



## Attack of the Mutant

*R.L. Stine*

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# Attack of the Mutant

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**Attack of the Mutant** R.L. Stine  
**READ AT YOUR OWN RISK....**

Skipper Matthews has an awesome comic book collection. His favorite one is called *The Masked Mutant*. It's about an evil super villain who's out to rule the universe!

Skipper can't get enough of The Mutant. Until one day he gets lost in a strange part of town. And finds a building that looks exactly like The Mutant's secret headquarters. A building that appears and disappears.

Has Skipper read one too many comic books? Or does The Masked Mutant really live in Riverview Falls?

## Attack of the Mutant Details

Date : Published 1994 by Scholastic

ISBN : 9780590483551

Author : R.L. Stine

Format : Paperback 117 pages

Genre : Horror, Childrens, Fiction, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review Attack of the Mutant for online ebook

### David Santos says

<http://www.davidasantos.com/>

What in the name of sugary fruit loops did I just read? If I wanted to read a comic book, I'd just buy one. Skip reads his comics to us for a little while, which I mainly skim-read. The final 5 chapters are just weird. I finished reading it in 5 hours Not because it was good, no, but because I wanted to get it over with asap! The tower, funny how Skipper was the only person to see it and not see it and walk into it. The idea of a comic book coming to life isn't bad. A good concept, just terribly executed in this book. I think it could have been written much better. I don't have much to say about this, but I hope the next book #26 My Hairiest Adventure, makes it up to me. And if you judge a book by its title..."sigh" this is going to be a long weekend!

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### Highness Atharva says

This book was a total standout from the Goosebumps series, comic book villains and heroes coming out of the book in real life. Wow! Bit not so Wow when you read the book. It could have done a really good job of scaring the readers if the plot was changed. It sure is a mystery book and you cannot suspect what's going to happen next but you can determine something about the characters, his likes and dislikes and opinions. The book wasn't scary at all. Most of the time, our hero reads comic books, takes a bus ride, visits the "Alien" Mutant Building, the architecture of the building is very beautifully described by Stine. I love the idea of what happens in the comic happens in real life. investigates it and battles the Mutant. I wonder how he felt like when he fought his favorite supervillain. It would be great if the Masked Mutant had a back story. The ending is just perfect, with character switching and illusions and how the Masked Man was killed. I think that the masked mutant was so very easily killed. The girl character was also great. (She was the Masked Mutants assistant really) this book invades the young mind who like comics and action sequences. Not a remarkable one from the Goosebumps NotSoHorrifying series.

Danger does not approach our hero here, instead he approaches and searches for danger. Its all because of curiosity. Well, curiosity killed the cat

Skipper Matthews is an overweight twelve-year-old comic-book collector who loves collecting many comics yet only reads one: the Masked Mutant. The Masked Mutant is an evil super-villain who can change his molecular form into any solid material. He is constantly opposed by a league of superheroes lead by the Galloping Gazelle, the world's fastest man. Skipper has a friend named Wilson who is into collecting rubber stamps and attempts at various times throughout the novel to share his passion with Skipper to no avail. Skipper also has a little nine-year-old sister Mitzi who always likes to mess around with him.

One day while riding the bus to the dentist, he meets a pretty redhead girl named Libby (not knowing that she was actually the Masked Mutant in disguise), who strikes up a conversation with him about comic books. He gets so caught up talking to her that he gets off on the wrong stop and spots a building that looks exactly like the Masked Mutant's headquarters! He almost goes inside the building, but he is late for his dentist appointment and decides to come back. The next day he comes back to see the building but it has disappeared. Later that night he goes home and reads the newest issue of the Masked Mutant that has arrived in the mail for him and sees that in the comic book the Masked Mutant has put an invisibility cloak on the building.

Going back the next day, Skipper runs into Libby for a third time. The two decide to see if they can access the invisible building and sure enough they enter successfully. When they arrive, a yellow light ray scans over Skipper's body but has no apparent effect on him. The two ventures into one of the building's elevators and are whisked down to the basement of the building. The two get separated and while alone Skipper finds a large printing press and layouts for the last issue of the Masked Mutant. Skipper concludes that the building is likely the headquarters for the comic book publisher. While leafing through the layouts Skipper notices a series of panels for the next issue, and the new character drawn within looks exactly like Skipper. At this point, Libby reappears and makes Skipper leave with her. That night, Skipper gets home and there is another new issue of the comic waiting for him.

Inside the issue Skipper spies drawings of himself walking around the headquarters with the words "A NEW FOE" written about him. Skipper also finds out that the Galloping Gazelle has been held hostage in the Masked Mutant's headquarters, and that only "the Boy" can save him.

So Skipper returns again to the headquarters and makes his way up the elevator to rescue the Galloping Gazelle! He finds the bound superhero tied to a chair in an unlocked room, unites him, and the two leave the room to confront the Masked Mutant. The Galloping Gazelle is convinced that Skipper is a superhero and keeps drilling him for his secret power as they make their way to the Mutant's private offices. The Galloping Gazelle informs Skipper that his plan is to run around and around the Mutant at such a fast speed that he becomes a cyclone and sucks the Masked Mutant into submission. Suddenly the Masked Mutant morphs out of hiding (he was disguised as office furniture) and the Gazelle makes good on his plan. However the Mutant outsmarts him and sticks his foot out, tripping the Gazelle. The Masked Mutant then transforms into the form of a leopard and tries to eat the Galloping Gazelle.

The Galloping Gazelle proves himself to be a coward as he escapes the Masked Mutant's leopard clutches and abandons Skipper with the Masked Mutant as he makes his escape. The Masked Mutant returns to his normal form and he too starts to drill Skipper about his secret mutant-power. The Mutant lifts Skipper all the way up to the ceiling of his private office and is about to drop him to his death when Libby appears in the doorway.

The Masked Mutant safely sets Skipper down as he goes to confront Libby. Libby removes a yellow toy gun from her satchel and tells Skipper that if this is really a comic book then anything can happen, so she tells the Masked Mutant that the toy gun is a Molecule-Melter. The Masked Mutant doubts her and he advances as she pulls the trigger. The gun fires at the Masked Mutant and the Mutant melts down into nothing. Skipper is overjoyed and Libby tells him of course it worked, after all, it is a Molecule-Melter, and Skipper is the next victim and target.

Skipper then watches as Libby transforms into the real Masked Mutant. It turns out that the previous Masked Mutant was actually the Magnificent Molecule Man, who worked for the Masked Mutant. What else matters is that, there is no girl named Libby at all after the Masked Mutant himself ditches his female disguise. The Masked Mutant also informs Skipper of another dastardly deed. He has turned Skipper into a comic book character, which turned into a big shock! The mysterious yellow ray when he first entered the building was a scanner and it scanned him into the comic book! With no hope of escape the Masked Mutant prepares to destroy Skipper until Skipper stops him by announcing that he is not actually Skipper! No, he is the Colossal Elastic Boy in disguise. The Masked Mutant shakes his head and says, "I knew it!" Skipper reveals that nothing can harm him, but sulfuric acid. Skipper throws a bucket of water onto the Mutant which makes him melt into a wave of acid. Skipper barely misses the wave and the acid eats into the carpet.

Skipper made up the whole thing about being the Elastic Boy. Since the Masked Mutant could only

transform himself into solids, Skipper had tricked him into transforming into a liquid and thus the Masked Mutant was unable to return to his original form. Skipper was very happy to be alive and performed a little victory dance, on the carpet. He could not wait to return home and see his family again. It seemed like the bus ride home took hours, but as soon as he got home and walked into the front door, he was glad to be back. He had enough adventure for one day, and decides not to read the new comic that has arrived for him in the mail. "Who needs it?" he asked himself about the comic. He then, celebrates his victory later on that night, by playing Frisbee with his little sister Mitzi for a half an hour. They had a great time. Then Skipper asked his little sister Mitzi if they wanted a snack. She said yes, and they decided to have some chocolate cake together. As Skipper is cutting the cake with a big cake knife, he accidentally cuts the back of his hand. But he discovers that it was not blood coming out...he was bleeding red, blue, yellow and black ink. Looks like Skipper's comic book career is not over yet and now he must read the next issue of the Masked Mutant comic series in order to continue.

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## Connie says

**Source: I own this book.**

Cost: Unknown

**Title:** Attack of the Mutant

**Series:** Goosebumps #23

**Author:** RL Stine

**Overall Rating:** 3 stars

This is your average, typical Goosebumps book where nothing is as it seems. It just didn't leave me with as much as a shock factor as some of them do, and that's okay, it's a massive series. There are bound to be some average ones, this is an average one about a boy obsessed with comic books and maybe his obsession can lead him into trouble.

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## Heather says

This was like two different books smooshed together. The first is about a kid who found a building which was featured in his favorite comic book series and he keeps strolling into that building uninvited. The second is... well, it's your typical Goosebumps book, where things are happening and everything's a little bit bizarre.

Let's talk about what this is if you remove the supernatural element because, once again, it's very easy: Skipper, or Bradley as it's his real name, is obsessed with comics, but *The Masked Mutant* in particular. Every time he gets one of those, he reads it instead of shrink wrapping it and putting it away for collection purposes.

One day he gets a MM comic which shows the MM's HQ (I'm so hip, y'all) and, on the way to an orthodontist's appointment, sees a building that looks exactly like that. He becomes obsessed with going into this building even though it's private property. The building is usually deserted and looks (and essentially functions) like a regular office building. (Does he never stop to consider that he might just be catching these guys after everyone's gone home and someone's gone lax on locking up the building?)

Oh, yeah, and Stine also decides to rip on Archie comics for some reason:

*Those **High School Harry & Beanhead** comics are the most boring comics in the world! And the art is so lame. Can't everyone see that the two girls are drawn exactly the same, except one has blond hair and one has black?*

Strong words from the author of *Goosebumps*.

(view spoiler)

Also, that building? The description of it always reminded me of a penis. Stine, you troll.

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### Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Βλ?ποντας το εξ?φυλλο του βιβλ?ου και διαβ?ζοντας την περ?ληψ? του, περιμ?νεις κ?τι εντελ?ς διαφορετικ? απ? αυτ? που ε?ναι στην πραγματικ?τητα. Δεν πρ?κειται για ?να απ? τα αμιγ?ς τρομακτικ? βιβλ?α της σειρ?ς, αφο? διαθ?τει μπ?λικα στοιχε?α μα?ρου χιο?μορ και αντοσαρκαστικ?ς σ?τιρας (σε μεγαλ?τερο βαθμ?, τουλ?χιστον, σε σ?γκριση με ?λλα), αλλ? παρ?λα τα?τα απολαμβ?βεις την αν?γνωσ? του.

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### Menglong Youk says

Skipper, a small and chubby boy, is a huge fan of comic books. He has a variety of comic books that he includes in his collections, which he hopes will be worth millions in the future. Most of the books are still sealed in the plastic bags, "The Masked Mutant" series is his most favorite and he reads every single issue of it. One day when he forgets his bus stop, he unintentionally arrives another side of town with which he isn't familiar. One thing catches his eyes though, and he just cannot believe it: a building that resembles the Mutant's headquarter that can appear and disappear. Is the Mutant real or it is just an illusion due to his obsession with comic books?

I would love this book more if I were a kid, but still, it did a pretty good job to entertain me. If you want something to read that can be finished in a short time on a boring day, I'd recommend you this one.

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### Carmen says

WOW. This book was so amazing!!!! It is my new favorite Goosebumps book!

I love, love, LOVE books about comics. Not comic books. But books about comics and comic nerds. For instance, the book "Soon I Will Be Invincible" by Austin Grossman, or the movies "Megamind," and "Sky High." So this book was right up my alley.

...

Skipper Matthews LOVES comic books. Most of them he keeps in sealed plastic bags, sure that they will be

worth a fortune when he grows up. He is small, dark, and chubby. He realizes that if he were in a comic book, his friend Wilson (tall, blonde, blue-eyed, and athletic) would be the hero, and he would just be the chubby, funny sidekick.

Even though he's saving all his comics, he does read one comic - every single issue. It's called *The Masked Mutant* and it is the best-written, best-illustrated, and most exciting comic ever written!

One day, while going to his orthodontist appointment, a small redhead girl sits next to Skipper. She introduces herself as Libby, a fellow comic lover. Only she doesn't read superhero comics, she reads *High School Harry & Beanhead*, read: *Archie and Jughead*. He thinks that is lame and boring! As they're chatting, Skipper suddenly notices he missed his stop and is in an unfamiliar neighborhood. He immediately gets off the bus with Libby.

To his shock and amazement, right across the street is the headquarters of The Masked Mutant! He'd recognize that gigantic pink fire-hydrant-shaped building with a bright green roof anywhere! Could it really be true? Could The Masked Mutant, the most evil supervillain in the world, live right here in Riverview Falls?

Skipper has to find out...

...

Wow. This book knocked my socks off. I loved it. I was completely riveted. Like I said, I am a sucker for a good comic-book novel, and this one didn't disappoint! I never knew what was coming - Stine could have taken it in a billion different ways - but I was very satisfied with how it turned out!

Some notes:

- 1.) I loved the names in the comic book! Main characters were Libby, Skipper, Wilson, and Mitzi. Awesome names. And I found out that Skipper is a real name! Although in this case it turned out to be a nickname for Bradley.
- 2.) The superhero names were SO LAME. These were the superheroes of the book: The Galloping Gazelle, The Amazing Tornado-Man, Speedboy, The Sensational Sponge, and The Battling Birdboy. Don't quit your day job, Stine! LOL Unless he was trying to be silly and funny. I'll give him the benefit of the doubt. ;) No female villains OR heroes. :( The heroes are called... wait for it... The League of Good Guys. Seriously. SERIOUSLY.
- 3.) While Skipper isn't a jerk (especially compared to some of the horrible brat characters Stine comes up with) he still is no Gary-Stu. Imagine you are a dark-haired, 12-year-old, chubby comic book nerd. Okay? You're on the bus and a cute little redhaired girl sits down next to you. You strike up a conversation with her and she likes comics, too. Skipper should be all over this. A cute girl is talking to him. SHE LIKES COMICS, TOO! Even he admits to himself that most girls he meets don't like comics. And what does he do? If you said, "He is nice to her and they become friends" - you would be wrong! Instead, he tells her that the comics she likes (*Archie and Jughead*) are stupid and lame. Also, when she invites him over to her house to look at her comic collection, HE SAYS NO. What a moron! He's no Casanova, that's for damn sure. I was rolling my eyes and yelling at him a lot, you can imagine.

- 4.) He also doesn't treat his best friend Wilson so well. Wilson collects rubber stamps, which Skipper thinks is super-lame. He never listens to Wilson when Wilson wants to talk about stamps, but expects Wilson to

listen to hours of talk about comic books. Sheesh. Friendship goes two ways, bub.

5.) Bad parenting. I have two examples.

a.) His mom and dad are always yelling at him about how many comics he reads. I'm like, "Be glad your kid reads ANYTHING." Comics are not bad! It is great if your kids takes an interest in reading, even if it is only issues of *The Masked Mutant*."

b.) When he tries to tell his mom and dad something VERY IMPORTANT (view spoiler) they pay absolutely no attention to him. If a kid is making an excited effort to tell you something, LISTEN TO HIM. It could be important. You don't have to talk with him for an hour or anything - it usually just takes 5 minutes. Also, there's going to be a day when you're kid won't tell you squat - so revel in the fact that your kid is still young enough to WANT to talk to you about his problems.

6.) I love Stine's ripping on Archie comics.

*[They] are the most boring comics in the world. And the art is so lame. Can't everyone see that the two girls are drawn exactly the same, except one has blond hair and one has black?*

I laughed out loud, Stine! Good one.

7.) Stine did a GREAT job of explaining little-boy life and thought processes in this book. I was cracking up.

*After school the next afternoon, I had to go with my mom to the mall to buy sneakers. I usually try on at least ten or twelve pairs, then beg for the most expensive ones. You know. The ones that pump up or flash lights when you walk in them.*

*But this time I bought the first pair I saw, plain black-and-white Reeboks. I mean, who could think about sneakers when an invisible building was waiting to be discovered.*

*Driving home from the mall, I started to tell Mom about the building. But she stopped me after a few sentences. "I wish you were as interested in your schoolwork as you are in those dumb comics," she said, sighing.*

*That's what she always says.*

*"When is the last time you read a good book?" she continued.*

*That's the next thing she always says.*

*I decided to change the subject. "We dissected a worm today for science," I told her.*

*She made a disgusted face. "Doesn't your teacher have anything better to do than to cut up poor, innocent worms?"*

*There was just no pleasing mom today.*

LOL I laughed out loud reading that. So true to life.

8.) I don't know how to feel about Stine's treatment of being chubby in this book. On one hand, Stine obviously makes Skipper a brave, clever, and moderately heroic character, who clearly IS capable of doing heroic things. There are some moments of doubt where Skipper regrets eating so much and thinks things would be easier for him if he were thinner, but in the end I think Stine is saying that he is cool just the way he is. :) And that is a good message. :)

9.) Skipper is 12. He takes the bus by himself. He goes to the orthodontist by himself. This allows him to make friends and have adventures and be an (older) kid. Rocking parenting, right there. Love it.

#FreeRangeKids

...

Tl;dr - So many things to enjoy in this novel. I was loving every minute of it, and that's rare for me to say about a Goosebumps book - I'm just too old for them and the writing is obviously aimed at children. But because Stine is speaking to my love of comic book stories, I was riveted. Also, he seemed to be a little funnier and more descriptive in this book. And no lame twists. Only SUPER-AWESOME twists!!!! :) Definite winner in the series.

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## **Ethan says**

Thank goodness for the fourth wall.

In case you're not sure what that is, it's basically what separates the audience from the characters in a TV show, play, et cetera. It gets broken when characters turn to the viewers and address them directly, or when they somehow indicate awareness that they're in a production.

But anyway, we often find ourselves saying "thank goodness" when the story is dark, and relieved that the characters aren't in our world - or that we're not in theirs. Because more often than not, that's simply terrifying to think about on so many levels, and such is the basic premise for this Goosebumps installment, entitled "Attack of the Mutant."

Goosebumps fans who watched the TV show probably remember this as the episode where Adam West (R.I.P.) guest starred, and for the PC game adaptation. Adam West's guest appearance was one of the few the series had, and certainly the most memorable. But since this is about the book, not the TV episode, let's not change our focus. A heads up in advance, my review contains some minor spoilers, so if you don't want those, read no further.

The book centers on a young comic book nerd by the name of Bradley "Skipper" Matthews, whose parents constantly rag on his obsession with comic books, which apparently is badly affecting his grades. Like many of Stine's protagonists, he's someone readers can identify with, because lots of nerdy people no doubt have memories of their parents criticizing their interests as age-inappropriate. But it all changes one day, when he comes across a mysterious building that looks identical to the headquarters of his favorite comic villain, The Masked Mutant. From there, he travels in, and it's all pretty cool, until he finds a comic strip depicting himself - that's when the horror aspect kicks in.

I won't get too spoiler-y in my review here, so instead, I'll address the cons the book has - not that they outweigh the book's pros, because they certainly don't. First off, there's the cheesiness of the various superhero and supervillain names, but it's understandable - you can only get so creative in naming your superheroes without getting into plagiarism territory. On that note, it's interesting to note that early on in the book, the narrator directly references Captain America and Spawn, while later in the story, there's discussion of a fictional comic strip called "High School Harry and Beanhead." Said strip is an obvious nod to - or parody of - Archie comics, with the narrator noting that "the two girls are drawn exactly the same, except one has blond hair and one has black." Guess the budget for licensed property reference usage wasn't very big...

That last bit, in turn, brings me to the only other real minus point the book has. Early on in the story, Skipper (why he likes to be called that as opposed to Brad, I'll never know) meets a new girl on the bus, Libby, who tells him about the Harry and Beanhead comics. At the story's climax, we find out that she has in fact been the Masked Mutant in disguise all along, which I find somewhat to be a somewhat overused cliché in fiction.

But it's not too badly done, especially when you look at it from a kid's mindset - how many times have I unknowingly been talking to a supervillain, disguised as a human? For that matter, can I really trust anyone? It's paranoia-inducing, which is quite fitting seeing as the book ends on an unnervingly ambiguous cliffhanger.

If you're a Goosebumps fan, or a comic nerd - both of which apply to me - you'll enjoy the book for sure. It's definitely worth buying, particularly if you're looking to get all the "good" Goosebumps books while not buying too many - don't want too many overflowing collections...

Rating: 4 out of 5

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### **Trevor Wells says**

Well, this was an...interesting read. The concept of *Attack Of The Mutant* was very creative and the story takes many turns, making it impossible for me to see what's coming next...which I love, especially from a Goosebumps book. Plus, the writing is just as good as it always is. But the ending just left me feeling ....confused. I'll get to why later.

Plot Synopsis: Skipper LOVES collecting comic books. His favorite comic would easily be The Masked Mutant, which centers around a diabolical supervillain with the power to transform into any solid object. Then, one day, Skipper finds himself in an unfamiliar part of town-and discovers a building that strongly resembles The Masked Mutant's secret headquarters. Has Skipper taken his love for comic books too far-or has he really discovered the headquarters of the world's worst villain?

Like I said before, the plot is unique and takes several twists and turns along the way, keeping you on the edge of your seat, wondering what will happen next. As for characters, Skipper is a decent protagonist. He's overly obsessed with comics and the comic book references he makes throughout the book can get a bit annoying, but otherwise, he's a likable guy (view spoiler) Libby, the girl who Skipper meets on the bus on the day he discovers the building, is also an interesting character and reminds me of another Goosebumps character I enjoyed: Andy from the *Monster Blood* series. As for the side characters, while they don't get much time in the book and therefore don't develop as well as Skipper and Libby, they make the most of their limited time and develop into good characters. The best examples are Skipper's Dad, his sister Mitzi, and his friend Wilson.

OK, now that I've discussed what I like about this book, it's time to address my one gripe: The ending. Here we go:

(view spoiler)

OK, the ending left a lot of plot holes. (view spoiler) Maybe I'm just overanalyzing this, but the ending just left me a bit confused. At least the twists were shocking and, for the most part, made sense.

Overall, *Attack Of The Mutant* was a very solid Goosebumps story. The plot was intriguing, the characters were likable, the writing was good, and the twists and turns made the mystery and suspense of the story all the more enjoyable for me. Any Goosebumps fan needs to read this.

Pros: The creative plot, the likable characters, the detailed writing, and the overall feeling of mystery and

suspense.

Cons: The off-putting ending.

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### **Erin ? \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

Rated for children, not enjoyment for adults.

This is a cute Goosebumps book - the main character is sarcastic, of course dislikes his sister (a theme), does terribly in school, thinks funny thoughts about others, and doesn't listen. He's actually likeable and realistic for one this age. His obsession with comics is fun and his best friend trying to show him his rubber stamp collection kept cracking me up. It became silly a little but that's part of the fun. The ending was another open-ended one.

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### **Belle Lumiere says**

I will preface this review by saying I'm SO happy to have read this book (and watched the TV episodes) before the next Welcome to Deadcast postcast episode airs. I'm actually up to speed and can read along with each episode.

I didn't have much of a recollection of this book, but I know I definitely read it as a kid. I know that I didn't think too highly of it, but reading it as an adult I found it pretty hilarious.

The story revolves around Skipper Matthews, who is an avid collector of comic books. This I understand, what I don't really understand is how obsessed he is with how much the comic books are worth. He seems kind of money-grubbing, but I like that about him. It's refreshing to see in a 12 year old. His favourite comic book (and the only one that he takes out of the plastic wrapping) is called The Masked Mutant. He is obsessed with the comics, and they're constantly getting in the way of his school work. His next door neighbour Wilson also has an obsession - collecting rubber stamps - and he's always trying to get Skipper to look at his collection. Unfortunately, Skipper is just not that into stamps. Just do you, Wilson. Just do you.

Skipper meets a girl named Libby on the bus on the way to his orthodontist appointment, and when he misses his stop he stumbles across a building that looks an awful lot like the masked mutant's headquarters (as pictured on the cover of the book). He's a bit flustered so he goes back home, and when he returns to take another look at the building he discovers that it has disappeared. How mysterious. When Skipper gets home he finds a new edition of The Masked Mutant waiting for him, in which the Masked Mutant has thrown an invisibility shield around his headquarters! Well, that explains it.

Skipper decides to go back and see what's going on with the invisible headquarters, and bumps into Libby on the way. She tags along, and they both find their way into the invisible building. Once inside they get trapped inside an elevator that **QUICKLY DROPS MANY FLOORS DOWN INSTEAD OF GOING UP** and thus our protagonist survives my literal worst nightmare. The pair get separated, and Skipper stumbles across some drawings that confirm they are in fact inside a building that is somehow related to The Masked Mutant. There are also some drawings of Skipper himself, which he (for understandable reasons) freaks out about. He meets up with Libby, they flee the building, and Skipper returns home to find yet another edition of the comic - this time featuring a character that looks just like him. This leads to one of the funniest parts of the

book, IMO, where Skipper shows some interesting self reflection -

"The next drawing showed a closeup of my face. Big balls of sweat rolled down my pink face. I guess that meant I was scared. I'm a little too chubby in that drawing, I thought."

lol.

For some reason Skipper feels like despite how creepy stumbling across drawings of himself in what seems like an abandoned building is, it would be a good idea to return once again to The Masked Mutant's "headquarters". So he does, and of course ends up in some kind of epic battle with the mutant. Of course it ends well, with Skipper realising what The Masked Mutant's weakness would be (unsurprising, as he's read the comic books for years). There is a good final twist, although it comes across a bit stunted.

Generally I found this one of the more entertaining Goosebumps book, but I think that was due for the most part to Skipper being a really amusing and sarcastic character. The story itself wasn't one of the best of the series.

4/10

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### ✿?az?? - th? ?ock C?ick ?airy✿ says

#IcantHelpButPutSpoilers

This book has a cruel twist in the end. I'm kind of sad for the poor boy. He's friendless, and now he's also bloodless. -\_-

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### Alexandra says

i don't remember if i ever read this one as a kid. nothing about it seems familiar. but reading it now was pure fun. and it was pretty hilarious too.

*"don't be modest, kid," the superhero said in his flat, low voice. "you used your secret cyber-radar powers, right? or did you use ultra-mind control to read my thoughts and hurry to my rescue?"*

*"no. i just took the bus," i replied."*

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*"he turned and began running down the hall. as i started to follow, he became a blue and red blur of light- and then vanished. a few seconds later, he came jogging back. "sorry. too fast for you?" he called. i nodded. "a little."*

*he rested a gloved hand heavily on my shoulder. his gray eyes peered at me solemnly through the slits in his mask. "do you have wall climbing abilities?" he demanded.*

*i shook my head. "no. sorry."*

*"okay. we'll take the stairs," he said.*

??

so in a nutshell this one is about a boy who is obsessed with comic books, specifically one called the masked mutant. one day he misses his stop on the bus and ends up seeing what looks to him like the masked mutant's headquarters out the bus window and so he gets off to investigate. it's a bright pink and greenish/yellow building that looks like a fire hydrant ?

what follows is basically every comic book nerd's wet dream: he gets inside the building and becomes one with the story. ??????

really enjoyed this one & it was definitely one of the funnier goosebumps books. especially skipper's best friend wilson with his rubber stamp collection and trading lunch sandwiches even though they have the exact same type of sandwich. ? it was cute.

GOD I MISS THE 90's

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### **it'chy says**

shoulda named himself the galloping mouth, instead

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### **Ken says**

It's a fun way to include comic book villains into the Goosebumps world.

Skipper loves reading comics, he's favourite being The Masked Mutant. He can't wait to read the next issue. So imagine Skipper's excitement when by accident he discovers a building that looks exactly like the HQ in the comic books.

It's one of the sillier entries in the series, though as a one of story it surprising works really well!

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