

# Real Reader's Opinions!



**\*Hey MAKS!** I think it would be an awesome idea to make the books into a tv series. There would actually be a kids show out there that wasn't over loaded w/sex and drama. Having a tv show that encourages kids to think sounds like a good idea to me. The books were a hit, why not a tv show? **Savvi (16) – U.S.A**

**MAKS,** Kids will like your books because they show that some adults do consider our opinions, and the way we look at things. Adults might like them because they show how kids want to help out in their own ways. They might learn how kids think, I mean the adults. **Jaimee ( 13) Canada**

**Hi MAKS,** Yes I *have* read your book, and trust me that's an accomplishment. I don't mean that in the way that I have troubles reading, because I have always had a higher reading level than I'm supposed to for my age (hehe), I mean it in the way that usually I don't finish books. I read the whole thing, back to front. My favourite was the third book, I think partially because I have Tommy Girl perfume, hehe. That was something that I liked... how you used things that I knew about, like the perfume. The book does a very good job of being entertaining and educational. I feel like educational is the wrong word to use though, because, learning 'isn't supposed to be fun' is it? haha, well this book pulls it off. **Elyse (14) U.S.A.**

**Dear MAKS,** I gave the book to our granddaughter, Katie (**12 – U.S.A.**), and she loved it. She had it read in a couple days. She also said this is the first book she has read that understands teenagers!

**MAKS,** Diana (**13**) just loves it. I have never seen her so excited about reading before. Thanks again, Vijay

**MAKS,** My grandson (**12**) loves your books! He usually just reads war books. Could you send me book 4?

**MAKS, we think** that the books are very entertaining. There is intrigue and mystery, tense moments, and hilarious situations throughout. The characters are believable, as are the situations they find themselves in. The plots are fast-paced and definitely hold a reader's attention. When reading the stories, it is easy to imagine the settings and the action. The escapades are exciting and the dialogue is current, especially the bantering and teasing among the kids.

By the way, this would be a great television show that parents would encourage their children to watch. While there are "good" guys and "bad" guys, there is not the violence and sex that is evident in so much television these days. The educational component is a plus. Kids can learn about social and moral issues without being lectured. Adults and kids work together to resolve problems (even though the kids do seem to take matters into their own hands quite a bit!) **Mom and Daughter (13) - Canada**

**G'day MAKS,** I certainly think the fundamental storyline is without doubt engaging and quirky enough to garner lots of interest. Add to that the great characters and the underlying "normal family life" component, you should reach a solid audience. **Jenni - Canada**

**Hey MAKS!** There is a real niche for books or TV that does not patronize them. I am a huge supporter of anything that entertains and teaches at the same time. Involving kids in situations that are often decidedly adult, gives them a sense of empowerment AND consequently ownership. There is no need to trick kids into dealing with the big issues. They are more than capable, given the right supports, patience, and understanding. My feeling is that kids love to watch kids in grown-up situations, solving grown-up problems, it is a tried and true formula. **Tom - Teacher - Canada**

**Hi MAKS,** Thanks for attending our Book Club Meeting. Diamond in the Ruff was a great fun adventure and was enjoyed by the girls and us moms as well! We enjoyed the fast paced excitement as well as the factual information in the storyline that expanded our girls knowledge on true issues. Encouraging and inspiring children to take charge and look beyond what appears to be the obvious. Thanks again for sharing your novel and day with us. **All the Best, Mom and Daughter (14)**

# Some People Asked....

Q. Why did you start to write kids' books?

A. The answer is simple. I wanted to write books that encouraged kids and even us old farts to think for ourselves... especially in light of how we're all sold a bill of goods ... literally... by the corporations and the media. Everyone's out to make a buck anyway they can and that means brainwashing... blah... blah... blah... We don't ask enough questions. We don't ask the right questions. We don't know the right question to ask. We don't expect real answers. We don't want to know the real answers. That's why [Counting Blue Cars](#) really got to me. This needs to change.



Q. What's your favorite part of the writing process?

A. Actually I have two favorite parts. The first is when I find some information on an issue or topic that totally blows me away and then I find a place to fit it in my book. The second most favorite part of the process is when I get feedback from my editor/readers... especially when it's constructive – I need all the help I can get! I love to read their comments in the margins of my drafts.

Q. Tell me about these readers.

A. When I first started to write, I had my original fab four editor/readers. They saw the first drafts of my series. I'd give them a draft, they'd read it and we'd go out, eat and talk about it. I realized that they liked the fact that they never knew where I was heading with the books until the end... That's what I was hoping for and what I strive for. There are so many twists and turns even I can't keep track sometimes.

When I started to get to the final drafts I got some adults I knew and a new bunch of kids in Canada and the U.S.A. who I'd never met before, to edit/read the books. I asked them to check grammar and spelling and most importantly, to tell me what they liked and didn't like about the books and make suggestions for change. That process was very useful. Some of the readers thought the character of Tommie – the mom – was a bit too liberal... I didn't think so. Sorry. My opinion counted on that issue. As for the

rest of the comments, I made changes, did some editing and took into consideration a lot of what the readers told me. I was especially thankful for Ash telling me I needed to move an event from a third of the way through the second book to the beginning. It made all the difference in the world!

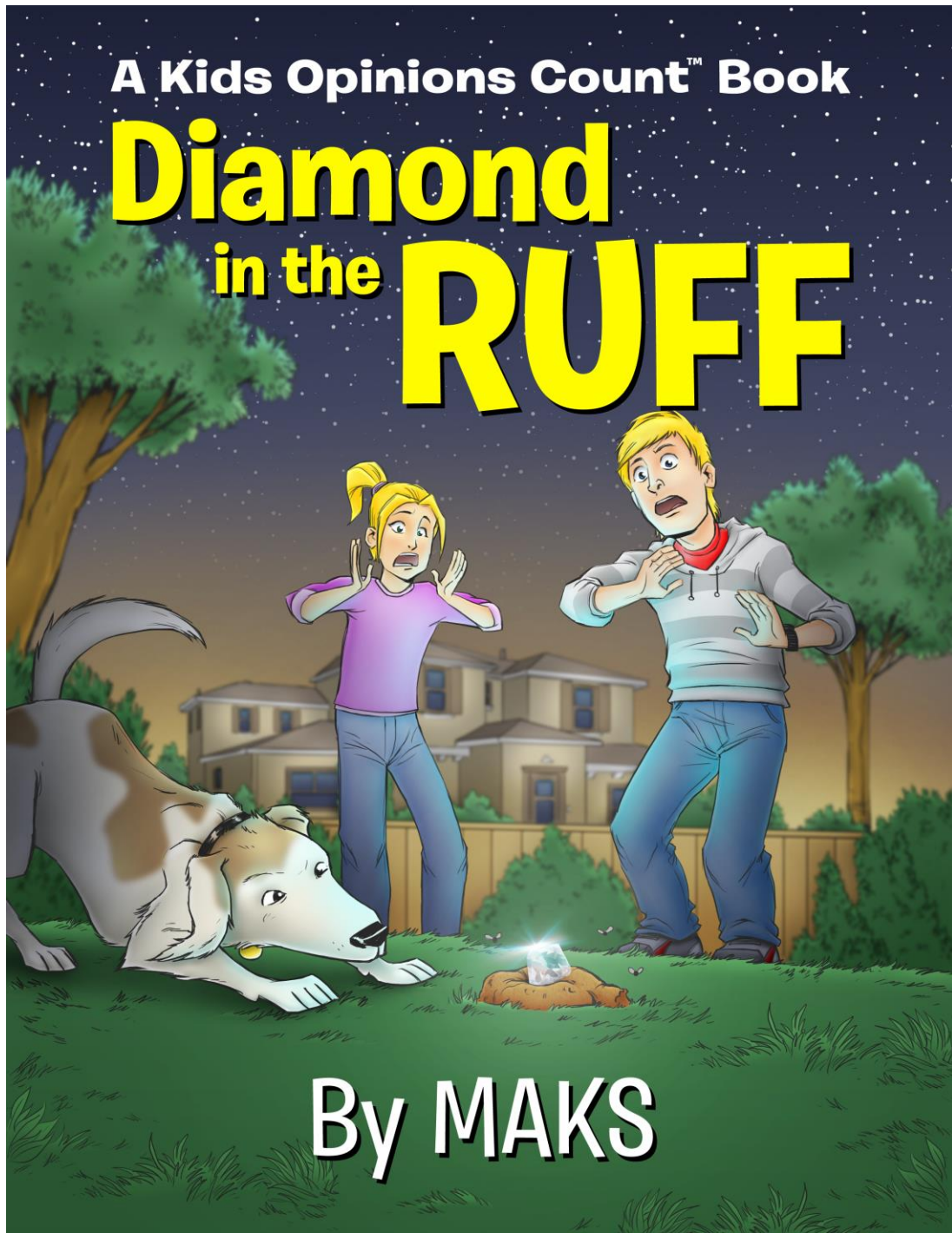
Q. Why don't you want opinions or comments now?

A. If you enjoy the books, that's great! If you don't, simply stop reading, it's that simple. Take action on your own informed opinion!

**The following comments were written by my editor/readers, who reviewed the final drafts of the books and provided me with constructive criticism and general comments. I thought I'd share these with you.**

*MAKS*

## Book One – Diamond in the Ruff



In *Diamond in the Ruff*, Scott and Kim discover a diamond which brings the Campbells unwanted media attention, resulting in danger to the family. The Kids learn about the power of the media.

Max the Campbell family dog, ingests and later excretes a large crystal. Tapping into Internet resources, Scott and Kim determine that the crystal is a diamond. Internet

media spies turn an innocent inquiry into a global news story that is more fiction than fact. Based on the misinformation, LeHops, the world's diamond consortium, threatens to gain control of the Campbell's diamond mine. The problem is, the mine was only a figment of the media's imagination.

The Campbells decide to take action. Scott and Kim research the diamond industry and find out that LeHops uses whale oil in their mining process and whale meat in their Hoppy Pet Food. The kids determine that the diamond was in a can of dog food.

By using the Internet, Scott and Kim manipulate the news hungry media to their advantage a deal a deadly public opinion blow to LeHops and their pet food subsidiary. The threat from LeHops is eliminated and the kids are empowered. But what should they do with the diamond?

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson 12**

My name is Jackson. I'm in the honour program at my middle school and love playing football and rugby. I really enjoyed this book.

I thought the main plot was the best part of it. It was extremely well thought out and extremely well put into words.

Some names were wrong, like Z-Files instead of X-Files but maybe you couldn't use the names for copyright reasons.

LeHops attempts to hide what he was really doing were well thought out also.

The tricks Scott and Kim played on each other were hilarious.

The book was an eight plus on my ten scale and I can't wait to read the next one.

### **Ashley 14**

That was amazing!!! I loved it. This is a definite 9.5 out of 10!

Keep it coming.

### **Savannah 14**

I thought this book was good. The whole plot line of a dog pooping out a diamond that causes a global controversy and completely takes down the whole diamond industry just highly amuses me. It's pretty cool the way the book pivots off of the decisions of the kids. It was a good book. No unfinished characters, no unfinished plot. Even though the plot continues in the next book, the readers would still feel like the book was complete even if there were no sequels.

**Kai 13**

MAKS, I liked your book very much. I especially liked the brother and sister fights between Scott and Kim. The whole time I just wanted to keep on reading, but the problem was I had to stop reading, and normally I stop by the beginning of a new chapter, but your interesting parts would follow into the next chapter.

The good thing at the beginning of the book was that it didn't take long until it started getting interesting, like other authors write half the book full as an introduction and of course that it had real things in it like with the whales. My favorite part was on page four when Max poops out the diamond. You also explained everything nicely. I don't think this book has any bad spots, except maybe it should be longer. My favourite character was probably Scott because I think he pretty much resembles me. I would recommend this book to anyone.

**Stacey 18**

Great book. It's cool how it's a mystery that twists a lot, but also gives the reader a good chance of figuring it out on their own.

The whole story was really easy to visualize in my mind, which I believe is a true sign if it is written well or not.

It's an easy read (vocabulary) so anyone can enjoy it. And just enough realism within the fiction and story line to be able to connect with the characters (emotions, thoughts and actions).

The relationship between the family comes off as strong. No one really worked against each other. It wasn't kids versus parents. There was team work in the family but also the kids' independent work which I believe will make young readers feel confident themselves.

It would have been neat to add a little more with Max in it, even if he's just at the end when the family is having cheesecake for breakfast.

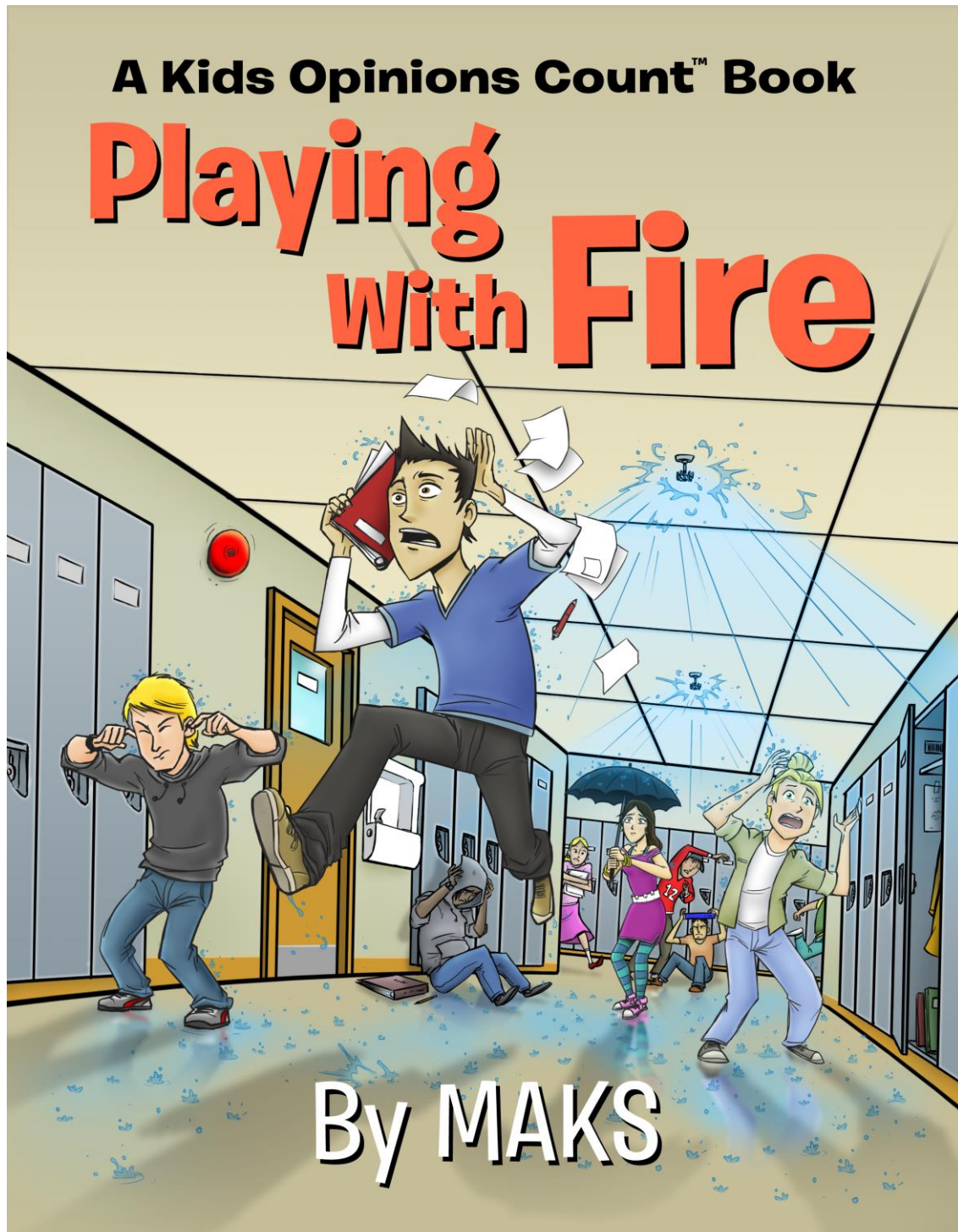
**Erin 18**

Some good interaction scenes between Kim and Scott. Their dialogue is what I expect siblings to say to each other. Good capture of their best friends/rivals relationship.

When I think of the characters of Scott and Kim, I see Scott as the impatient theory man, always jumping to conclusions and Kim as his voice of reason.

I'm not sure if I like the character of Tommie. Sometimes it seems that she acts like more of a kid than a parent.

## Book Two – Playing with Fire



In, *Playing with Fire*, the kids investigate a fire at a skateboard shop and uncover an amazing plan to smuggle black market consumer goods into Center City. Scott and Alex use their own detective skills as well the power of smell to help undermine the criminal consortium, the Men Of Business.



A news story about a fire in a local strip mall sets the adventure in motion. Alex is convinced his father who was once an Agent for The Company, knows something about the fire. The boys devise and execute a plan to get the day off school so that they can check out his theory.

Scott and Alex head to Alex's house to spy on his dad and his business associates. They learn that these businessmen are actually a consortium of criminal organizations, lead by a mysterious Ring Master. This consortium has a plan to smuggle goods into Center City through underwater tunnels. Alex finds out his dad is still an undercover agent of The Company and he's in charge of a sting operation to take down the consortium.

Alex, Scott, Kim and Amy try to help Alex's dad. The criminal activity is disrupted, but the criminal mastermind escapes... only to re-appear in the next book in the strangest of places.

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson 12**

The secret meeting was great stuff. The way Alex and Scott got into it and how they got out of school was in great detail and very true.

I love the series so far. It's amazing how far you can think ahead to plot these story lines, unbelievable.

I thought there was a flaw or two, like who is this Ringmaster and who are the grandson and grandfather?

Overall, I'd rate it an 8+ to a 9. Very nice book. I enjoyed reading it a lot. I can't wait to read the third book.

### **Ashley 14**

*Again, I really liked this book. 8.5/10 – 9/10*

### **Kai 13**

MAKS, if you keep on writing like this I'll have to send you to the 'Big House' for writing too good. I'm serious. The books you write get better by the sentence and you always make the ending so interesting that you just have to read the next book. I think they could maybe qualify as a Blue Spruce.

My favorite part is when Scott and Alex are spying on Alex's father and they try getting the people in the meeting out of the room to put a cell phone in so they could listen in on the meeting, and do this by trying to stink them out. I also liked the tension in your book especially at the end of the book. I liked the funny parts in your book. I'm really having problems to complain about your books, they just seem to perfect, unlike some books I know, even the Harry Potter books I can find something to complain about and they're my favorite books.

The characteristics of the four are expressed so thoroughly, I could probably guess what they would do in a certain situation (thumbs up on describing the characteristics). Oh yeah, maybe you should think about the title. I'm not so sure if it fits to the story.

**Savannah 14**

I was glad when the plot focused a little more on the mom's side of things. In the first book, Huckster was mentioned, but he was never a main player. Now, in the second book, he's central to the whole plot line. "Playing with Fire" entertained me just because of the way the kids reacted to everything that was going on around them. I'm sure that all of the "young male" readers will get a kick out of the whole gaseousness of the book.

**Stacey 18**

I definitely liked this book better than the first. It had some nice twists in it. I got more into the story.

Smart ending, it really makes you want to read the next one in the series and peaks interest in the Ring Master referral.

I'm glad you briefly explained the previous adventure in this book.

I like how you introduced Amy and Alex along with Mr. Black as more main characters, that way the readers won't get bored with the original family.

As you go along in a series, it's nice to learn more about the characters on a personal level.

**Erin 18**

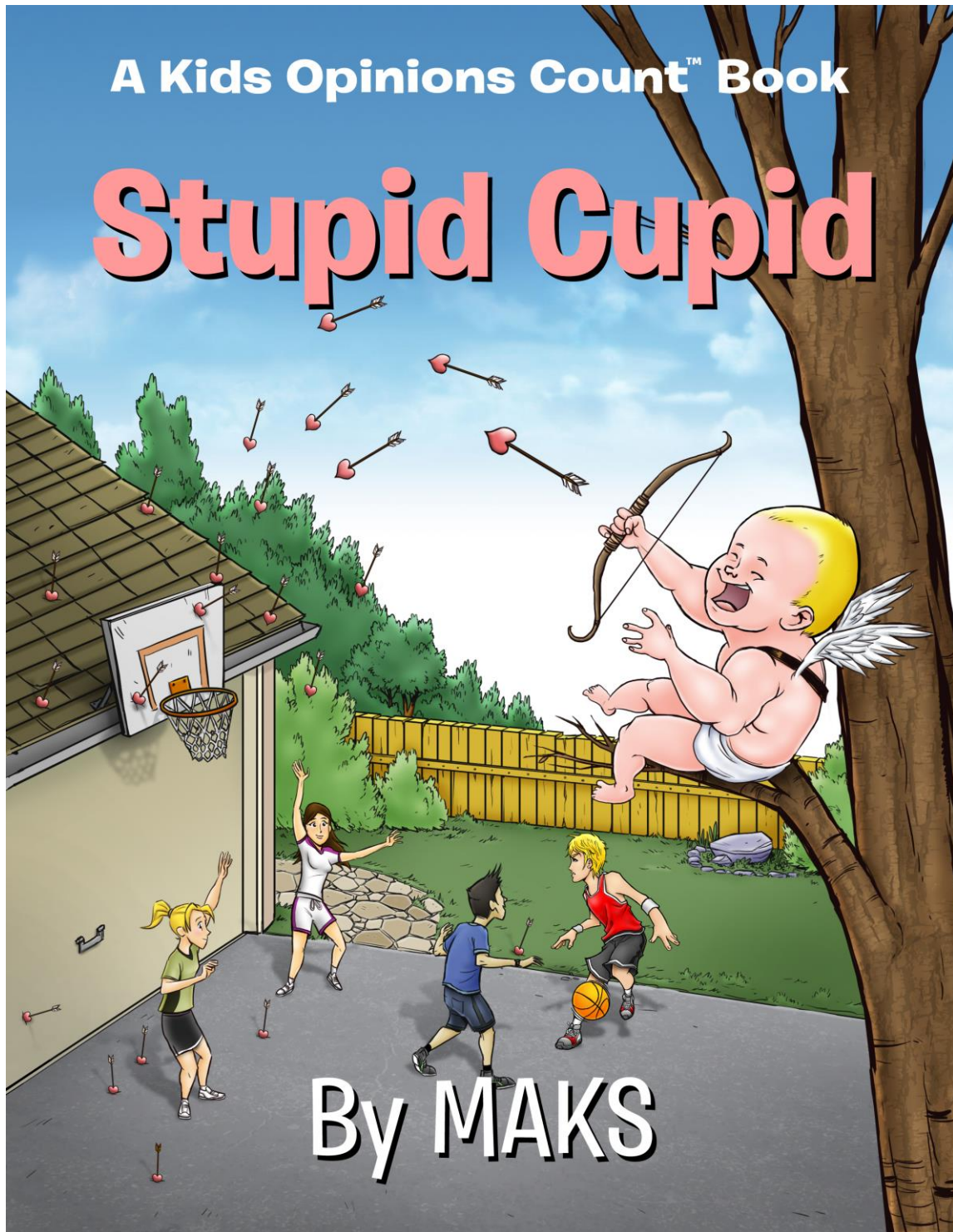
What was with the conspiracy talk between Lanny and Erin? Does that get resolved in future books?

Can the relationship between Tommie and her parents be expanded on? I feel like there was a lot we weren't being told.

The character of Mr. Welch confused me. Is he a good guy or a bad guy? Is he actually a Company agent?

I like book 2 better than book 1 because I found the plot more interesting and it didn't seem as slow as the first book.

## Book Three – Stupid Cupid



In *Stupid Cupid*, Alex and Scott's popularity and ethics are put to the test when Alex is challenged to run for School President and makes Scott his running mate. Alex will try anything to gain an advantage over his competitors, including using Kim's Science Fair project on the vomeralnasal organ and pheromones.

Alex goofs off in math class and his teacher dares him to run for school President. Alex selects Scott as his campaign manager and running mate. Alex and Scott decide to pursue the support of the disenfranchised, or as Alex puts it, Dis-French Fried students. To win their votes, they develop an election platform that promises to get rid of the cliques in the school. While the boys are busy with electioneering, Kim and Amy work on their Science Fair experiment on pheromones.

The boys give a stirring speech about mutual respect that not only surprises the principal but the students as well. They win the election and go on to play some of the best basketball of their lives against their rivals the Thompson Terriers.

After the games, both schools enjoy an outdoor band concert in the school yard. Strange things happen when pheromones are accidentally released into the air.

The kids learn that their opinions do count.

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson 12**

This is the best book so far. The tension grew perfectly and broken pieces came together, but I still want to know what the grandson and grandfather were doing with listening devices and who they are.

The science project seemed really advanced and very well put together too.

Throughout all the books (especially the 1<sup>st</sup> one) there have been too many sound effects.

The plot was again extremely well put together and organized. It connected all the enemies from books 1 and 2 together, it was genius.

Great Writing!!!

### **Ashley 14**

Wow! What can I say? This book was amazing. I loved it. So far it is my favourite!!!  
9.5/10 – 10/10

### **Kai 13**

MAKS the third book was really interesting because I learned about pheromones, what they do and what they are. I liked the parts with the pheromones, especially the one part when Max jumped onto Tommie. I thought that was very funny.

I liked how you explained everything exactly so the reader would always know what's going on. I don't think you had to divide these books it would have worked as a single book. I think this book was more adventurous and interesting than the others. The three books connected nicely. A few parts you absolutely overdid with the sound effects. You

described the scenery pretty good. Maybe you should, on some difficult word, write in an easier form because there were some words I had to look up in the dictionary.

#### **Savannah 14**

I liked this book. It was funny because of the way the kids tried to “save” their parents’ marriage. I’m sure plenty of kids have thought their ‘rents were on the rocks and tried to “help”. Scott and Alex cracked me up when they wanted to use the potions to help them win the election, and the way Alex threw the bottles on the man at the end right over the ant hill... that would make a funny scene in a movie.

#### **Stacey 18**

The characters are evolving with the books, which is a good thing. I really think Alex will be the popular one with the readers.

I found the info about the pheromones really interesting, and it was explained on an easy level to understand.

I like how the boys the election without pheromones and Alex gets a glimmer of a descent side.

The basketball game was a good moment. It actually makes you hold your breath waiting to see if the shot goes in.

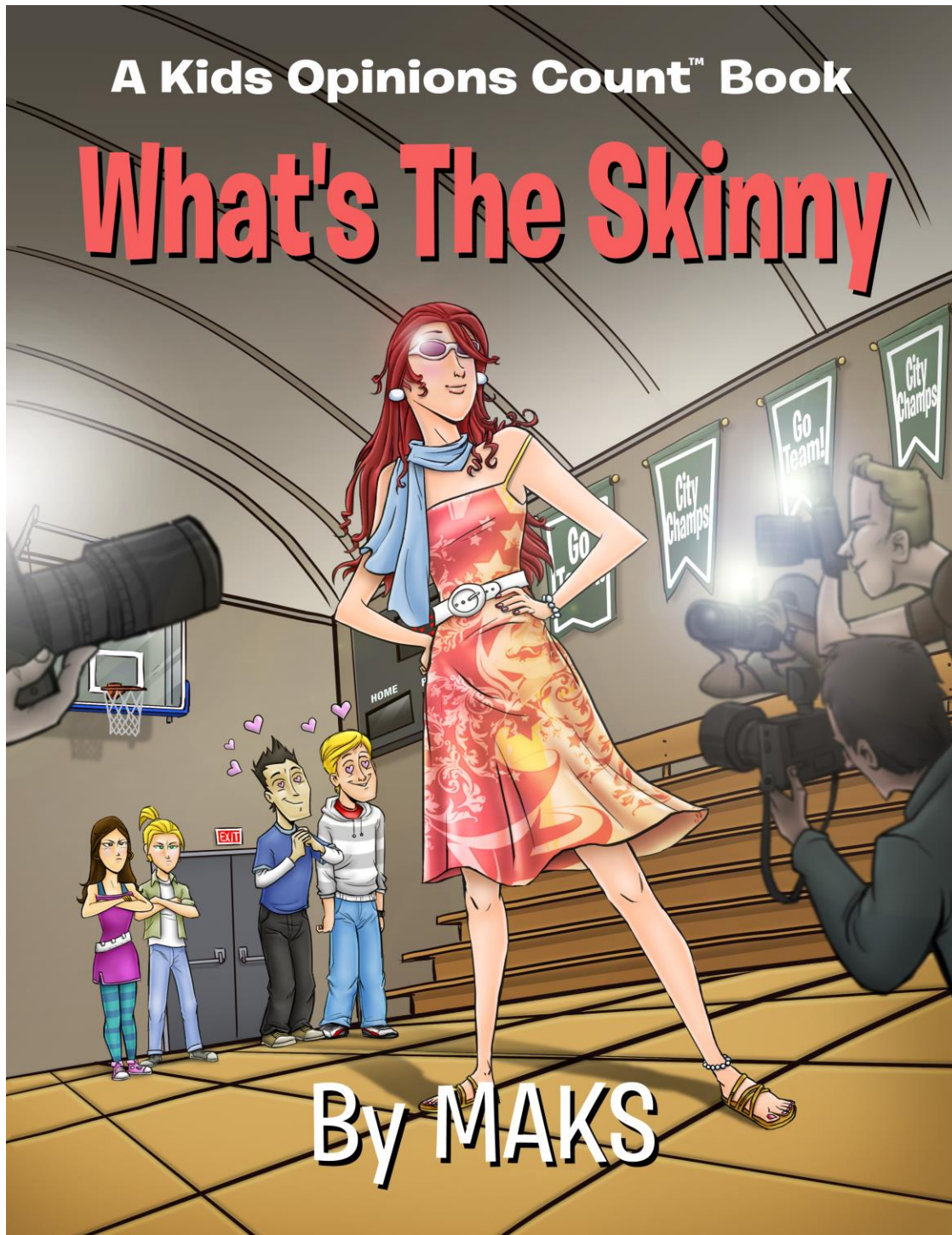
The part with the ants was a nice touch, brings a comical edge to a fairly serious moment.

#### **Erin 18**

I found book 3 interesting, but it really wasn’t a continuation of book 2’s plot about the Men of Business sting until the very end. I felt that book 3 deals more with the characters than with any advancement on the plot (except at the end). I learned a lot about Amy and Alex’s relationship with Tommie and Chris. I also learned more about Alex’s character in this book. Alex is a show-off and the class clown, but is this because he’s hiding his insecurity and vulnerability.

Is there a reason why Kim and Scott are so worried about their parent’s marriage? Is it because both Amy and Alex have divorced parents?

## Book Four – What's the Skinny



In *What's the Skinny*, a movie shoot at Spring Valley School exposes the greed and seedy side of the entertainment industry. Scott and Kim learn about the mental and physical problems associated with negative self-perception.

The Campbell family sells the diamond. They decide to put their financial windfall to good use. Scott and Kim establish their own Internet site, KidsOpinionsCount.com.

Scott and Alex try to eliminate the cliques at their school by raising enough money to support everyone's special interests. The boys promote their school as a location for teen flicks. A studio selects Spring Valley School for their latest shoot. Some think the school is chosen because the students are PHAT – when in fact it was chosen because the kids are FAT.

When the students at Spring Valley find out that a movie is going to be filmed at their school, the girls go on crash weight-loss programs and the boys try to bulk-up. The student body gets sick.

To make matters worse, the movie production company and a pharmaceutical company who are part of an all-powerful business organization called The Conglomerate, secretly use the students to test their new designer food and energy pills.

Scott and Kim find out that the designer food has no nutritional value and the energy pills are nothing more than a cocktail mixture of killer drugs. Scott, Amy, Alex and Kim, along with the star of the movie, Melissa, expose the Skinny Scheme and are targeted by The Conglomerate for revenge.

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson D. 12**

I liked the KOC web site and the movie a lot, although the web site seemed too advanced for eighth graders.

Again, the plot was great, even though it kinda strayed from the other books' conflicts but the guinea pig view of the dietary supplements was very, very well put.

I still want to know who the grandson and grandfather are and who they work for if they work for anyone. Also why??!!

In Magic meals, since there's no nutritional value, if someone died from malnutrition, wouldn't Magic meals get sued?

Overall I really liked the book and hope the 5<sup>th</sup> will be just as good.

### **Savannah N. 14**

"What's the Skinny" addressed the real-life problem of eating disorders and the degree of dementia in today's media and society. The whole get skinny quick diets and the movie going on site at the school and exposing the kids... that was good. I think "What's the Skinny" will kept the younger readers, the more 11 to 13 year olds, to develop their own views on what's important before they hit high school, and I think this book will challenge the older readers in high school to evaluate how much stock they put in the media and what they buy into. Good job on this book.

**Ashley L. 14**

I really liked how you actually brought up how nothing is really what it seems, and that fame and fortune isn't what it seems! UMMMM 8.5/10

**Kai S. 12**

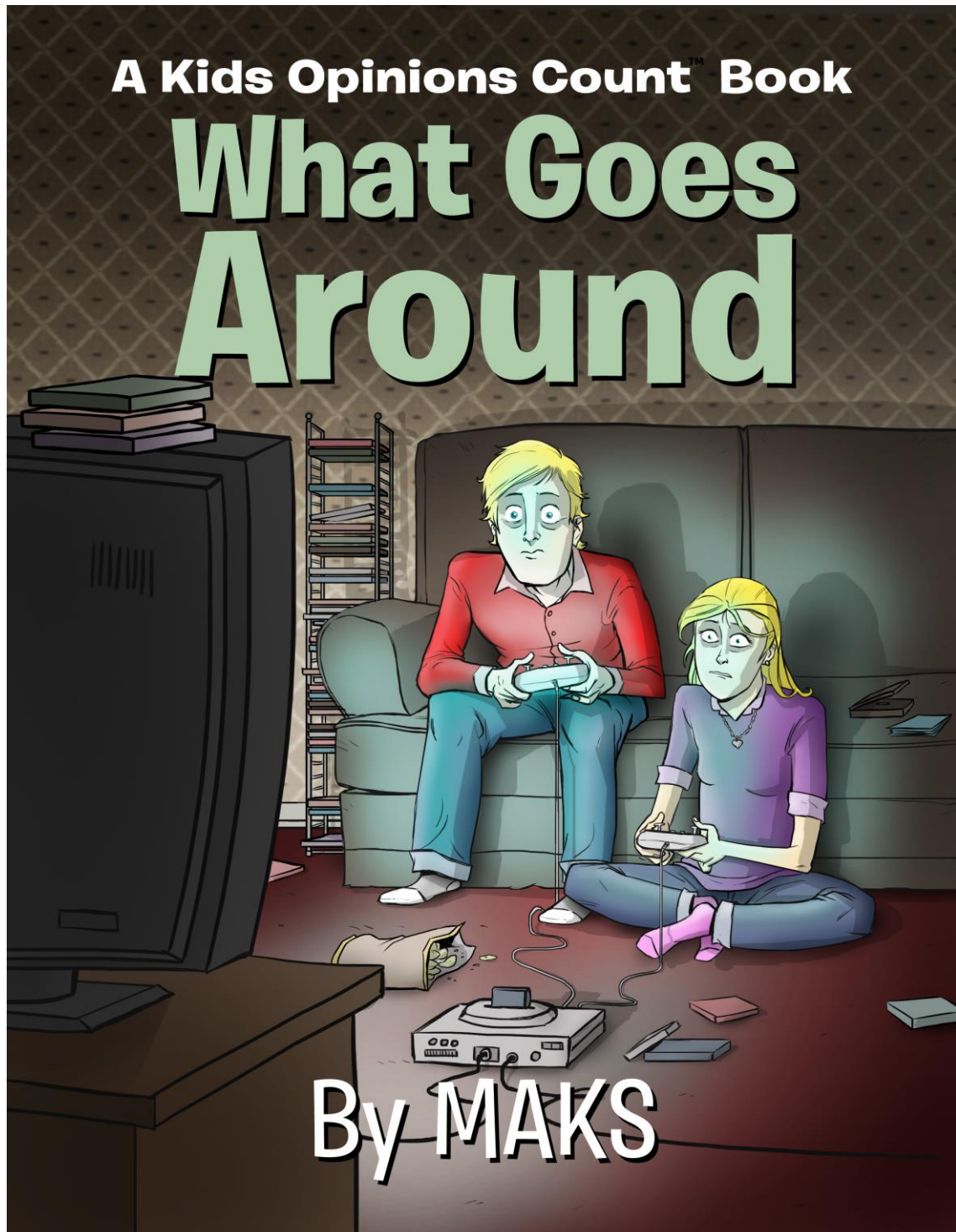
MAKS your book was excellent. I think your books go to a higher reading level with each book. Your books are really funny. Most authors just don't use humor so often as you do and I think that it makes a book more entertaining. I also like that nearly everything in your books comes from reality. My favorite part was when Alex got a stiffie and staying behind because it was hard walking with a stiffie.

I disliked the parts when Alex said something and the characters understood it and I did not have an idea what he was talking about.

I think you could straighten out Alex's characteristics and make him a little more mature, or just give him a brain.



## Book Five – What Goes Around



In *What Goes Around*, the kids learn about the power of light.

With the help of their Uncle Max and his medical research on light and epilepsy, including an enlightening interview with Timothy Leary and a crazy theory about the pineal gland and

**past lives – the kids see how powerful a tool light is, and how it has been used for centuries to influence and control people.**

The computer, television, mobile communications, video games and the Internet are the latest use of light for this purpose. The kids realize that their own Internet site has become extremely influential with their peer group.

The Conglomerate decides that they can use the kids and their influence with their peers, to undermine their new Eurasian computer competition. A new computer game and a new computer are sent to the Campbells for their review. A mysterious stranger enters the picture.

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson D. 12**

Book five was just like the rest of the plot layouts, perfect. You somehow connect all the books like you knew what to write in the sixth book before you were done with the second one.

You described the VR set like you had one of your own, and the epileptic facts were amazing.

I still am dying to know who the grandson and grandfather are and if the Men of Business are still running.

Sometimes in the information about Leary and seizures I got lost.

Altogether I think the book was fantastic and I hope to see more of Kim and Scott's pranks and triumphs in the sixth book

### **Savannah N. 14**

I think every kid is gonna want a video game that comes with a custom suit and will take you wherever you want to go! I personally want Jack... tehee. "What Goes Around" was a nice break from all of the adventure in the other books. It gave more of an inside look into the everyday world of Scott and Kei, The whole birthmark business wasn't completely wrapped up in this book. The readers weren't really told what it meant that the kids had those markings and their weird meanings and the fact that the guy in the dressing room had one too. But other than that, the book was good.

### **Ashley L. 14**

I really like how you give a prologue, because then things can move along quicker, but still be interesting and still leave the reader completely informed!

Another good book. My favorite parts are when you describe the b-ball game scenes!!!  
8.5/10

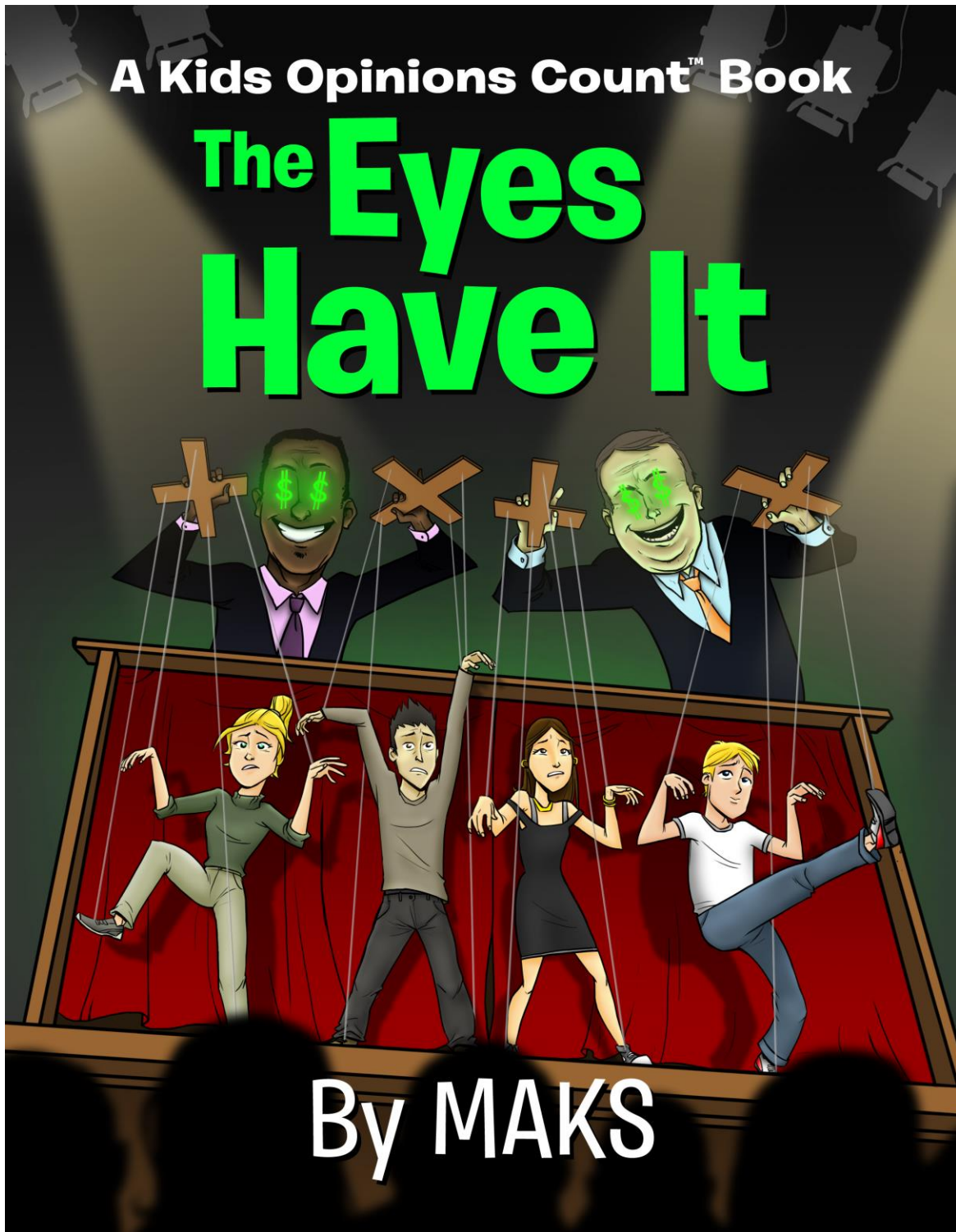
### **Kai S. 12**

MAKS, I like your Prologue at the beginning of this, but maybe you should either write a prologue on each book or also explain everything that happened in the books before this one. I liked the new game you wrote about where everything you think of becomes virtually real.

I didn't like that this was not as adventurous as the other four books, although this book is more interesting than the others.

I think in this book there was more love compared to the pheromone one because I think there are two parts where there is a connection between the girls and boys, and I think Kim and Alex and Amy and Scott are going to fall in love with each other.

## Book Seven – The Eyes Have It



In *The Eyes Have It*, the kids learn the importance of independent thinking.

A new teacher (the mysterious stranger) takes over their World Issues class. The entire class learn how important it is to get all the facts before they form an opinion or make a decision.

**In particular, they learn that there are many sides to an issue and must put what they learn into practice.**

The kids become aware that they themselves have real power and must use it but not abuse it. They devise a plan to use light technology to reallocate The Conglomerate's 'Badvertising' budgets to more worthy causes. Alex decides to use the technology to his own advantage ... with disastrous consequences.

They realize that The Conglomerate is using them for their own purposes.

Acting on behalf of The Conglomerate, Sonny Games, attempts to trick Scott and Kim into posting a devastatingly negative review of their new Eurasian competitor's computer technology.

Behind this plot, lies The Conglomerate's real objective, to install full-duplexing capability in all communication devices to achieve total consumer control. The European and Asian technology will not support full-duplexing. The kids must figure out how to give individuals a choice...to full-duplex or not to full-duplex... They hatch a plan...

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson D. 12**

I liked the book a lot. The money transfer was really cool but wouldn't the Conglomerate find out eventually?

I loved the epilepsy approach and overall the book was great.

The video games were awesome and I can't wait to read the eighth book.

Great Work!!

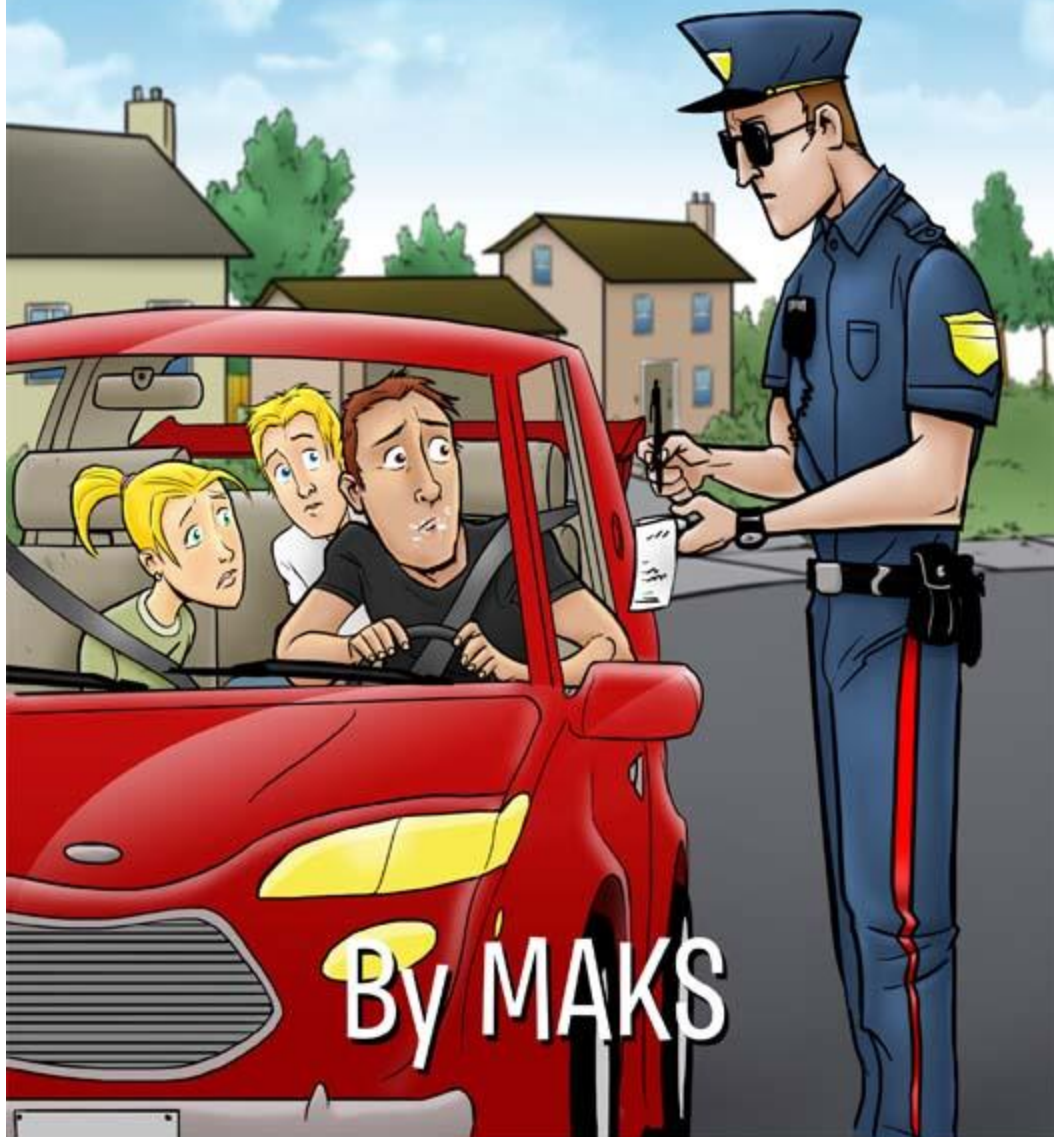
### **Savannah**

Starting the book off with the end of the play and how the kids informed their audience was great. I kind felt like I was left hangin' but you finished that with this book. I must say that if Jack was as cute as Kim thinks he is, then it was a sad thing to see him have to leave. But to be fair, you did add a teacher who seems to be doing pretty well. +) the kids took down another huge industry in this book and used lots of high-tech gizmos to do it. I would have read the book if I had found it in a bookstore.

**But Officer!**

A Kids Opinions Count™ Book

# But Officer



By MAKs

**In *But Officer*, the kids start to question the basis of good and evil. Things aren't always what they seem, especially when gossip abounds at Spring Valley School. As the kids continue their battle with The Conglomerate, it appears that other surprising forces are at work instigating the conflicts and resolutions ... resulting in murder.**

The Kids' first scheme to undermine the full-duplexing plan, fails. Undaunted, they continue to plot against The Conglomerate.

Kim and Scott become integral participants in Max's epilepsy research and find that it is an amazing resource to battle The Conglomerate.

There is no sign that The Conglomerate is retaliating, however, the Campbells all have inexplicable bad luck and run-ins with the law... culminating with a dead body washing up on their beach... and a murder charge.

## **Editor/Reader's Opinions**

### **Jackson D. 12**

This book was one of my top three in the series. I loved it.

I loved the new curse words and the fake girlfriend and boyfriend thing.

Who were the fake policeman and why did they want the Campbell's fingerprints and retinal scans and Stuff?

I liked the basketball games and the ultimate-full-duplexing theory, but who is this Mr. Jones guy anyway?

I definitely think there should be some more sequels after this book. Why did Jack have to die?!?!?

### **Kai S. 12**

MAKS I really liked the books seven and eight. Just in case you were wondering why I am only writing one book report on these books is because I think the 7 should have been written as one. These two books were split in two at the most interesting spot.

My favorite part was when they transferred the money.

### **Savannah**

"But Officer" was a good one.

It was very educational. I think that a lot of young kids will pick up tons of knowledge from reading the book, well all of them, without even knowing it just because of the way you weave it into the story. It's hard to say much about this book because it did end right off and the pieces weren't tied together. How as Jack killed? Why were the police

officers stopping the Campbells and incriminating them? How does Mac's study turn out? What happens with the folks at the old person's home? Just things like that that weren't answered are really the only real comment I can make that you haven't heard from me seven times before.=)

I'm guessing these questions and more will all be answered in book nine!



# Reader's Opinions!

**MAKS, we think** that the books are very entertaining. There is intrigue and mystery, tense moments, and hilarious situations throughout. The characters are believable, as are the situations they find themselves in. The plots are fast-paced and definitely hold a reader's attention. When reading the stories, it is easy to imagine the settings and the action. The escapades are exciting and the dialogue is current, especially the bantering and teasing among the kids.

By the way, this would be a great television show that parents would encourage their children to watch. While there are "good" guys and "bad" guys, there is not the violence and sex that is evident in so much television these days. The educational component is a plus. Kids can learn about social and moral issues without being lectured. Adults and kids work together to resolve problems (even though the kids do seem to take matters into their own hands quite a bit!) **Mom and Daughter (13) - Canada**

**G'day MAKS,** I certainly think the fundamental storyline is without doubt engaging and quirky enough to garner lots of interest. Add to that the great characters and the underlying "normal family life" component, you should reach a solid audience. **Jenni - Canada**

**Hey MAKS!** There is a real niche for books or TV that does not patronize them. I am a huge supporter of anything that entertains and teaches at the same time. Involving kids in situations that are often decidedly adult, gives them a sense of empowerment AND consequently ownership. There is no need to trick kids into dealing with the big issues. They are more than capable, given the right supports, patience, and understanding. My feeling is that kids love to watch kids in grown-up situations, solving grown-up problems, it is a tried and true formula. **Tom - Teacher - Canada**

**MAKS,** Kids will like your books because they show that some adults do consider our opinions, and the way we look at things. Adults might like them because they show how kids want to help out in their own ways. They might learn how kids think, I mean the adults. **Jaimee (13) Canada**

**Hi MAKS,** Yes I *have* read your book, and trust me that's an accomplishment. I don't mean that in the way that I have troubles reading, because I have always had a higher reading level than I'm supposed to for my age (hehe), I mean it in the way that usually I don't finish books. I read the whole thing, back to front. My favourite was the third book, I think partially because I have Tommy Girl perfume, hehe. That was something that I liked... how you used things that I knew about, like the perfume. The book does a very good job of being entertaining and educational. I feel like educational is the wrong word to use though, because, learning 'isn't supposed to be fun' is it? haha, well this book pulls it off. **Elyse (14) U.S.A.**

**Hi MAKS,** Thanks for attending our Book Club Meeting. Diamond in the Ruff was a great fun adventure and was enjoyed by the girls and us moms as well! We enjoyed the fast

paced excitement as well as the factual information in the storyline that expanded our girls knowledge on true issues. Encouraging and inspiring children to take charge and look beyond what appears to be the obvious. Thanks again for sharing your novel and day with us. **All the Best, Mom and Daughter (14)**

**\*Hey MAKS!** I think it would be an awesome idea to make the books into a tv series. There would actually be a kids show out there that wasn't over loaded w/sex and drama. Having a tv show that encourages kids to think sounds like a good idea to me. The books were a hit, why not a tv show? **Sarvi (16) – U.S.A**

**Dear MAKS,** I gave the book to our granddaughter, Katie **(12 – U.S.A.)**, and she loved it. She had it read in a couple days. She also said this is the first book she has read that understands teenagers!

**MAKS,** Diana **(13)** just loves it. I have never seen her so excited about reading before. Thanks again, Vijay

**MAKS,** My grandson **(12)** loves your books! He usually just reads war books. Could you send me book 4?