



Blart: The Boy Who Didn't Want to Save the World

Dominic Barker

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Blart is not an average boy. He lives on a pig farm with his grandfather and doesn't care about being heroic or famous or legendary, but he does know that if you want to catch a pig you have to sneak up behind it and take it by surprise. So when a great wizard visits and explains that humankind depends on Blart joining his quest, Blart says no - until the wizard threatens his pigs. Reluctantly, Blart embarks on a very epic quest stuffed with brilliant characters: a feisty princess who likes dragons, a warrior who's a big softie at heart, a disaffected dwarf, and evil Zorab, trapped in a mountain, waiting for his minions to dig him out...

Blart: The Boy Who Didn't Want to Save the World Details

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Author : Dominic Barker

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From Reader Review Blart: The Boy Who Didn't Want to Save the World for online ebook

Lee Penney says

A story about an anti-hero, well, a null hero really. Blart is a pig farmer, he wants nothing to do with quests, but is forced to join one, by a wizard.

They soon pick up an oafish warrior who wants to become a knight, a grumpy princess and a misguided dwarf. Oh, and there is a flying horse, and some dragons.

So it's filled with the usual fantasy tropes.

Their aim is to save the world from a dark lord, and Blart happens to be the one person who can save it. There is magic, and adventure, and hijinks.

Except everything's twisted. Our hero has no desire to be a hero, and no heroic traits. Instead, he's a useless, whiny lump.

The story is trying to send up the stereotypical fantastical elements made famous by the better-known books in this genre. Once you get past that, the story's not particularly interesting and it just seems a little lazy, especially the ending.

There's a second book in the series, but I don't think I'll pick it up.

Leira Roscini says

Oddio l'amore. L'amore incontrastato per questo geniale uomo inglese che ha deciso di prendere un genere fantasticamente pesante e renderlo meravigliosamente leggere con il potere delle cazzate.

A-DO-VO.

Peccato che in alcuni punti si perda un pò, perda smalto. Ma eh. Ci sono due seguiti. Chi lo dice che non faccia una seduta dalla manicure.

(HAHAHAHAHAHA LO SO SONO UN GENIO)

Rachael says

Debating over whether to give it 3 or 4 stars because I did quite enjoy it and frequently chuckled...

I picked this book off my brother's shelf and thought I'd give it a read for a laugh. I was actually pleasantly (if pleasant is the word?!) surprised as the silly childish humour tickled me and I was easily drawn into the story of Blart, Capablanca and Beowulf. The style reminded me a little of Galavant (the musical TV series about a knight) and also brought to mind times in school where we had to create a story that revolved around typical fantastical creatures (a dwarf, a wizard etc.) and how coming up with the names for them closely resembled the entertaining names in this book (eg. the Great Tunnel of Despair, Hypermodernia, the

Terrorsium etc.).

I liked how the author, Barker, went to the effort of explaining little scenarios that tend to go unexplained in many other books. For instance when Blart is pulled out of bed by Capablanca to be forcefully taken on the quest, Barker goes back to settle the reader's questions on Blart's state of dress. And naturally, the explanation is a humorous one (he sleeps in his muddy, dropping-covered day clothes).

I must admit, despite its unusual and unconventional take on the typical adventure story, I *did* somewhat expect things to tie up a little more at the end. Blart might redeem himself a little and show some genuine admirable qualities, or perhaps in general the characters may have changed a little bit as a result of their quest and so their relationships with each other would have developed... But no. They all ended up pretty much exactly the same as when the story had started. Which in a way added to the humour of it all I suppose.

And now for a (very) long list of quotes that particularly tickled me:

- 'All in all, Blart's physical appearance was really in need of a winning personality or a variety of impressive skills to counterbalance it. Unfortunately, he had neither.' - p8/9
- 'Blart's grandfather disapproved of visitors, on account of the fact that they talked to you and tried to be friendly.' - p9
- 'Blart had never ever had a visitor of his own before. Well, at least not a human one.' - p9
- 'However, far stronger in Blart even than the desire to own the biggest pig farm in the world was the desire to say no to somebody who had asked him to do him a favour.' - p12/13
- 'Zoltab was tempted by power and by evil. Nobody is sure why, but it is suggested that he first became frustrated because his name was last on the register at the Creator's training school and he developed an inferiority complex.' - p13/14
- '"I wanted sauces," said Beo indignantly. "I thought you wanted a quest," Capablanca reminded him.' - p36, when Capablanca impatiently refuses sauces at the inn
- '"Look, I'm very sorry, but I'm a businessman. If it's not good for trade then I don't want to know about it." "But the end of the world will be terrible for trade", argued Capablanca. "You must think long term."' - p53, when Cheery doesn't want to keep the minion locked up in his cellar
- '"You haven't listened to a single word I've said, have you?" he [Capablanca] accused Blart. "I have," replied Blart indignantly. "I can listen to single words. It's just when you stick them together in long bits that I get bored."' - p58
- 'He tried to gallop very fast and then stop very suddenly in the hope that they would shoot over his neck and land in a crumpled heap at his feet. If this worked he planned to trample on them afterwards, because he was a horse who thought ahead.' - p60
- 'And it is true that wizards are not free of the absentmindedness and general befuddlement that can come with age. However, in their case a little confusion can have far more drastic consequences.' - p79
- 'Blart noticed that Capablanca emphasised Nimzovitsch's wisdom and knowledge while glossing over his weakness for becoming trapped under dumplings.' - p87
- '[The Illyrian] economy, instead of being based on the idea of buying, was based on the idea of giving. Everybody gave a share of whatever he or she had to everybody else... Everybody ended up with all the oranges, apples, cheese and everything else that they needed, which is all that an economy is there for in the first place... And because they weren't always competing with each other and trying to make a profit, the Illyrians ended up being friendly and generous to one another and they were the happiest people in the world. It made all the economists mad.' - p131/2
- 'The most impressive reason for swapping - an old man who claimed that he could feel a heart attack coming on and didn't want the wizard to trip over his corpse - actually drew applause from onlookers.' - p135, when the Illyrians let Blart and the others go in front of them all in the long queue

- "Try fruit and counselling" - p138, the Illyrian Queen's suggestion to helping/stopping Zoltab and his minions
- 'Everybody who'd stopped breathing realised that this was going to take a little longer than they'd expected, took a sneaky breath and then stopped again.' - p215
- "" You have died nobly," said Beo. "Sssh, hissed Capablanca. "He isn't dead yet." "Sorry," said Beo. He coughed and tried again. "You are dying nobly."" - p294 to Tungsten

chuckles a childish chuckle

Senny says

4,5/5

E' una parodia dei classici fantasy che riempiono gli scaffali delle librerie, col ragazzino prodigio adolescente che deve salvare il mondo ed è accompagnato nella sua quest dal mago barbuto e mistico, dal rude ma cavalleresco guerriero e dall'irascibile gnocca principesca di turno. Sì, c'è anche il magico destriero. E' un libro per ragazzi e un po' si sente, ma di sicuro non mi aspettavo che questa parodia mi sarebbe piaciuta così tanto, e che mi avrebbe fatta ridere così di gusto! L'ironia è bel calibrata, non è né eccessiva né troppo scarna, le vicende sono forse un filo ingenua ma alla fine lo scopo del libro è prendere per i fondelli la classica trama standard di un fantasy, e se ci sono alcuni buchi di trama non pesano affatto.

Jennifer Lehman says

Sometimes I don't always love the books I read with my son (we have different tastes of course) but we both enjoyed this one. I liked the character of Blart who didn't want to be a hero; he just wanted to get back home to his pigs.

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Meo says

Subtitled The Boy Who Didn't Want To Save The World, this book takes the conventions of fantasy literature and turns them on their head. Bought by the wizard Capablanca from a pig-farming grandfather, Blart is dragged off against his will to prevent the evil Lord Zoltab from being released from centuries of slumber. He is not your archetypal hero: rude, ugly, uneducated and self-centred, Blart blunder his way through, trying to betray his comrades at every opportunity. The Juniors loved the insults, bawdy songs and Blart's insolence: this reviewer loved the in-jokes and fourth-wall busting narration. Funny and sharp, this is a book which can be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

Don says

If you want to read this kind of thing, read Terry Pratchett and don't waste your time on this.

I started reading this book to check it out before reading it to my seven year old son. I decided that I'd rather not read it to him but ended up finishing it just because I had nothing else to read at the time.

This is the type of book I hate. All the main characters are jerks. They are nasty, traitorous, and fundamentally have no redeeming qualities. I tried to like them at the start but found as the pages went on that more and more I hated the whole cast. (Well, I like the barbarian fighter somewhat, but he didn't get many lines).

The humour is not particularly good - it just capitalizes on saying/doing exactly the opposite of what the cliché story would do. But after a while it becomes quite predictable, unsurprising and a little boring. I think the author is trying to be a pre- / early-teen equivalent of Terry Pratchett but I think he fails in that quest.

I decided not to read it to my son because

- a) he doesn't know the genre clichés enough to understand the contrarian humour
- b) I don't want to expose him to "heroes" who are so repulsive
- c) the book broke one of my cardinal rules - don't laugh at the deaths of innocent bystanders. This was (view spoiler)

Vaastray says

[illegible]

Kara says

Don't read it.

It's crap.

Newton says

Blart is a humorous book that is a parody of the classic fantasy story of a wizard coming to a poor boy's farm and claiming that the boy will save the world. Normally, they grab a spare pair of socks and go on their way, or think about it for a second and *then go on their way*. However, when a powerful wizard comes to Blart's doorstep, Blart chooses to stay at the farm and watch over his pigs!

Blart is then erm....forced to join the wizard, who is named Capablanca. Capablanca tells Blart that they must go and trap the evil god Zoltab. He was imprisoned a long time ago by the other gods, but his minions are digging him up, and they must go stop them. In a little village, they meet an old friend of Capablanca, Beowulf. Beowulf is a warrior who wants to be a knight, but claims that there aren't any quests left. He spends his time looking for quests and getting drunk. When he finds out that Capablanca and Blart are on quest to stop Zoltab, he immediately joins them. Also, later on, they meet a dwarf who guides them to the hole where Zoltab's minions are digging him up. The dwarf's name is Tungsten and he tries to assist them on their quest to stop Zoltab, even though the other dwarfs refuse to help.

I liked this book, because it was one of the funniest books I ever read. I could tell that it was going to be funny right from the start, from the title "The Boy Who Didn't Want To Save The World" and the blurb. Along with the humor in it, it also has action bits(which are funny) and places that have a lot of tension (also funny). All in all, it's a good book to read.

Siddha Malilang says

Reading the premise of fantasy parody, I expected a witty satire criticizing the narrative construction. However, I couldn't bear finishing this book in one reading. It took me months to gather strengths to continue reading this. The plot is so slow and annoying, and it is very easy to HATE all the characters. Yes, ALL of the characters. There is no single character here is worthy of attention.

I really regret wasting my time reading this piece of crap.

rameau says

You'll either love it or hate it. I'm currently undecided.

The beginning of this book was good, but everything that made the first pages so funny became irritating around page 100 and worse after that. Still, I've read enough fantasy novels to appreciate many of the jabs this parody throws at the genre.

Clarisse says

Werehare says

7/10

Sono tre stelle un po' regalate, ma in molti punti mi ha sinceramente divertita quindi le dò volentieri.

Il punto di forza è senza dubbio la parodia di tanti (troppi) romanzi *fèntasi* in circolazione, con tanto di Prescelto e Saggio Mentore e Principessa. Tutti rigorosamente gretti e meschini, pronti a ingannare anche i compagni pur di uscirne vivi.

Debolezze collaterali sono per l'appunto una trama lineare, prevedibile e nemici monocordi, come nel fantatrash standard di cui sopra: cose comunque trattate con ironia, che non pregiudicano la godibilità del tutto. Uniche pecche vere e proprie, alcune battute/osservazioni/nonsicapiscebene che, per l'appunto, non ho capito: troppo serie per essere battute (e se lo erano non facevano ridere), stridono con l'atmosfera ironica e lasciano il tempo che trovano.
