



The Return of the Great Brain

John D. Fitzgerald, Mercer Mayer (Illustrator)

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Tom Fitzgerald, alias The Great Brain, is back, struggling to stay reformed now that his friends have threatened to ostracize him if he pulls even one more swindle. But his brother J.D. knows Tom's reformation is too good to be true, and as a reformed Great Brain makes for a dull life, J.D. is not altogether unhappy--or blameless--when his brother's money-loving heart stealthily returns to business as usual. Under the watchful eyes of parents and friends, Tom has to be craftier than ever, and indeed he is. Whether he's cleverly pulling an out-and-out swindle so as not to be caught or solving a train robbery and murder, Tom's Great Brain never fails.

The Return of the Great Brain Details

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Author : John D. Fitzgerald , Mercer Mayer (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Return of the Great Brain for online ebook

Nathaniel says

i liked it

Rachel says

We love this series. Entertaining and funny.

Melanie says

Tom Fitzgerald makes it rich in the next installment of the Great Brain series. Though he's a self-proclaimed reformed conniver, he still manages to find a way to make money off his friends using semi-honest methods. But he puts his Great Brain to good use when it comes time to save the life of a friend, and he earns a dollar doing it.

Rena Sherwood says

Um, yeah.

So apparently Sherlock Holmes and Mark Twain somehow managed to have a bastard child named The Great Brain, or Tom as he's called here. He's young, he's smart, he loves profit more than a Ferenghi and he's thoroughly unlikable.

I suppose I should have read the previous books in the series before picking this one up, but life does not work like that sometimes.

And someone really should have told the illustrator that the kids in the story are about 10 and 12 and not 5 and 6. Good illustrations but had f-all to do with the text.

Sri says

Ngakak waktu baca soal Puppy Love. The Great Brain gagal total untuk melawan ajian pelet girl's giggling yang membuat temannya, Greg, menjadi gila. Nilai-nilai Greg hancur lebur dan teman-temannya prihatin. Mereka khawatir Greg akan menikah sebelum dia cukup dewasa untuk bercukur wkwkwk. Alkisah The Great Brain bersama adiknya yang malang, J.D., pergi malam-malam ngintip Greg & Sally pacaran untuk sekedar menggali informasi sehingga The Great bisa memahami persoalan dan segera menemukan solusi. Ternyata apa yang dilakukan pasangan yang tengah dimabuk cinta itu malam-malam berdua? Main game tanya jawab bersambung soal ibu kota wkwkwk. Demikian berbahayanya pelet cinta puppy love, sehingga The Great Brain sendiri tak sanggup memecahkan misterinya. Maka, berhati-hatilah kalian yang hampir berusia 13 wkwk.

Di buku ini juga diceritakan soal pembangunan sekolah baru sehingga Tom tidak harus bersekolah di Salt Lake City. Lalu Tom bahagia karena mendapat hadiah atas usahanya memecahkan misteri perampokan di kereta api. Kemudian Tom memenangkan seekor keledai karena berhasil menjinakkannya. Tom juga berhasil menghibur anak-anak (laki-laki!), beberapa anak perempuan, serta beberapa orang dewasa dengan menjadi tukang sulap. Tom membuka casini (pertamina - pertamini, casino - casini wahahaha #kriuk). Dan tak lengkap rasanya jika tidak ada satu bab khusus tentang kepahlawanan Tom menyelamatkan nyawa temannya. Ya, Tom kembali menyelamatkan nyawa (dan uang taruhannya).

Scott says

Read this to my son. This is one of my all time favorites and I've been reading and re-reading this for over 30 years. Great great book.

Another re-read, another great time.

This one follows the Great Brain as he has supposedly reformed from his conniving ways.
Good stuff.

Lili Rucker says

It was great

Jon Cox says

The Great Brain books remind me of my childhood. This trip down memory lane was great, and not just for nostalgia. I realized as I read the book that the writing is very impressive. It is clear, simple, interesting, and sounds like it's coming from a ten year old, which is of course what it is supposed to sound like. There are some great stories, and the pacing is good too. Another thing that makes this series good is the theme of people from many different religions all living together, interacting, and cooperating well (for the most part). It's a contemporary message, and it's unfortunate that kids these days don't know about this series. Hopefully there will be a rediscovery. I hope my kids will read them, and maybe even try to swindle me a time or two.

Jack Cheng says

This entry into the series has the same sorts of antics as previous books but doesn't add to the larger character development that reached a climax in *The Great Brain Reforms*.

Since the Great Brain's trial, J.D. is no longer naively worshiping his brother. In fact, he's suspicious and cynical, which is understandable but takes away a lot of the charm of the narrator's voice.

Michael Emond says

I love this series. This series is (to me) the best children's series ever written. It is smart, engaging, all has basis in reality, teaches children about the world (and the world of 1900), has good lessons, and is, above all, fun. I loved them as a child and I am loving reading them to my children now. Even at book #6 Fitzgerald has not run out of ideas. The premise for this book is that (in the last book) the Great Brain Tom had to promise to reform because his swindles and schemes almost cost the lives of two boys so now Tom has to work his magic without them being seen as swindles. We get magic shows, we get him taming a donkey, we get him solving a train robbery, we get him saving a friend from a cliff, we get chapter after chapter of good solid storytelling. The only chapter that fell flat was the great brain being stumped by how to rescue his friend from falling in love with a girl. It is a mystery that poor 12 year old Tom cannot piece together. A little clunky but still cute. What I also love about these stories is Tom is both the hero and villain. In other words, he is two dimensional. He has a heart but also a money loving heart. All in all, another wonderful book in the best children's series ever. No fantasy, no sci fi, just good solid story telling of a brother who was very smart and couldn't help but show it off.

Jill says

Such a pity there are only two of these left for me to read. I love them the way I loved *Encyclopedia Brown* when I was little. Everyone is first-rate! This one has a bit more danger in it. Such a fun read!

Elizabeth says

Six books in, the Great Brain series is starting to wear a little thin. Even Fitzgerald seems to be struggling, as *The Return of the Great Brain* is a little lackluster and repetitive. We have the same Tom shenanigans, the same J.D. who constantly is getting guilt-tripped by Tom and is easily tricked by him, and even some of the same sort of non-swindling events that have happened in previous books.

I will say, it was nice to see that for the most part, Tom actually does things that aren't necessarily considered swindles. The threat from the last book of the kids refusing to talk to him is still very real. He makes lots of money, sure, but he does it honestly—minus one or two things he does that are a bit eyebrow-raising. It's a good reminder that Tom is actually quite smart and could be very successful if he can stop conning people into giving him things.

Besides Tom's swindles/half-swindles/games, there are a few other things that happen that once again serve as a vehicle to show off Tom's intelligence. He helps start a school, thwart a train robbery, and saves a boy's life. Fitzgerald does include one amusing incident that neither Tom nor any of the other boys can solve or understand: romance.

I liked the glimpse of "honest Tom" that we got in The Return of the Great Brain, but the formula is starting to get too repetitive and boring for me. I like that Fitzgerald is able to come up with new things every book, but he also reuses a lot of things, such as J.D.'s gullibility, and is pretty repetitive in terms of writing. I'm glad there are only two books left, because I don't want to get as tired of this series as I did another repetitive series (Redwall).

Heather Culley says

Just a lousy kid.

Dean Anderson says

I love the series through book five, "The Great Brain Reforms" which was a suitable conclusion. This should not have been.

Matt456789 says

These are children's/teen books, describing the antics and shenanigans of a group of brothers growing up in Utah in the 1800s. Although that may not seem very interesting, these are probably the best written and most entertaining books of the children/teen adventure genre. I highly recommend all the Great Brain books.
