



The War on Science Goes Batshit

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Timothy Thompson wants to do five things during his freshman year at Batshit High:

1. Make Megan Chow his girlfriend.
2. Save Mike, the school's star football player, from failing 9th grade and being kicked off the team.
3. Stop his best friend, Josh, from being jealous about Megan and Mike.
4. Keep religion in the form of intelligent design out of his science classes.
5. Not get killed.

How many of these will he be able to check off his list?

The War on Science Goes Batshit Details

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From Reader Review The War on Science Goes Batshit for online ebook

Liz says

You probably haven't heard of Batshit, IL. It was founded in 1879 by a Persian immigrant named Omar al-Baht-Shi'it. Us Americans being the way we are, Omar quickly became known as Omar "Batshit." The name stuck. One hundred and thirty years later, our story begins.

The novel focuses on the perilous Freshman year of local brainiac Timothy Thompson at Omar L. Batshit High School. Timothy is the son of a high-powered lawyer who frequently takes on controversial cases. On the first day of school, Timothy saunters off to enjoy one of his favorite classes, biology, and is startled to discover that the teacher, Mrs. Barker, has decided to forego evolution entirely. Instead, she will teach her students Intelligent Design, an alternate theory that proposes that life on Earth is too complex to have simply crawled from some primordial ooze, and must have developed under the direction of a higher being. Timothy reasons that since the higher being must be God, and that since teaching religion in public schools is frowned upon, this is obviously a heinous violation of the separation of church and state. Without another thought, he contacts his mother, who promptly issues the school a cease and desist order.

There is a mixture of reactions to this event. Timothy's friends, who are all science geeks who believe in evolution, immediately dismiss Intelligent Design (ID) as hokum. The Christians in the school think that since Timothy has denounced ID, he simply must be a Godless heathen and begin fervently praying for his soul. He also becomes the subject of bullying, pranks, and scorn. Despite this, Timothy and his circle of friends decide to sponsor a series of lectures on evolution, a decision that will lead to a dramatic, life-threatening climax.

I really have to commend the author on his choice of material. While a good number of YA books blither over love triangles and hormones, Woppert's novel instead tackles some pretty relevant material: separation of church and state, public school systems, etc. However, the author's stance on the material threatens to alienate some of its readers. As is the case with Jodi Picoult, who writes heavily biased, politically-charged fiction, the author trumpets the virtues of his beliefs, and then lumps all dissenters together as a troupe of ignorant fools. True, there are some exceptions in the story, but these seem few and far between. In the end, the story turns out to be not so much about its characters as the agenda it's trying to push on readers. It's one of those books that makes your blood pressure go up in unhealthy ways. It forces us to pick a side, and God help your blood pressure if you don't pick the "right" one. Overall, an interesting book, but not one to read if you prefer a nice, soothing story before bedtime. Recommended for Ages 16-18.

Kel says

I received this book for free via a Goodreads First Read giveaway.

This is one of those books that I *know* is well-written, imaginative, fresh, and thought-provoking but for some reason I just didn't enjoy reading it. I found it hard to find the motivation to keep reading.

However, I feel this may be a very individual response and not so much a short-coming of the book or

author. I recognised that I should like the main protagonist but I just don't. The story was interesting but I just didn't find it enjoyable.

Also, while I appreciate the stance the story has on Evolution and Intelligent Design I found it could be somewhat...strident?...at times. It felt like the author assumed that whoever read the book would hold the same views as him and so wasn't really concerned about the level of derision he put on other views/opinions/beliefs. To a great degree this was just a 'sense' I got from the way the story was written, certain words and/or phrase choices etc. So it's possible I may have read things in a different manner, perceived subtext, that wasn't actually intended by the author.

Overall, this is a well-written book and I feel that many people would enjoy reading it, it just wasn't for me.

Christie says

I was given this book in exchange of an honest review. After reading this book, I have had to really had to step away and think about what I just read. This book is going to be highly controversial. So here is my take on what I just read.

About the book:

"The War on Science Goes Batshit" is centered around a 14 year old boy, Timothy (Tim-Tom) Thompson. Timothy is a genius with an IQ of 170. Like all kids who are this smart, they are considered nerds and appear small in stature. He's always being picked on and bullied. Now that he's a freshman at Batshit High, he see's that this year is going to have so much potential. First, he has his best friend Josh, an amazing group of teachers (with the exception of the PE coach, Mr. Braun), a beautiful girl that he believes is girlfriend potential. Then what he believes will be his favorite teacher, Mrs. Barker, the Science teacher...AKA Ma Barker.

Everything is going fine, then he hits Ma Barker's class. Not long into the story, Barker starts teaching about Intelligent Design, ID. Instantly, Timothy contacts his mother, who is an attorney, on the issue. Next thing we know, there is a legal battle with the school. Not only does this cause issues with the school, but also in the personal lives of Timothy and his friends and family. There are death threats, bombs, attempted shooting, and strong friendships made.

My take on the book:

At first, I didn't think I was actually going to finish this book. For starters, I'm 41, not 14. I'm not really into ya books. Just because I believe, I'm too old and can't relate. However, if you actually knew me, I'm as immature as a 14 y/o kid. But I did find it hard to relate on some levels and some I didn't. We all know how mean kids can be. We all witnessed bullying at some extent in our lives as kids. Either the bully or the bullied.

The basis of this story is about the teaching of Intelligent Design vs evolution. I, being ignorant to the name Intelligent Design had to look it up. Apparently, I knew what it was, just not by that name. With this teacher not wanting to teach the regulated evolution theory, all hell breaks loose. What bothered me was how the author really stressed that evolution was to be the accepted means of creation. If you didn't believe in this theory, then you were a radical. Where this hit me was, I am a Christian, I do believe that God created this planet and us. BUT, I also do believe and accept science. This book does make you question what you believe in. Which in my opinion, is not a bad thing.

The other thing that bothered me was the reference to conservative Fox Broadcasting watching individuals. I am one of these folks. I'm very conservative in my thinking and ways of life. I also am accepting of a lot, but I don't go around pushing my views and beliefs on others. So, when I hear people slam us conservatives, I do get a little pissed. This is where I had huge issues with the authors views. But I also look at it as this, he wrote this story. It's his story, not mine. It's his views, so I need to do 1 of 2 things, continue reading or put it down. I decided to continue reading. I wanted to see how Timothy faired.

I don't forsee that this book will be in school libraries. This book is just way to conterversial. It's not a bad book at all, but it can be a book that ruffles many feathers. I love books like this. Books that piss people off and question who and what the believe is what makes this world what it is.

It's not my favorite book, but a great book. As I said, I don't see a lot of kids reading this, maybe more adults. But, HEY, I've been wrong in the past.

Jil says

I received this book via a Goodreads giveaway from the author. Thank you!

Reading 'The War on Science Goes Batshit' was so much fun, it is a steady paced book filled with humor but also with a good amount of information about evolution and Intelligent Design. And Timothy, the main protagonist, is such a likable character due to the way he sees the world and his thirst of knowledge. What a fun read!

Rachel says

Really good book. I thought it was well written and good for any young reader to read.

Peta says

I found this book well written and easy to read, and I was engaged in the unfolding of events. I'm left with mixed feeling though about certain aspects of the book and I can't help but wonder if the author had somewhat of an agenda as the book seemed to promote one side in the science vs religion argument, although that could be put down to the main character from who's perspective it's written. It is thought provoking either way.

Brian Stuy says

The premise of the book was very interesting -- a High School student goes up against his science teacher, who is determined to teach intelligent design (ID) to her class rather than evolution. While the science behind this YA novel is accurate and very informative, the story is filled with some very tired cliches and preposterous plot developments. Meigon, my High School daughter for whom this book was purchased, enjoyed it, so maybe the distractions I saw were not as apparent to her. I think it is a valuable read for any

scientifically-inclined junior high schooler, mainly to explain the motives behind the ID movement, and the science behind evolution.
