

Catch the Zolt

Phillip Gwynne

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Pay the debt or lose a pound of flesh.

It's a beautiful day in paradise. The sun is shining. The birds are chirping. And Dom Silvagni, indifferent student and elite middle-distance runner, is turning fifteen.

But Instead of cake and candles, Dom Silvagni is presented with the most unlikely gift for

his birthday: an ancient family debt to an organisation so secretive and powerful,

they are only known as The Debt. The Debt's terms are not negotiable: Dom must

perform six Herculean tasks or they'll take a pound of flesh.

Before long Dom has his first instalment - Catch The Zolt—the seventeen-year-old

Facebook Bandit with a penchant for stealing light aircraft. But getting close to The Zolt means being nice to the smug, self-obsessed Tristan, and involving Imogen, the only girl close to Dom's heart.

The more Dom discovers, the less he seems to know. Meanwhile The Debt want their payment ... now!

Catch the Zolt Details

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From Reader Review Catch the Zolt for online ebook

Arthur Croguennec says

GéniallIIII !!

Ca se lit très facilement et l'histoire est vraiment intéressante.

Nolany says

Une lecture rapide et un concept attrayant, qui allie espionnage, enquête et action. Pour les ados c'est vraiment une chouette lecture. Par contre, pour les plus âgés ça risque d'être un peu barbant par certains aspects, mais bon, dans tous les cas ça reste tout de même une lecture sympa

David says

the theme is to never give up I am 0n page 177

Sarah Waters says

I can see that this book would appeal to grade 6 plus boys as the main character is someone they can easily relate to. The idea behind the book is interesting and I found it an easy book to read. What bugged me throughout the story was the lack of information regarding .

Zolt. Why is he so popular on social media? How did this happen? What do the Debt want to do with him? As I continued reading the book I hoped that these questions would be answered but no. That said I would probably read the next book in the series. Apart from the 'birds and the bees' conversation at the start of the book I would recommend this book to grade 5/6 students who like an action story.

Flynn Oberdries says

My parents bought Catch The Zolt from the Debt series for me while down south at an Otago University reunion. I thought this book looked interesting after reading the blurb on the back cover.

I think that this book fits into "A book written in 2012 or 2013" on the Bingo Board because it was published at the start of 2013.

I think the most interesting character is 'The Zolt', because he is a 17 year old boy who is a Facebook bandit but strangely the people like him. When Dom meets him he finds out he is just a normal guy trying to escape fame and doesn't want to be a bad guy.

My favorite quote was when Tristan said "don't be such a wuss" because normally Tristan is the scared one.

I learnt that you always need to get to know people before you judge them because they can be a lot different.

Sean Harding says

What can you say about this the story is somewhat interesting I guess, but the premise behind it is so preposterous as to be beyond even the most stretched imagination. It is fascinating, not in a good way, and I think I may see where it goes, but it is so ridiculous it provides much unintentional humour, unless the whole thing is being written secretly as a satire.

Kailey (BooksforMKs) says

This is the story of Dom, who is told on his 15th birthday that his family owes an ancient debt to the Italian mafia. When every male family member reaches 15 years old, they are forced to do 6 difficult tasks for the Debt or the Debt will cut off an arm or leg, taking their "pound of flesh" in payment.

I loved that the whole "pound of flesh" thing is from Shakespeare, although the Bard is never mentioned.

Dom is a wonderful character with depth and interest. He has a crush on his best friend, the girl next door. He has a fun dynamic of mutual teasing with his siblings. He trains as a runner, and is obsessed with running. He's just a well-rounded character, and a great POV for the whole story.

The setting is among the rich and elite of the Gold Coast in Australia. Dom's parents are rich and hobnob with retired movie stars and politicians. But all that money won't keep out the bad guys!

When Dom is tasked with catching a devious teen criminal, The Zolt, who delights in stealing light aircraft, he has to get friendly with his archenemy, Tristan, the meanest bully in school.

The back-and-forth repartee between Dom and Tristan keeps the story humming along. The tension between them, and the added danger that Tristan brings to the mix keeps Dom (and the reader) on his toes.

Dom has to really jump through some hoops to find the Zolt and the mystery gets intense. There's tons of action, and I loved the use of codes, phone taps, and fake apps that pull the mystery forward. Everybody wants a piece of the Zolt, so Dom has to race to get to him first!

A fantastic beginning to the series, and I can't wait to read the rest of them!

Disclaimer: I received this book from the author/publisher in exchange for a free and honest review. All the opinions stated here are my own true thoughts, and are not influenced by anyone.

Mr says

First I thought the lose a pound of flesh was a really cool idea, but I pictured it as a bloody horror picture

with the victim being awake during the process, so it was a little disapointing to learn that they are comatosed during the procedure, but it was still a neat idea. I also liked the concept of the zolt, and even the zolt's family selling zolt products was a cool idea.

Unfortuately I found the story very boring. Dom was a bit of an asshole especially after he beat the poor man, who probably needed it instead of his rich ass, the whole espionage thing was done really poorly, and the end when he actually catches the zolt was meh.

In the end while the Debt had some cool ideas, but that doesn't help the fact that I have seen these story elements before and done a lot better. In the end it just wasn't interesting enough for mw to contibue the series.

Job Meuleman says

Dom Silvagni, A silent student but an elite middle distance runner, is turning 15 and it is time for him to find out about the family secret. Dom's family owe an ancient debt to a secretive organisation known simply as The Debt. Now that Dom is 15, it is his turn to make the six payments required from each Silvagni male or sacrifice a pound of flesh in payment.

Catch the Zolt sets the scene well for this six book action series for teens. We meet Dom, his family and various friends and gradually build a picture of Dom's life as he tries to deal with this first challenge from The Debt. With Dom, we grow increasingly suspicious of his father's attitude to the challenges Dom must face and increasingly aware of just how few people Dom can now trust.

I liked this book because it had some cliff hangers it made me wanna read on till i found out what it was but whilst it was slowly telling you the answer it started another cliff hanger and so it kind of brought me into the book and for some of it you can relate which also brings you into the book more, i would like to read more of the author because they make it engaging for me to read especially when i hate to read i think it is a waste of time but this book made it okay.

I would suggest this book to early teens because it is a childish book but everyone can read it, it might just not be as interesting, i haven't read the other books but if i had them i would read them.

Traci says

Fun book. Lots of references that come from the Barefoot Bandit out of the San Juan Islands but I doubt most middle readers will make that connection. My 12 year old loved this whole series.

Jlevi235 says

The book was a very slow paced book without much of the action you would expect from this type of book, this made the book not as enjoyable as it should have been. my favorite part is when the Zolt drops a quarter into his pool. My least favorite part is when he finds out about the debt and has to get branded.

Orrin Maue says

Its Great! I liked the whole series

Melani Smith says

At 15 you look forward to all the new gadgets for your birthday. Not a long standing debt your family has. However dear Dominic gets the debt passed down to him on his 15th birthday from his Dad. If he doesn't pay his part of the debt they will take his leg and for a runner that isn't a great thing. In order to save his leg unlike his grandpa he has to do his tasks. First task? Only catching the most notorious online criminal "The Zolt" Now he has to team up with people he doesn't like to keep his leg...great birthday right? I have a love hate relationship with this book. I enjoyed it to the fact I want to read the rest of the installments however, there isn't as much depth as I would like. There were parts it was hard to continue and not want to throw the book across the room and call it quits. The voices of the characters are great but there is not a lot of depth to Dom and I am hoping there is more depth to come for him. I can see a ton of room for improvement on him. However it was a quick and fast read and I hope you guys enjoy it as well.

https://r4842.myubam.com/p/3753/catch...

Above is a link if you want to buy it and check it out yourselves:)

Rebecca says

This is the first book in a new series called The Debt, book one is called Catch the Zolt, and the series name gives you are fair idea of what the book might be about.

Dom has just turned 15, and on his birthday he learns about a family secret that will change his life. Dom Silvagni's Great great great great grandfather Dominic came to Australia in 1822 during the Gold Rush, he was born into the 'NDRANGHETA, which is like the mafia but not as nice. He defaulted on a loan and as a consequence all Silvagnis males, upon reaching the age of 15, must make six repayments on his debt. His father repayed the Debt, his Grandfather did not, and the price for this was a pound of flesh, they took his leg! Happy Birthday Dom, it's your turn to pay The Debt!

Dom is not allowed to go to the police, he can't ask his family for help and he can't tell anyone about the Debt, but he has just been given his first directive...catch the Zolt. The Zolt is a modern day Robin Hood, who has been joyriding in the cars and planes of the rich and has basically been making a nuisance of himself, he has escaped police custody, and now it looks like Dom is the one who has to find him.

There's lots of action, boat chases, shoot outs, helicopter rides and all of the glamour you would expect from the rich and famous on the Gold Coast. The first three books will be coming out in quick succession, in January February and March (see pics below), with the final 3 due in June, September and October.

There's also humour in this story. One of my favourite funny moments is right at the start of the story when

Dom's Dad and Granddad are going to tell him about The Debt, but when Dom is asked to come and speak with them he thinks it will be a sex talk,

Quote taken from (pg 15-16)

- ~ Dad and Gus kept exchanging looks, clearing their throats, as if neither knew exactly how to start this conversation. So I did it for them, saving them some pretty amazing embarrassment.
- 'I know all about sex,' I told them. 'We did it at school.'
- 'You did it?' Dad asked
- 'Yeah, last term. With Mrs Prefontaine.'
- 'Mrs Prefontaine?'
- 'Yes, she taught us all about it. Well, the basics anyway.'

A look of relief crossed Dad's smooth face. ~

The feel of this story reminded me a lot of another series that has been incredibly popular over the last few years, the Conspiracy 365 series written by Gabrielle Lord, and I think The Debt will appeal to much the same audience.

The name Phillip Gwynne is a well known one in Australia, most notably for the book Deadly Unna which won the 1999 CBC Book of the Year Older Reads and was also made into the film Aussie Rules. I have a feeling that this new series may just become the 'must read' series this year, especially for boys age 12+.

Adele Broadbent says

Dom Silvagni's family has a secret. A very, very, old secret. On Dom's 15th birthday, his father and grandfather tell him of The Debt. The family wealth won't help. The debt isn't about money, but is something to be paid by every male Silvagni when they turn 15. And if it isn't paid? The Debt will claim their pound of flesh. With his grandfather's missing leg to remind Dom of past failures, Dom's first task is To catch the Zolt – an infamous criminal who constantly evades the police. But if the police can't catch him, how is Dom going to do it?

The first in a 6 part series, with episodes released Jan, Feb, Mar, Jun, Sept and Dec of the same year, this is a non-stop, action-packed ride. Full of fast cars, speed boats and technology this is a must read series for boys 10+