



Brilliant World of Tom Gates

By Liz Pichon

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Tom Gates is the master of excuses for late homework: dog attacks - spilt water - lightning...Tom's exercise book is full of his doodles, cartoons and thoughts, as well as comments from his long-suffering teacher, Mr Fullerton. After gaining five merits for his CAMPING SUCKS holiday story, Tom's work starts to go downhill - which is a pity, as he's desperate to impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him...

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 3–5—Fifth-grader Tom Gates has a lot of negatives in his life. His older sister annoys him and he retaliates by playing tricks on her. His teachers assign too much homework and when he runs out of time to do it he offers over-the-top, fantastical excuses for why it's not done. Adding to these issues, his family has many mishaps, like failed camping trips and the dog chewing up his tickets to a rock concert. Tom endures it all with his penchant for doodling and writing about everything that happens. For example, whenever the teachers focus on him in class he creates doodles of them staring at him with their "beady eyes." This helps him feel better. His self-centered storytelling is over-the-top but will be enjoyed by those who can't get enough of Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books (Abrams/Amulet). The engaging illustrations are plentiful and will delight avid and reluctant readers alike. This title was originally published in the United Kingdom; some British words and phrases are sprinkled throughout. A humorous glossary explaining the Briticisms is appended.—Tina Martin, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, IL

Review

The diary-style, comic novel gets a UK makeover with this look at Tom Gates' fifth-grade year, documenting with hilarious detail every mishap (like forgetting about class-picture day) and success (like hiding his older sister's sunglasses in some bagged salad). The handwritten font and cartoon drawings bring Tom's experiences to life, making his struggles and dreams immensely relatable. ... Tom's upbeat outlook and everyday trials will have readers laughing out loud and eager for this series' next installment.

—Booklist Online

How Tom makes peace with his teacher, Marcus Meldrow, and his sister and still gets to go to the Dude 3 concert will keep readers chuckling. Readers of Wimpy Kid books will love this series with a UK twist written by an award-winning British author.

—Library Media Connection

Will be enjoyed by those who can't get enough of Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books. The engaging illustrations are plentiful and will delight avid and reluctant readers alike.

—School Library Journal

Tom Gates can easily be seen as a British cousin to Jeff Kinney's Greg Heffley. ... The book is typeset in a handwritten-looking font, accompanied by Tom's doodles and text that he's embellished for emphasis. ... [R]eaders who like their fiction heavily illustrated and their heroes mischievous should find it diverting.

—Publishers Weekly

We like Tom and the exuberant way he illustrates his account of himself with little drawings and embellishments, and we sympathize with his efforts to conjure a dynamic logo for DogZombies, the band he has formed with his friend Derek. ... Life occasionally doles out difficulty to Tom Gates. ... Our hero may be mortified, but readers ages 9 to 12 won't mind a bit.

—The Wall Street Journal

About the Author

Liz Pichon is a contributor for Tiger Tales titles including: 'Bored Bill', 'The Very Ugly Bug'

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No Bio

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Burritt:

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