



Icecore

Matt Whyman

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He's a seventeen-year-old British computer hacker who penetrated the security systems at Fort Knox for a laugh. But the American government was less than amused. Since his prank, gold bars have been landing in the hands of terrorists across the globe. Now, Carl has found himself in a military prison deep in the Arctic and far off the grid. He's been caged alongside the world's most notorious terrorists, with no one to trust and no end in sight. Carl Hobbes may not be a criminal mastermind, but if he wants to escape this subzero prison with his life, he'll have to start thinking like one.

Icecore Details

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Author : Matt Whyman

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From Reader Review Icecore for online ebook

Ryan Sp says

Icecore by Matt Whyman is an action packed thriller that does not have a dull moment in it. Icecore is about a seventeen year old computer hacker named Carl Hobbes that hacked into Fort Knox for fun. Even though he did it for fun, the US government did not think he did it for fun and are taking this very seriously. He was taken along with the worlds most famous criminals to Icecore, a secret detention center deep in the arctic circle. They told him he was only there for questioning but after a couple of days, he knew that it was not going to be easy to get himself out of this one.

If you are a student that would love to read a action packed spy type book. This is the book you are going to want to read next. This book is much like The Sleeper Code series because of the action, hacking and mystery. At times, this book gets hard to follow, toward the middle, when Carl is being questioned, it was a struggle for me to know who was talking.

"Consulting the transcript now, Arty Dougal finds a section midway down the page. "On January nineteenth, at 0203 GTM, Chimera writes: 'I've been looking into the Fort Knox job, and I've had a change of heart. It's too crazy for words. You might as well be stepping into a mouse trap. Even sniffing at that setup is going to bring them slamming down on you. I'm sorry, pal. I shouldn't have suggested it.'" I glare at Arty. "And Chimera was right to be so cautious," I suggest. "So why didn't you take the advice?" Stagger is the only one to remain quite calm, which serves to remind me that I really should do likewise."

This passage from page 128 in Icecore may not seem confusing to you but when you are reading the book and so much is happening at the same time, it gets very hard to follow. This book has constant action which most readers love, but in this book, the author goes to fast and gives out information you need to know constantly. He should slow things down and give the reader some time to think.

This was the first book I ever read that was by Matt Whyman. So far, I think he is an okay writer. There are things he needs to work on but there also thinks that he is really good at like getting the author to understand the big picture, which is don't get yourself into something you can't get yourself out of. I feel that this is the big picture for many reasons. When Carl is getting questioned, they brought up how another computer hacker looked into hacking Fort Knox and this computer hacker said, "I've been looking into the Fort Knox job, and I've had a change of heart. It's too crazy for words. You might as well be stepping into a mouse trap. Even sniffing at that setup is gonna bring them slamming down on you. I'm sorry, pal I shouldn't have suggested it." (Pg. 128) Also, when he was on the plane flying for hours and hours flying farther into the middle of nowhere, he knew that it was not going to be easy to get himself out of this one.

One of the main things I liked about this book is that there was never a boring part. Besides that, there were a lot of things that I did not like. therefore I am rating this book a three. This is the lowest rating i have ever gave a book I read. this book just did not give me the excitement of other book I have read. Even though I did not like this book. I am going to continue the series and read Goldstrike, the next book in the series because it is supposed to be a lot better than Icecore.

Zach Hibbard says

The novel IceCore starts with the main character Carl Hobbes, being taken prisoner by two men claiming to be working for the US government. From here Carl is flown to a secret prison somewhere near the north pole. Here Carl comes into contact with some of the most dangerous people in the world, as well as a very out of place young woman. Carl is interrogated by officials from the American government who tell him why he has been taken to the prison, his crime was opening the door to the gold vault at Fort Knox, and some gold bars have gone missing. Carl claims he was just trying to see if Fort Knox was impossible to break into. After Carl is told that he may be able to return home sooner than expected, tragedy strikes. A group of prisoner and guards overpower the loyal guards and take total control of the prison. Carl must find a way to fight back, in order to prevent some of the world's most dangerous men from escaping.

Overall, I enjoyed reading IceCore. When I first started reading IceCore I thought that it would just be another young adult novel, like so many other books these days. However, as I started to read the novel more I started to very much enjoy it. One of the aspects of the book that I enjoyed was how the main character was not some super-human who could do whatever they wanted instead, Carl is just some college aged guy who is good with computers. Another reason that I enjoyed IceCore is how the book shows the guards. When the book starts to discuss the guards at the prison, it makes sure to show that the guards are just normal people, trying to support their families. The last reason that I enjoyed this book is how original it is, I have never read another book like it in my whole life.

I would most definitely recommend this book to another person. However, this book was not very hard to read, and as a result of this, I would recommend that this book be read by those in 7th-8th grade. I believe that those around the ages of 12-13 would enjoy this book as it is an action book with some small spy elements. I remember when I was in 7th grade, books similar to IceCore applied to me the most. The book is not a very hard read, but it is very engaging and you never lose track of what is happening in the book. Overall, I would very much recommend this book, to a younger audience.

Dylan Woodward says

The book Icecore by Matt Whyman is a fictional thriller. It is centered around Carl Hobbes, a British young adult, who is a bit too enthusiastic about hacking. His hacking hobby leads him to hacking into Fort Knox, causing a lot of gold to go missing, (though none of it stolen by him). This results in the US Government finding and detaining him; he is forced into a type of Arctic Guantanamo Bay. After being interrogated and not believed, he comes to the conclusion that he must plot and scheme with other criminals. Driven by survival, Carl begins to commit actions he didn't know he was capable of.

I found this book to be a fun read, but not much else. At times the book felt a little cliché and forced, but all things considered, this wasn't a bad book. Especially when considering that this book was for a school assignment. The characters are, as previously mentioned, a bit cliché, but not so much to the point where they ruin the book. I wouldn't ever give this a second read, but I'm not unhappy I had to read the book. (If that makes any sense at all.) The climax is pretty intense, making up for the other faults I found with the book.

I wouldn't really recommend this book. The writing wasn't really that good, and the book had many other disappointments. I really can only think of one appropriate occasion to recommend this book. I would only recommend this book to a bored young reader who had already read all the other young adult novels I feel are better than Icecore. I would recommend Icecore in that situation, mainly because the book is just fun. If you're looking for a cute book to read over a long weekend or vacation, then check out this book.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Grandma Bev for TeensReadToo.com

Fort Knox has been robbed. The American government is determined to track down the thieves, and the trail leads straight to Carl Hobbes. He is just an ordinary seventeen-year-old British computer whiz who is only guilty of being a little too curious, but the feds are sure that he is part of a conspiracy that has breached the security at Fort Knox, and they want to know just where the gold is that has been stolen.

Carl is taken into custody and whisked off to the Guantanamo Bay of the Arctic to be caged alongside the world's most notorious terrorists. There they try to wring the truth out of him with physical and mental torture. Carl is not sure who is the most dangerous...his captors, or his fellow inmates. What he does know is that he must make them believe him...he knows nothing about the stolen gold or the break-in. How could he? He's just a kid, right?

Clearing his name, escape, and survival are the top things on his mind, but the only thing less compatible with survival than his treatment is the landscape outside. They tell him that when the shivering stops, that's when you should start to worry. It's your body's way of signaling that it's lost the battle to keep your blood warm. But by then you'll be too weak to retrace your steps. Chances are you'll be so confused and disoriented that you won't even recall what it was you were fleeing in the first place. All you'll want to do is lie down in the snow and close your eyes.

ICECORE is filled with hair-raising action and the fear is real. You won't be able to forget the compelling characters in this story where the suspense builds relentlessly to a crashing, unexpected climax. I'll be looking for more from this exceptional author. Wow! I still have goosebumps.

Matt F says

The book Icecore by Matt Whyman is a story about an innocent teenager Carl Hobbs who is a British college student, and who is thrown into a high security detention center with some of the worlds most maniacal and deadly criminals. What started out, as a harmless dare to infiltrate the advanced security system at Fort Knocks became the largest breach of security in the history of Fort Knox. As soon as Carl Hobbs hacked into the Fort Knox security system, gold bars began to go missing and ended up in the hands of some of the world's worst terrorists. Carl Hobbes is picked up by police and given two options. Option one is to fly to the United States of America and teach the American authorities how he got through the security system. Option two is the police will wait until he turns 18 in a few months and then send him to a detention prison for a very long time. Like any person would, Carl ops for option one. As soon as he steps onto the plane to take him to America he realizes something is wrong. There are about 10 people on the plane that was meant to take him to America. He is then told that he will be taken to a mutual location for the information to be extracted out of him. Instead of this nice deal, Carl ends up in the Icecore prison, which is a frozen detention center in the Arctic Circle. However, after arriving in this place Carl quickly realizes that he may have been set up. The guards abuse the inmates, the inmates are kept in cages, and there are vicious dogs waiting to tear them apart if they make a false move. As Carl begins to realize his dire situation, an unexpected event occurs in which he begins to worry more about his survival more than his freedom. He is eventually forced to give up his life and his family so that he may survive.

This is a very well written spy novel. The beginning of the book is a lot about introductions and does not catch the reader. The middle and ending however are worth the boring beginning. After this book gets past introducing and setting up the background it instantly becomes a page-turner. The plot picks up and it then becomes a fantastic book. This book could be compared to *The Millionaires* by Brad Meltzer. In the millionaires a similar plot occurs. The main characters in *The Millionaires*, Oliver and Charlie Caruso, both commit a crime thinking that nothing will happen. They steal what they think is three million dollars but it ends up being 300 million dollars. After they steal the money the authorities and many other people come after them. One of their friends even gets murdered. They thought they were getting into one thing and then they got into a completely other thing. In *Icecore* Carl Hobbs thinks that his breaking into the security system at Fort Knox is nothing, that it will not affect anyone. However, after he breaks in, gold starts appearing in terrorist's hands and he is in an unknown prison in the Arctic Circle with the world's worst criminals. Even though the two themes are different the base plot is there. The two books both start with one outcome and end with a completely different and radical outcome. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mystery novels or spy novels.

Savannah says

Well done and I think most of the kids it's aimed at will like it's unabashed hacker who only meant to test the security of a computer system and who ended up involved in a whole 'nother order of trouble. It's violent, providing a thought-provoking picture of the victim who is trying to cooperate and still gets abused. I think the resolution is a little childish and any teen used to adult thrillers in movies or tv will probably find it simplistic, albeit clever. Still, a great book for readers too young to want an adult political thriller while still bringing up some serious issues about crime and culpability.

Laura says

Carl Hobbes knew what he was doing was risky, but he honestly didn't mean for anything untoward to happen when he opened the doors to the largest gold bullion repository for kicks. That's right, 17 year old computer hacker Hobbes got bored and infiltrated Fort Knox on an unprecedented scale. What he didn't do was work in cahoots with those who robbed it while he created the window.

His boredom project has landed him in so seriously deep water that he's treading fairly well, at first. That is until the "American government" decides to release him, after he takes a weekend trip to an undisclosed location where he will tell all. It sounds like the ray of sunshine that Hobbes was holding out for, but he is sorely mistaken.

Flown to Icecore, a detainment camp for some of the worst kinds of terrorists settled in the Arctic Circle, Hobbes must now wade his way through the other detainees, confusing special agents, demanding military higher-ups, and a girl with the most gorgeous eyes. Too soon does it come to Hobbes that they have intention of releasing him and the other detainees are just as determined to get out.

This was a great thriller! I think *Publisher's Weekly* did a spot-on job labeling this a "techno-thriller" with hints of Robert Ludlum's Jason Bourne series. That's not to say that Hobbes is anything like Bourne, but there is definitely some cross-over. I was a little apprehensive to dive into this book because I was afraid that

the techno-jargon would be too much for me. Fortunately Whyman has a deft hand when it comes to how much detail is needed to be authentic and convincing without overwhelming the reader.

Most of the events in the book took me by surprise. There is so much going on around Hobbes that, looking back now, I can see the small clues, but on the first read-through I completely missed them. What works best for this book and the plot is the short time frame. The majority of action takes place over approximately 3 days. That being said, there is very little down time and it only added to the awesomeness.

This is a great book for guys, but works just as well for gals. Another strength of Whyman's is challenging your preconceived notion of what kind of a person behaves a certain way. The reader doesn't end up caring about the gender of the character taking the action, but they can more fully appreciate the action itself. A hard task to master.

Danielle says

Definitely a book geared toward teenage boys. But that is what I get for picking up a YA story.

In general the first part of the book was infinitely more interesting for me than the second. Setting up the scene, the inmates and the compound was very exciting and descriptive, but not too over the top. The mind games Carl plays with himself and the others is fascinating as well, and makes me wonder what I would have done in his situation. The plot twists and hidden secrets were quite unexpected to me as well, and I had no idea where this was going to go until the end. Then things became a little unrealistic.

On the down side the second half is simply one action after another, no more character development at all. It reminded me of car chases in movies, where there is a lot of action simply for the sake of wanting to make things crash and explode on screen.

I don't believe I will be reading any more of the Carl Hobbes adventures, but that doesn't mean I don't recommend it. Simply said I think if you are not a teenage boy or don't like action sequences then don't pick it up. Otherwise, enjoy.

Carolyn says

Carl Hobbes has done the impossible: He penetrated the security system of Fort Knox and opened the doors to the gold vault without even leaving his hometown in England. The display of his hacking skills, undertaken only out of interest and to gain recognition in the hacker community, has not gone unnoticed by the authorities and unexpectedly Hobbes is whisked away by the American military for questioning.

Suddenly, he finds himself in a top-secret military prison camp in the arctic ice with known and dangerous terrorists as cellmates. If he wants to get out, quickly and alive, he might have to start to think like the criminal they think he is. Unfortunately, his fellow prisoners have plans of their own.

The novel can be divided into three parts: Hobbes arrest and arrival in the camp, the period of investigation in the camp and finally, the part where all hell breaks loose.

Part one and two form a cohesive unit. They focus on Hobbes' reactions and fill in the blanks about what actually happened. The narrative moves slowly but the attention to detail makes every page interesting and necessary. As a reader you become very invested in the characters. You hope against hope with Hobbes, share his powerlessness and outrage, but also sympathize with some of the military personnel and other prisoners. You want to know what will happen to Hobbes, but then part three hits and it is a completely different novel. *Inside the Cage* changes abruptly from character study to action thriller. The story that is

now being told is also very gripping, but there is a feeling of disconnect, that is only heightened by Carl Hobbes' final decision, which I would have never expected based on the first parts of the novel. I finished this novel in a certain state of confusion. I liked it but I didn't really know why.

Inside the Cage is told by first-person narrator Carl Hobbes, an ordinary 17-year-old university student - albeit one with a talent for hacking high-profile security systems. He never intended anything but to show off his skills and is therefore completely out of his depths when he is suddenly thrown in the midst of a terrorist investigation. The novel shows in detail how Hobbes deals with the developments. Shell-shocked and completely overwhelmed he has to adapt quickly to his new surroundings, trying to discern between good and evil, learning that he can trust no one and discovering that he is capable of more than he initially thought. It is this character study that lends impact and strength to the novel. Other highpoints are the detailed descriptions of how hacking works and I also appreciated the contemporary commentary the novel provides. If it wasn't for the complete change of tone half way through I would have rated this novel at five stars, but due to the confusion and lack of consistency I can only give it three stars.

Ally says

There's a few words that can correctly describe this book. And some of them are negative words while others are more positive and neutral. These words: Yawn, groan, boring, okay, yay-it's-over, whatever, bah. If you noticed, some of these words aren't exactly the describing type (adjectives, remember them?). There more describe what was I doing while I was reading Icecore. (But they also describe the books, because they are hints. Get it? No. Alright, then.)

Icecore is very interesting at first. In the beginning, it is so intriguing and mystifying. I wanted to know more and see more of the plot. How will Carl Hobbes escape? How will Carl Hobbes find a way out of the Arctic prison? How did Carl Hobbes hack Fort Knox, the treasury that is considered the most secured and safest in the entire world? The one where they keep The Declaration of Independence? (I hope I got this right, because it would be embarrassing if I didn't)

The plot moves slowly in the beginning. I spend most of the time skimming through the pages. Ya, ya, ya. Carl's complaining about this. Carl's getting beat up. Carl acts like a scared girl. Carl is going to die. Blah, blah, blah. Not very entertaining, for one point. Boring, for the second point.

Then, there's the ending. *Sign* I'm definitely not reading the next book, whatever the second book is good or not. I don't care. Once screwed, always screwed. I don't always believe in second impressions. Books are like a job interview. We're the interviewers. And the books and authors, well, they are on the other side of the table. Anyway, I really hate the ending. Maybe because of what a certain character has done, but mostly at the ending. Mostly the ending.

Rating: One out of Five (yeah, I've been giving a lot of these.)

-ofpaperandwords.blogspot.com

Amy Courtney says

Young adult novel about a teenage hacker who successfully hacks into Fort Knox, landing him in a ultra-

secure government facility in an unknown arctic location. Ultimately, he must break out to save himself and his country from a group of terrorists.

Overall, the book was mediocre. The plotline was lacking- it just wasn't well developed, so it wasn't believable. Worse, the main character just wasn't that inspiring or likeable. Sure, he hacks into Fort Knox- but not with any super cool computer skills. He breaks in by basically prank calling Fort Knox. Then after this feat, when he is breaking out of the government facility, he doesn't have any skills at all to make this happen- he sort of lucks in to the break out. The reader is left feeling like "Huh- I could have done that"- not a very compelling thought when one is reading what is supposed to be some combination of sci-fi, fantasy, and thriller. Pretty lackluster read, and no great addition to the YA genre.

CharlotteThe1337 says

Ending was kind of hard to follow- that may be because I read it late at night. Will give it the benefit of the doubt- 5 star story, very very good. Recommend this to your friends, y'all

Yasmine Fairchild says

There are 3 parts to this book; the dull part, the cool part, and the totally messed up part (i would use the "f" word for that last part but I know one of my school teachers is going to be reading this so I'm gonna try to keep my language appropriate)! The first, the dull part, is the beginning of the book and in my opinion it wasn't as...entertaining as the rest of the book. Maybe it's just my teenage hormones talking but I think the beginning was just lacking something. Now the second part of ICECORE is where things start to heat up. All during the middle of this book, while I was reading, I would have reactions to the plot such as "oh man, they're not playing around. They really mean business!" or "Dude I feel really sorry for you because that sounded like it really hurt." or "Darnit you stupid military man why don't you believe him, he's telling the truth!", because the plot was just that awesome. The totally messed up part was the ending of the book and it was just shocking. It was like a guy whose about to die (from a sickness), while running a marathon and being chased at gun point by a serial killer. And you're just thinking or screaming to yourself "oh my gosh! oh my gosh! oh my gosh! what's going to happen? is he going to make it? i dont know, oh my gosh!". And even when you finish ICECORE you still don't know what happens in the end because...this book has a sequel (which I hope to eventually read)! I'm not kidding. All I want to do is run to the nearest library (which is about half a mile from my house) check out the book (or if the library is closed I am going to "barrow" the book" run back home and do nothing but read the book for the entire weekend. That's how good this book is! I am willing to run a mile for this book and I don't run miles for just any book. I only run miles for books if they give me immortality, made of frick'in silver and gold or just plain awesome! My point is, if you haven't read this book I think you should give it a chance and read ICECORE by Matt Whyman because it's just that epicly awesome!

Nelline says

Slecht geschreven/vertaald... er missen veel details, er gebeuren dingen die niet beschreven zijn, maar waarvan je wel weet dat het gebeurt moet zijn. en op de achterkant staat ongeveer alles wat in het boek gebeurt, dus je ziet alles aankomen. Verder is het wel een goed verhaal en leuk om te lezen.

Claire says

There was little to no action until I was around 85% into the book, the main character randomly cared about someone simply because she was young and female and in the cage across from him, the writing was simply lame, and the book was mostly unenjoyable.
