just like I have already mentioned in my review for This Can't be Happening at MacDonald Hall!, it certainly does tend to feel quite strange and not particularly pleasant to read a late 1970s to early 1980s children's school novel that is painted with a not all that natural and realistic veneer of 21st century technology).

Kaylee says

Book two in the MacDonald Hall series. In my review of book one, I wrote that Korman is very good at pushing plausibility as far as it will go, without breaking it. I may have to rescind that. Book two had the same high quality writing for the first three-quarters of the book, but then the characters started doing a

bunch of illogical things. I was annoyed with that part, but overall the book was still a lot of fun and very much worth reading.

Jane says

I was stalled from finishing *Go Jump in the Pool!* because it unexpectedly hits my embarrassment squick and I had to put the book down for a bit. Obviously, I was able to move on.

Go Jump in the Pool! continues to be as lighthearted, funny, and sweet as set by previous and later books in the series. However, there's really nothing remarkable about this book that set it apart from the rest of the series.

Wealththeow says

Bad enough that their rival school keeps betting them in swim matches because MacDonald Hall has no pool, but now Bruno's parents are considering transferring him out of MacDonald Hall so he can train! Desperate to show up their rivals and keep their friendship together, Bruno and Boots come up with plan after plan to raise the \$25,000 required for MacDonald Hall to build a pool of their own. A rummage sale where they sell things back to their owners! A talent show in which a barn owl is summoned and egg literally ends up on the headmistress's face! Jelly bean contest wins! Eventually they succeed through the stock market, to everyone's surprise.

Just delightful. I think this was my favorite one back when I was reading these as a kid.

Susan says

Another fabulous Bruno & Boots book. Perhaps my very favourite last line of any book ever!
