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Al Capone Shines My Shoes

Tessa McMillan

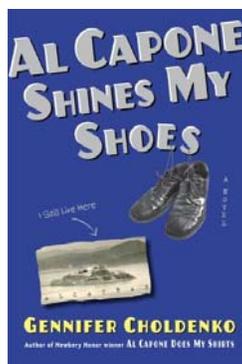
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Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*. Dial, 2009. ISBN 9780803734609. \$17.99. 274 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California--Juvenile fiction; Brothers and sisters--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

At the end of *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, Moose gets Natalie accepted into the Esther P. Marinoff School with the help of Al Capone. But Moose isn't through with Capone yet. At the beginning of this book, Moose receives a note from Capone saying that it is Moose's turn to do a favor for him. Now Moose must decide if he should tell the truth to his parents about Capone's part in getting Natalie into the school, which would get his father fired and get Natalie kicked out, or complete the favor for Capone. But besides his Capone troubles, all of Moose's friends are upset with him because he tries too hard to please everyone, even to the point of hurting others. When things start to settle down with his friends and Moose thinks he is even with Capone, Natalie comes home to visit and brings a prison bar spreader in her luggage. Moose finds out that convict #105, who held Natalie's hand in the first book, was released from prison and has visited Natalie at the school. Convict #105 asked Natalie to bring the bar spreader back to Alcatraz to help the working convicts escape. Luckily, the bar spreader wasn't found by the convicts, but that doesn't mean they won't try to escape. When the warden comes home to celebrate the arrival of his new baby boy, the working convicts plan an escape by holding Moose, Piper, and Natalie hostage and taking a ferry back to the mainland. But thanks to Natalie and Moose, the convicts' plans are foiled and they are recaptured.

Choldenko's second book completely complements *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. This sequel brings back all the wonderfully complex characters from the first book and helps readers delve even deeper into the characters' lives. The book has a solid plot that Choldenko never sways from. It is an engaging and entertaining read for readers nine and older—a great addition to any library.

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