



# The Recruit

*Robert Muchamore*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Recruit

*Robert Muchamore*

## **The Recruit** Robert Muchamore

CHERUB agents are highly trained, extremely talented--and all under the age of seventeen. For official purposes, these agents do not exist. They are sent out on missions to spy on terrorists, hack into crucial documents, and gather intel on global threats—all without gadgets or weapons. It is an exceptionally dangerous job, but these agents have one crucial advantage: adults never suspect that teens are spying on them.

James is the latest CHERUB recruit. He's a bit of a troublemaker, but he's also brilliant. And CHERUB needs him. James has no idea what to expect, but he's out of options. Before he can start in the field he must first survive one hundred grueling days of basic training, where even the toughest recruits don't make it to the end.

## **The Recruit Details**

Date : Published August 30th 2005 by Simon Pulse (first published April 2nd 2004)

ISBN : 9780689877797

Author : Robert Muchamore

Format : Paperback 342 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Adventure, Fiction, Action

 [Download The Recruit ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Recruit ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Recruit Robert Muchamore**

---

## From Reader Review The Recruit for online ebook

### Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

I read this back in high-school. In fact, I read the first three books as the author was coming in to do an after school talk. So it's with a feeling of nostalgia that I sit down to re-read this almost ten years on. Wow, I'm old.

---

### Gaurav says

Who wanted to go to Hogwarts or become a wizard after reading the Harry Potter series, or go to camp Half-Blood after reading the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series? Well the The Recruit by Robert Muchamore will leave you wanting to be a spy at CHERUB. The series is in third person but is centered around James Choke/Adams a teenager in England. You're going to want to use all the technology they use, be friends with all the students at CHERUB and take part in all the adventures. Most of the books in the 12 book series are over 350 pages and Robert Muchamore recently came out with a new series, CHERUB 2.0 which is about 10 years later. These are quality books that will leave you hooked during these holidays!

ANY QUESTIONS?

---

### Keith (CHINNY) Chinn says

It was ok. I was annoyed we are back to the Orphan thing. Like Harry Potter, Tom Swayer, Alex Rider, Annie, Magical Misfits, Young James Bond. Get over that fact and it's a good book to start off a series, I will read more. Maybe not as good as the Alex Rider or the Jason Steed series, but it looks like they have about 10 books in the series.

---

### claire elise says

Don't get me wrong- the story was good. Plot kept me interested and everything.. I think the greatest issue was I was the wrong audience.

Things I didn't like~

1. The kid was 11. Actually, except for like two other minor characters, everyone was under the age of 12-13. And if that isn't enough, they're way more worldly than preteens. They're cursing, drinking, smoking, fighting, partying, and overall way too mature in adult situations to be taken seriously as little kids.
2. The actual mission didn't start till after about 3/4s the book was over. And it was very anticlimactic. James doesn't do any fighting other than a few squabbles with some other unexperienced 11 year olds. It almost felt like the mission was background because the author was too focused on small character interactions.
3. It wasn't gripping or scary... we barely knew the bad guys. I like stories with detail. With the twists and turns that have you on the edge of your seat. This wasn't the case at all. There wasn't any guessing or

suspects or covert stakeouts with close calls. James did practically nothing and it all sort of fell in his lap.

This book seems like its aimed at like 4th grade boys.

---

## **Lola says**

### **SCHOOL FOR SPIES!**

Pretty awesome, right? I thought so, too, when I first read the blurb. It deeply befuddled me to see the low amount of readership it had, if we compare to the Alex Rider or even The Gallagher Girls series one, but oh well, we can't make sense of every single thing.

But now I see why or, at least, have a good theory. This is a good story and it exploits a very good concept. The fact that the level of experience is determined by t-shirt colors makes the school seem even more special. Also, the classes there look fairly engrossing... if only we got to attend a few of them. I remember in The Gallagher Girls series the settings would often be the classes themselves, but not in this.

James feels lucky of having integrated the CHERUB secret system, but his mind is often on other things. Everywhere he goes, he gets in trouble by acting recklessly. It becomes SO annoying after a while. Alex Rider isn't like that! Following James' adventures felt ordinary. The characters around him themselves are not ones worth of getting attached too, except for the cool headmaster we barely see.

The mission honestly bored me. Everything before that kept me relatively interested because it was building to something (and that is why I will keep on reading the series) but the undercover operation seriously lacked the suspense we feel when reading an Alex Rider or Gallagher Girls one. I'm just hoping the author realized that, too, and wrote the sequels with a considerable dose of that.

I'm not surprised I liked it, seeing that spies can never actually be 'boring' but I'm radically disappointed in the action.

---

## **Kate says**

Hard to put down this one! I wish James would grow up. I really like Lauren but she can be a bit annoying

---

## **Adam says**

I decided to read this book because a lot of the people in my class had suggested it for their book speech. I thought it was a genre I liked and had a good plot, so I started reading the book.

Something I like in the story is the humor they put into it, such as when Mr Large set the kids their last test within the hundred days. The test was to put their hands in a bucket with a poisonous jellyfish and to not put their hands in the antidote for a certain amount of time. The test turned out to be a joke planned by Mr large which put James in a state.

Something I learnt throughout the story was that being attentive could come in handy, this was because when James was in his Russian class, he had to pay attention because all that knowledge would come in handy for reading the instructions that were only in the language that they learnt. They would have to use their knowledge of the language they were learning or else if they didn't know then they wouldn't be able to pass basic training.

A character I like in the story was the main character, James. I liked him because he would always push himself further to make his future a success and for the people around him. Another character I liked was Bruce, I liked him because at points his thoughts were so stupid it was funny and I like that a kid of his age had put so much work into something to perfect it which

---

## Tigerbritt says

This book is about a child named James Adams who's mother has just died. When his little sister got sent to live with her father, Uncle Ron, James had to move to the Nebraska House. James meets a boy named Kyle. But a while after James came to the Nebraska House, they sent him and Kyle to Cherub. It turned out that Kyle was already a part of Cherub. Cherub is a organization in the UK that takes kids and turns them into agents. They send them on top secret missions that M15 or the police don't know about. There are different shirt colors for your rank at Cherub. Orange is guest, Red is before training, Blue is for training, Grey is for completing training, Navy is for doing a good job on missions and Black is for doing an excellent job on many missions. After James completed his 100 day training, he got sent on a mission with his swimming teacher, Amy to go into a place called Fort Harmony and find out about some terrorist related activities. After they nailed all of them except for one, James and Amy went back to Cherub. When they got back, James got his Navy Shirt and Kyle got his after. Kyle was jealous that James got his Navy Shirt before him. I liked reading this book because it was very exciting. I don't recommend this book to younger readers.

---

## Mistry says

[wrote in Portuguese]

Opinião no *The Mystery's Garden*: Opinião | O Recruta, de Robert Muchamore

Há já algum tempo que tinha a intenção de ler *O Recruta*, de Robert Muchamore, autor da afamada série CHERUB. Esta coleção foi uma grande aposta da Porto Editora e recebeu críticas positivas tanto de jovens como de adultos. O maior elogio é comum a muitos dos leitores: tal como *Harry Potter* (embora só comparável a uma escala muito mais reduzida), conseguiu inserir o gosto pela leitura em milhares de adolescentes e pré-adolescentes. As aventuras de James na CHERUB tornaram-se num sucesso tão grande que Muchamore decidiu escrever mais duas séries: *Aramov*, protagonizada por um novo agente, Ryan, e *Henderson's Boys*, sobre as origens da CHERUB. A coleção foi-me também recomendada por uma amiga próxima, pelo que o meu caminho iria inevitavelmente cruzar-se com este livro e inevitavelmente acabaria por o ler. Já tinha dado de caras com um exemplar numa papelaria há já imenso tempo e tinha ficado completamente viciada em poucas páginas, contudo, nunca retomara a leitura. Decidi finalmente partir para a descoberta de um novo mundo de ação e aventura.

Mas afinal o que é a CHERUB?

A CHERUB é uma agência secreta que existe somente na imaginação do autor, pelo que os acontecimentos e

cenários narrados nos livros da coleção não são reais. Ligada ao MI5, serviço de segurança britânico, a CHERUB tem o seguinte propósito: treinar crianças com menos de 17 anos para se tornar espões em missões relacionadas com terrorismo, tráfico de droga, entre outras. O propósito de usar crianças é que os adultos não suspeitam que as mesmas se encontram a espia-los, tornando-as valiosas no recolher de informações importantes. A ideia de se tornarem espões entusiasmou muitas crianças, que puderam, através deste livro, pôr-se na pele de James.

James Choke é um rapaz de onze anos, perto dos doze, com uma personalidade bastante difícil: detesta a escola, está sempre a meter-se em problemas e em lutas e tem bastantes conflitos morais consigo mesmo. Em contrapartida, é brilhante a Matemática. Uma série de acontecimentos levarão a que os seus caminhos se cruzem com a CHERUB, tornando-se um dos mais recentes recrutas da agência. Para se tornar um agente, James irá passar por 100 dias difíceis de treinos que o irão levar à exaustão física e psicológica.

A ideia por detrás do livro deixava-me bastante curiosa, pois não sabia como iria ser explorada. Ao contrário de muitos livros de premissas fascinantes que acabam por se perder ao serem mal contadas ou mal aproveitadas, o mundo de CHERUB está construído de uma maneira lógica e elimina-nos logo quaisquer receios de que haja algo de menos credível, como rapazes de 12 anos a derrotar 5 adultos numa luta ou a fazer o impossível em missões que só acontecem nos filmes de espões. Tratando-se de crianças, há certas precauções a tomar e certos valores morais a defender e foi com grande surpresa e agrado que descobri que CHERUB respeitava todas essas regras.

No entanto, não nos podemos esquecer que os protagonistas da história são adolescentes a viver os seus dramas pessoais, aventuras e desventuras. Ser um agente secreto aos 12 anos exige maturidade, responsabilidade, inteligência e bons reflexos. E certas atitudes mais infantis não excluem estas características, pois todos os adolescentes têm os seus momentos, contudo, muitos também são capazes de revelar maturidade nas alturas necessárias. Crianças e adolescentes deixam-se envolver emocionalmente mais facilmente em missões, tomam certas decisões mais parvas e é bom que os escolhidos tenham bem a noção da importância da sua tarefa. Sendo que este livro não é somente composto por cenas de ação e espionagem, mas também de momentos normais na vida de um adolescente, houveram certas coisas que me desagradaram bastante. Para mim, há uma grande diferença entre *YA's (Young Adult's)* e juvenis, e este livro, para mim, é um juvenil e eles sempre me desagradaram, principalmente pelos diálogos que considero serem tentativas falhadas dos autores para se aproximarem dos leitores, que não são tão falhadas assim quando se tratam de jovens de 10-12 anos com pouca experiência literária, mas que, todavia, parecem patetas quando lidas por um rapaz de 15 anos e ditas por um rapaz de 15 anos. Não achei piada aos amores e desamores de James: gosta de uma, tem um fraquinho por outra e encanta-se pela primeira que se encanta por ele. Surgiram conversas menos maduras com as quais não me identifiquei nada e não acho que me identificaria se ainda tivesse a idade das personagens. Isto dos livros juvenis, reconheço, é algo muito pessoal, no entanto.

Quanto à escrita do autor, não tenho muito a dizer. É bastante simples e não prolonga muito os acontecimentos, o que é ideal para cativar os leitores da faixa etária a que se destina e que estão agora a começar a ganhar o gosto pela leitura. Quanto a mim, prefiro emoção nos momentos, profundidade nos sentimentos, todavia, de certeza que se este livro possuísse tais características depressa maçaria um jovem leitor. Já referi que li as primeiras páginas de uma só assentada, porém, esta obra não me cativou o suficiente e, ao fim de 200 e poucas páginas, acabei por o deixar pousado por uns dias.

A personagens têm boas bases, mas não são muito desenvolvidas. Temos os rufias, os trapalhões, as duronas, os rapazes, as raparigas e por aí além. Não as achei nada de especial e nenhuma me agradou em particular. Gostei imenso de James no início do livro, parecia-me uma personagem promissora, mas com o tempo deixou de, a meus olhos, ser tão interessante; tornou-se um rapaz normal de 12 anos, cuja facilidade em superar uma grande perda não consegui entender, bem como o motivo por detrás de certas atitudes mais estúpidas. Espero, no entanto, um grande crescimento da parte dele nos próximos livros - estou curiosa para saber o desenvolvimento que terá este protagonista.

Neste livro também encontramos conteúdo mais violento, não devido à recruta e às missões, mas sim, sobretudo, às agressões físicas infligidas por jovens mais fortes a outros mais fracos - falo sobretudo do *bullying* e da discriminação e daqueles que, quando agredidos, retaliam da pior forma. Tal faz muito parte da vida de James, que já assumiu tanto o papel de agredido como de agressor e que foram a principal razão do surgimento de expectativas para esta personagem. Talvez a ideia de retaliar quando somos vítimas de violência física seja algo que se possa instalar na cabeça de algumas mentes que ainda são facilmente influenciáveis. Mas a violência já é algo muito comum em livros juvenis e *Young Adult*.

Só queria salientar um aspeto do final que também me desagradou: num primeiro livro de um série, quando ainda estamos a descobrir uma nova realidade, surgem também ideias do que poderá ou não vir a acontecer e certezas sobre aquilo que irá efetivamente acontecer. Nas últimas [10 ou 2]) páginas deu-se um acontecimento que, para mim, era óbvio que se ia suceder - só não esperava que fosse tão cedo e logo no primeiro volume. Trata-se de um único aspeto, mas uma das minhas maiores críticas ao livro - achei apressado e sem nexos acontecer logo no início da aventura.

Não me cativou particularmente, mas deixou-me deveras curiosa em relação aos próximos volumes. Espero um maior desenvolvimento de todos os aspetos da obra - apesar de receber somente 4 estrelas de 10, é de destacar que conseguiu gerar expectativas. Espero que sejam cumpridas, pois não há pior sentimento literário do que aquele em nos apercebemos de que não é tão bom quanto estávamos à espera ou gostava-mos que fosse.

---

## Amy Suto says

Dear God, how is this book not a joke? How on earth did this get published?

I demand to know who encouraged Robert Muchamore to publish this. Please step forward and explain yourself.

Listen, everybody, I really wanted to love this book, I did. A young adult novel about spies who belong to an organization that doesn't exist? YES PLEASE! This is my genre, you don't even understand.

But really, the writing is unbearable to the point where you have to put down the book and take a breather in order to not smash something in a fit of frustration. Even in the "Young Adult Fluff" category, this book is ridiculous.

### JUDGE FOR YOURSELF:

The book begins with this pessimistic twelve year old- aptly named James Choke- who hates everything. I hate Combined science, he whines. I hate the mean girl next to me who keeps making "Yo' momma so fat" jokes. But it turns out his Mom really is fat. She had to "order her clothes out of a special catalog for fat people" and her own son is ashamed of being seen with her.

But that stereotypical mean girl, she's more than our supposedly tough character can take. Girls teasing him apparently sends him into bouts of rage not unlike The Hulk.

So, our unstable main character shoves her up against a wall during the middle of class, where some really

confusing action occurs. Apparently he shoves her against said wall, and turns her around so quickly a protruding nail gets stuck in her face.

Then his teacher tells him that "...you are in some extremely serious trouble!"

Uhh, I think that's an understatement. Filled with pointless modifiers.

So then this girl-injuring twelve year old "couldn't face up to what he'd done. No one would believe it was an accident."

You just shoved a girl's face into a protruding nail. She's bleeding and crying and all he can think is, "IT WAS AN ACCIDENT". Right, so then what happens next is an accident, too? Just blame everything on chance, why don't you!

So he then proceeds to skip the apologizing, shoves the teacher so hard that she "toppled backwards, limbs flipping helplessly in the air like a beetle turned upside down." When you (and by you I mean adult-sized teacher probably twice the size of your students) get shoved by a twelve year old, do you stumble back a step, or do you fall over because you have no sense of balance, and continue to flail like an insect?

Seriously, now. Seriously. Can this book get any worse?

BUT IT DOES.

Any normal abusive twelve year old who just assaulted two women would go to juvie, at the least. But no, he gets drafted into a secret spy society where he can go whine and complain about how his life sucks.

IN CONCLUSION.

This book is a disgrace to the spy genre. It's not only implausible and stupid, but the writing is horrendous. As a young adult, I blame these kind of books for watering down the 'young adult' genre. As an aspiring writer, I had a good laugh about how awful Robert Muchamore's writing is, and have learned many lessons from reading what I could bear of this book.

Namely, abusive, angst-ridden twelve year old boys who brutalize women without remorse don't make good main characters.

Also, James Choke? Really? What kind of name is that?

I rest my case.

---

## **Badgerlord says**

It is books like this that makes me wish that Goodreads gave you the choice to put your stars in negative. It's that bad. Seriously, I have cousins between 5 and 10 years old who could write a more enthralling story. I read this book on the insistence of a friend. I had to read the first to cherub books and he had to read Eragon. I got the worse deal. By far.

The setting of this book is alright; It is about a boy who is adopted into a community of child spys, where he



is so fresh, they could sell it in the produce section of the grocery store. How hasn't this book gotten more attention? This guy has written twelve of these, and I can't find any of them at the library! This book is like the musical group Chiddy Bang. Huge in England, about to get big in the U.S. Keep writing Mr. Muchamore!

---

### **Ayerai G says**

Cherub agents are kids ages 10-17 and are trained to be spies to infiltrate criminal organizations that have eluded the M15 for years. The reason? Adults never suspect that kids are spying on them.

James Choke is a twelve year old boy who tends to get in quite a bit of trouble. He lives with his mom and his sister Lauren. But James isn't an ordinary boy, he has a keen sense for math. He can solve complex math problems in a matter of seconds. James gets into a bit of trouble at school, including smashing Samantha Jennings face and fighting back to a teacher. He gets expelled from school and he doesn't want his mom to know. One day he was up in his room playing on his playstation, so he goes down stairs to get some snacks and he notices his mom laying on the couch, so he goes up to her and touches her face. It was cold and motionless, she wasn't breathing. Suddenly James realizes what happened. His mom just died. James gets sent to a foster home and Lauren goes with Ron, James hates Ron and he is worried about Lauren. James goes to his new room and unpacks. His roommate's name is Kyle and he is two years older than him. James starts to hang out with a gang of bad kids, even though Kyle warned him, and they go around trashing and robbing cars. Then one day, James goes to jail. Then one day he wakes up and he doesn't know where he is. He is wearing an orange T-shirt. Nobody would talk to him. They would all just look at him and say, "Can't talk to orange shirts." So he gets sent to a gut called Mac and he explains that he is on Cherub grounds and that they chose him and all that. Then Mac asks James a question that could change his life forever. Read the book to find out.

I liked the fact that there is this secret organization that uses kids as spies, I think that is so cool. The only thing that I don't really like is that there are quite a bit of bad words. At times I was really scared, sometimes I was super curious, and other times it made me feel a bit sad. If you like the Alex Rider series you will like this book. I would compare this book to the Alex Rider series.

---

### **Mary ♥ says**

5/5 stars

"This is tough, but CHERUB's are tougher"

Funny, action-packed, heart-warming and cool, an amazing spy novel about a secret organization, consisting of kids. Do not let this fool you, there is NOTHING funny about being a spy in there, especially considering the basic training. The first book didn't have that much of adventure because our character had to go through basic training first but I am pretty sure the next books are gonna leave me breathless.

Let's talk about the characters/ships now. James is the main character, who starts off as a bully and ends up being a very kind and loyal friend. It will be a lie to say I didn't like him, although at first I really despised his behavior. He never stops fighting, is brave and wants to protect his sister. And of course likes literally every girl he sees xD

The rest of the crew is awesome as well. Kyle, Bruce, Amy, Lauren, Connor, Gabrielle, Kerry, Shakeel, Mo and Ewart are the best! They're all so funny and so dedicated to their work. Is it me or you want to hug

everyone in this book? Especially Ewart, he is literally the best.

The adventure in this book got me trying to guess the ending but of course I was fooled because that's what happens when you try to guess the ending in a spy book. Overall, I am so happy I read it cause it made me smile/laugh multiple times and I just couldn't help but love it with my whole heart.

Recommended if you wanna spend time with something funny but also really cool.

~Mary

---

### **DiZagalo says**

James era um rapaz normal, mas depois de um acontecimento inesperado foi "contratado" por uma associação chamada CHERUB.

Depois de passar cem dias de tortura num ginásio (que mais parecia uma base militar) conseguiu passar nos testes da Recruta.

Depois de completar a sua primeira missão com muito sucesso recebeu uma t-shirt azul-escura (as t-shirts representam os níveis em que eles estão).

Um livro fantástico e cheio de aventura.

---

### **Alec Velasco says**

Cherub the recruit is an amazing book. It takes place in London England. The beginning starts off with the main character James at school. A girl starts teasing him about his "mum." From here, everything goes down hill. After it is all said and done James is running away from his school and will probably be expelled. He comes home to his mom and step dad who are not sober. They tell him to go and get his sister from school. When James gets home his mum is dead in her sleep. From here James his moved to a Foster house and his sister is forced to stay with their nasty step dad Ron. At the Foster house James becomes part of a gang. He bashes a few cars and a few vandalism. Then on his 11th birthday it goes too far. He is asked to steel a pack of beer from a store. It looks so easy because the clerk is fat and before he realized what was going on it would be too late. James walks in and the man asks him what he is doing James bends over and picks up the beer, he turns to run out the door, and runs straight into the glass. James realizes he is being set up. One of his fellow gang members is holding the door shut and James has no chance of escaping. By now the clerk is on top of him. James is in trouble. Next thing he knows he is at what looks like a camp. Later he would find out that this is an agency known as CHERUB. CHERUB is a federal agency that is made up entirely of kids. The group trains them, educates them, and gives them a place to stay. It sends its the kids on missions because the kids are least likely to be spies. James is perfect for this except he can not swim, therefore he cant start basic training, which means he cant go on any missions. Basic training starts for him in two weeks. By then he has to be able to swim 50 metres. James barely passes the swimming test in time. He is practically forced to swim the meters, but he makes it. Basic is training that lasts 100 days and is basically torture. You have to take different classes about guns, knives, explosives, and survival skills. They have to also do the assault course every few hours. James partner is Kerry. She attempted it the year before but broke her kneecap on the 64th day and had to quit. She knows all the tricks but they still have trouble getting passed, but they do pass. Shortly after James is asked to go on a mission. He has to make friends with kids that are related to mass weapons dealer along with find out who the arms dealers are. James goes to school gets a girlfriend and accomplishes the mission. There is a close call though. The mission leader thought James had the deadly disease Arthrax. Ends up he does not and everything is all good. I really liked this book

and i would highly recommend it to anyone of any age. It is the first of four and i am currently reading the rest of the series. Overall this book was amazing and i liked it alot. They set up the plot of the book really well, it wasnt boring and it kept me wondering what would happen next. It is probably my favorite book.

---

## **Nicholas H says**

Most of the time when a criminal suspects someone is a spy it is usually an adult. So what if the spies weren't adults, instead they were teens. These teens would set up secret surveillance cameras and spy equipment around someone's house. For James Choke this is regular life. James works for the secret agency called Cherub.

The Recruit by Robert Muchamore is exactly what people wouldn't think. It opens up minds to what could be, but nobody knows. James is a teen that seems to get into trouble, but also seems brilliant in his way of doing good things. James has no idea to expect when he finds himself as a Cherub recruit, but he has no other options after his mother dies and no one else is there to take care of him.

Muchamore's writing gives great reality along with futuristic qualities to James's life of difficulties and amazement. Through the tough beginning to the upward posing plot and future James can be seen as a great example to others. He can relate to many other teens and at the same time give the idea that good things can happen later down the road.

Why would James want to seek out his future as an agent for Cherub when life isn't even worth it? The answer is "refuge"; James needs success to complete something in life. He hasn't accomplished anything else in life and this is it. Saving the world from terrorists!

James Choke is given a chance to live a real life. Something that may seem like a dream compared to his earlier living. This life will involve helping others from dangers and the life of some romance on the side. This great new path may leave some bad memories behind but who knows what will come into his spying career as an agent.

Nothing in Muchamore's writing really hindered besides the part where I couldn't keep my face out of the book just because of the eye opening idea of teen agents. It makes any teen wonder what it would be like to be in that place; and who wouldn't want to save the world from terrorists.

This book is great for any teen to read if someone loves the futuristic creativity of writing. It really makes someone think about life. When someone is down there is always something that they can look forward to. Someone may think it isn't possible but I can think of all the teens in the world and I know their talents can be used in a way such as this. It can give that person self confidence and maybe feel like a leader for something if it did happen. What if it already is?

---

## **Hannah says**

EDIT:

The more I think about this book, the more I hate it. I keep on realizing things that I wasn't aware of when writing this review. Therefore, I've decided to bump the rating down to one. The original review is below.

--

After debating whether to give this one or two stars, I decided on two. I didn't necessary enjoy the book, but I didn't not like it either.

The basic premises of this book is great. A secret spy organization that only employs kids to gather information. The beginning of the novel also started out strong. I found myself liking the orphaned boy with the obese mom who runs a huge crime organization. However, as soon he entered the CHERUB, things started to go downhill.

The final mission was incredibly lame. The whole book spent time building up to these huge event that the main character would take part in. But, although the scenario unique, the author could have done A LOT more to make it more dangerous, more suspenseful, more incognito.

I found I couldn't like any of the characters, especially the main one. Their personalities were... erratic to say the least. In some points, they contained the maturity of a 30-year-old, and the next they were beyond stupid. However, don't think this as character development in showing weakness. I don't believe the author intended to have such an effect.

The whole Johanna crap was so entirely random that I still can't understand it. It didn't have ANYTHING to do with the main plot. Nothing at all. For some reason, I find a 12-year-old sneaking into a 13-year-old's room and sucking some serious face a day after meeting unrealistic. I know that happens in today's culture. However, when a professional spy is sent on a mission, I would think they would be above sucking face with any random idiot. And, even if he wasn't above such, his spy supervisor and his partner would forbid him from getting so emotionally attached to someone who could jeopardize the mission.

Anyway, the writing style was also bad. There were several errors and typos in the text. Some of the sentences required a second read, which greatly disrupted the ease of reading.

Finally, I hated how emotions were discarded in this novel. The main character had to go through extensive training to become a full-fledge member of CHERUB. These tasks would've required a huge amount of physical and emotional effort. Yet, the only emotional descriptions consisted of, "It was freezing," or "I was so mad." I wanted to get into his pain. I was some in-depth descriptions of his inner and outer turmoil. However, that was not the case. There was simply a shoddy attempt at development, but, in reality, his big conflict taught him nothing. This one-dimensional character was just no relatable.

However, I give this a two star because I did want to find out how it ended. But I was relived to get it over with. The beginning started out with much potential, but it was squandered in the end. I'm not sure if I'll give the second book another chance.

---

## **Skip says**

2.75 stars. James Choke is a typical 11-year old boy, playing video games and barely passing school because he can't be bothered. When his criminal mother dies, he is placed in a children's home, and falls in with a bad crowd. He is then recruited for a children's spy school, the basis for which is pretty thin, where he undergoes extensive training and a grueling test of endurance to finally get assigned on a mission to stop a terror plot. I thought his friendships at CHERUB school were solid, especially his partner in the tests. The Alex Rider series is much better.

---