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Al Capone Shines My Shoes

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What do you do when your neighbors are a bunch of hit men, con men, and mad dog murderers? Well, if you’re Moose Flanagan, you ask the most notorious convict of them all, Al Capone, for help. But when that convict comes through for you— and then asks you for a favor in return— suddenly it’s a whole different ball game. Picking up where the Newbery Honor winning Al Capone Does My Shirts left off, this lively second romp featuring Moose, his friends, and some of Alcatraz’s “finest” is just as satisfying as the first.

**Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars  See all reviews  (112 customer reviews)


Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

**Customer Reviews**

Twelve year-old Moose Flanagan has an unusual address: Alcatraz Island. He and his family live on the island off the San Francisco coast back in 1935 when it was still home not only to “278 of America’s worst criminals” but also to the prison guards and their families. Living and working so closely with the other civilian families on Alcatraz offers opportunity for some tight-knit relationships but also for plenty of misunderstandings, hurt feelings and grudges. No one knows these mixed emotions better than Moose. He’s one of the most well-meaning kids you’d ever meet, but he’s quickly finding out that you just can’t please everybody all the time. His best friend, Jimmy, has
started to suspect that Moose's praise of his less-than-stellar baseball skills might not be completely genuine. Annie (who may want to be more than just Moose's friend) is sulking because she has begun to suspect that Moose's friendship might be based solely on her outstanding pitching arm. And Moose himself is starting to believe that introducing his best mainland friend, Scout, to the warden's daughter, Piper, might have sabotaged his own chances at romance with the cute but increasingly moody girl. Moose is also experiencing conflicting feelings now that, thanks to the influence of convicted mobster Al Capone, a prisoner on Alcatraz, his older sister Natalie has been admitted to a special school for kids with autism. He misses his sister, sure, but he also welcomes the freedom of not having to watch or worry about her all the time. And he can now see firsthand how much freer his mother is when she's not saddled with her own worries about Natalie.

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