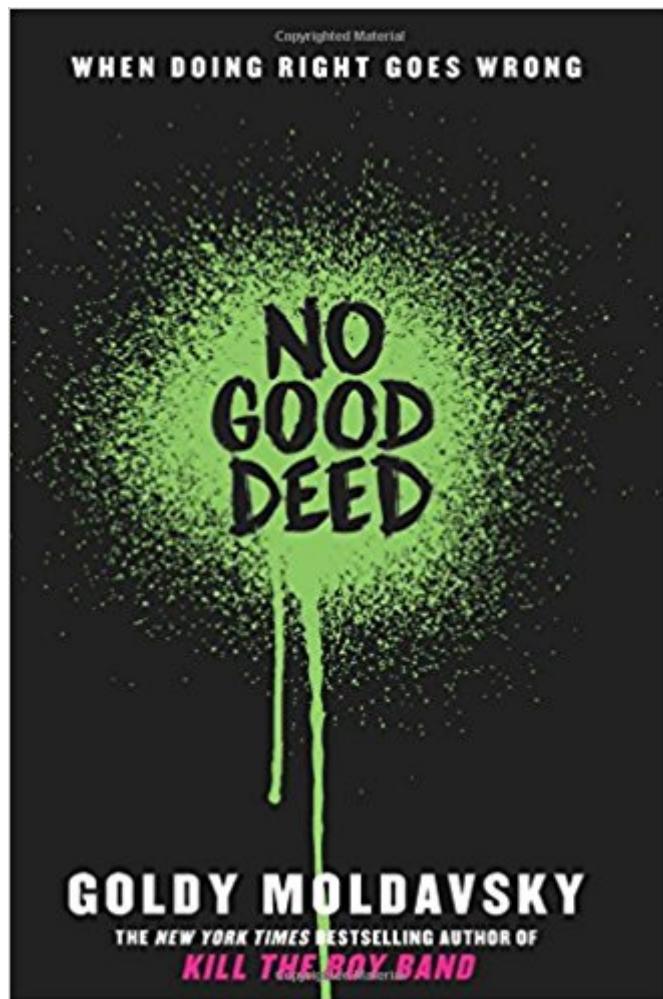


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No Good Deed



Synopsis

Gregor Maravilla doesn't want much. Just to feed all the starving children. That's why he goes to Camp Save the World, a summer program for teen activists who care about making a difference. What could be better? It's almost perfect. Except some of these causes are kind of...strange. Like Eat Dirt--a campaign started by up-and-coming actress Ashley Woodstone. Gregor wasn't a fan of her work before, and he's certain she's only there now because of her fame. But Gregor is determined to not let her ruin his experience. And then the contest is announced. That's when the sabotage starts. They want to see who can do the most good. But that leads to the most bad. No good deed goes unpunished.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Kill the Boy Band: "Boy bands gets the Heathers treatment in this madcap macabre." -Kirkus "Moldavsky's debut novel is filled with dark humor and pop culture references and will have readers laughing until the end." -School Library Journal "Moldavsky's tale of self-doubt, revenge, and atonement will appeal to anyone who's ever had the fortune or misfortune of being a "fan." -Booklist

Goldy Moldavsky writes YA fiction from her hometown of Brooklyn. She studied journalism in college, where she got to interview some cool celebrities for her school paper. After a bit she realized it could be more fun making up stories about celebrities, so that's what she does in her writing. Some of her influences include Buffy the Vampire Slayer, the esteemed works of

John Irving, and the Mexican telenovelas she grew up watching with her mother.

This book had me seriously LOLing. I like stories that provide wit, romance, action, and a powerful message, and this book delivered on all accounts. Goldy Moldavsky is exceptionally talented, and I greatly look forward to reading her next project.

Imagine Carl Hiaasen collaborating with Alan Sherman and you'd be on your way to understanding this book. Gregor Maravilla met his idol, Robert Drill, at a book signing when he was fourteen. The tech guru and philanthropist's words inspired him to come up with a way to save the world. He settled on feeding all the hungry kids. He's also read Drill's autobiography nine times. Sandwiched between a nerdy and really rude older brother who plays Minecraft constantly and is raking in bucks from ads accompanying videos of him doing so online and a younger sister who's a perfect speller, Gregor's desperate to find his own niche. When he learned that Robert Drill is sponsoring a summer camp for humanitarian teen activists, he applies, expecting to be turned down because the competition is intense. Surprise! He's selected and even the humiliation heaped upon him by his brother, sister, parents and grandfather on the ride to camp in upstate New York can't completely dampen his enthusiasm. His growing awareness that all is not as it seems, begins when he starts meeting the other campers and starts him not only down a road of introspection, but one of gradual cynicism about his plans for saving the world. Everyone there has a cause, including teen movie star Ashley Woodstone (imagine Luna Lovegood channeling some of the ditzier heroines in 1980s Rom-Coms), whose thing is convincing everyone to eat dirt. Add in a mens rights activist, a boycott camp activist, a teen artist who can't speak a word of English, an anti Styrofoam activist and dozens more who are equally oddball and you have the recipe for a perfect storm of sniping, backstabbing and cutthroat competition. This is a funny and wacky story, but make no mistake, under all the goofiness beats a very strong heart.

When "No Good Deed," opens," Gregor Maravilla is eager to leave his annoying family behind and embark on a summer of adventure and "firsts," at Camp Save the World, which is founded by tech guru and humanitarian billionaire Robert Drill, Gregor's personal hero who he met once and was told that he was capable of making a difference. This will definitely include (if he's lucky) his first real romance (even though his older brother's gift of a book on how to impress girls seems fated to bring

him nothing but embarrassment). However, once Gregor gets to camp, he starts discovering some disquieting things. The counselor in charge of water sports only figures out what the life jackets are for after everyone paddles off in their canoes. The infirmary nurse hands him a lollipop after he pays a visit and admits she lacks medical knowledge. Plus, there's this odd boy who doesn't speak English and does nothing but paint murals all day. The celebrity camper, actress Ashley Woodstone (former boyfriend of a Rupert; a shout-out to "Kill the Boy Band"), is strange, but seems to want to enlist Gregor's help with a new script - even when he adamantly refuses to have nothing to do with it. And after the head counselor announces that there will be a prize at the end of camp for the most impressive activist - which includes an internship with Drill - the rivalries and tensions between the campers shift into overdrive, as the line between pranks and sabotage blurs. When Gregor discovers further disturbing news about the internship, he is faced with a difficult choice, and as it turns out, in his personal life, as well. Thoughts: I was intrigued by the premise of a summer camp for social justice warriors, assuming that - like Camp Green Lake in "Holes" - that there would be no shortage of irony once the protagonist arrives. Indeed this was true, and I liked the nonconventional relationship between Gregor and Ashley. However, I expected a darker twist and felt that the author missed some opportunities for developing secondary characters. The main plot was resolved in an unexpected way that seemed a little lazy. Overall, however, I enjoyed the book and found much of it very funny, such as when Gregor jumps into the water to save someone who he believes to be drowning, adding "I'm saving you as a person, not as a man."

Gregor Maravilla is a little old for camp, so why is he so excited? The book opens as Gregor's family drives him to Camp Save the World, where he hopes to meet other young activists and maybe even Robert Drill, the billionaire philanthropist who has been Gregor's inspiration .. and who started the camp to teach budding young do-gooders. The only downside? Ashley Woodstone, a young actress who's going to participate. What is SHE doing there, Gregor wonders. SHE doesn't need the help or the instruction, right? She's obviously looking for good PR and will only be a distraction. Once camp begins, Gregor experiences a series of disappointments and disillusionments, and when the prize of an internship with Robert Drill is announced, Gregor knows he doesn't have a chance .. not when he's the only camper with negative points! I enjoyed this book. Many parts are funny (though there is no laugh-out-loud moment). The premise is really interesting and Gregor is an admirable protagonist -- a kid who is sincere, intelligent and genuinely wants to help others. The writing and dialogue are engaging. The other characters, however, are one-dimensional. There's a large cast and the reader doesn't get to know anybody in depth other than Gregor and maybe Ashley. The action is fun but

there is no greater theme or much of a resolution. Many events occur without explanation or followup. Caveat: The book says it is for ages 14 and up, but not all 14-15 year olds will be ready for it. The f-bomb is used several times, references to sexual activity and girls' anatomy are peppered throughout, characters get drunk and take psychedelics. There's nothing wrong about those things being in a book, but not all kids are ready for it at 14, and I certainly wouldn't give it to anyone younger.

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