



## Just Jake

*Jake Marcionette , Victor Rivas Villa (Illustrations)*

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**JUST JAKE** introduces readers to sixth-grader Jake, whose life is turned upside down when his family moves from Florida to Maryland, where Jake must adapt to a new school. Jake has always ranked the kids at school in his hand-made, humorous Kid Cards,” and when he arrives at his new school, Jake starts building a new collection, befriending as many people as he can while staying under the radar from the school bully. But what happens when the school bully decides Jake's next in line for annihilation and his Kid Cards get into the wrong hands??!

**JUST JAKE** is a genuine—and as Jake himself would say, AWESOME!—world of school, family, friends, and teachers; it's the product of a writer talented well beyond his years.

## Just Jake Details

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Author : Jake Marcionette , Victor Rivas Villa (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Just Jake for online ebook

### **Stacy Sabala says**

Book Review- Just Jake # 1 by Jake Marcionette

Jake is less than thrilled to be moving from Florida to Maryland resulting from his father's job change. However he feels that he will be fine in his new school because he is such an AWESOME kid. He had lots of friends at his old school. So there shouldn't be a problem. Unfortunately he does have an annoying older sister, Alexis, who doesn't help. She yells at the neighborhood kids when they make comments on the family's possessions as they are moved into the new house. It definitely leaves a lasting impression. Things don't go well when Jake mistakenly goes to a 2nd grade classroom and seems only able to make friends with the misfits. He concedes to the point that having friends is important even if they are the misfits. His interest in drawing also helps when he creates his kid cards. These cards become very popular throughout the school. He is able to showcase his awesomeness.

This book was written by an actual twelve year old and was exactly the way I would expect one of that age to write. The language and popular references were appropriate. The notebook form for the novel included good illustrations, and clip art photos which added interest that grabs the reader. It contains humor that readers can relate to and likable characters. All of the characters were great and the way Jake describes them in both his cards and general descriptions made for such a fun read. I give it a 4 out of 5.

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### **Christine Rains says**

Jake has a happy life in Florida, but when he moves to Maryland and starts in a new school, he wonders if he is truly awesome.

A fun story I read with my seven and a half year old son. He really likes Jake's "kid cards." It's a neat hook for the story that is otherwise just all right.

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### **Elsa says**

Okay, I was impressed. (This is more of a 3/5 than 4/5, but I'm giving one extra star for his age.) First of all, I was seriously disillusioned already by the mediocre books by kid/teen writers currently on the market. I had expected something of Nancy Yi Fan's Swordbird calibre, which is a 2/5 without the extra age star.

But this...this is pretty good. Extraordinary for a twelve-year-old. The voice is refreshing and funny. The writing style is stunning.

The plot, of course, is super-cliche. No surprise there. Popular kid moves to new town where he's not so popular anymore. But that's not my major problem with this book.

The main character is seriously unlikeable. He's a self-absorbed narcissist. Here are some brilliant quotes: "Because, unlike my dear sister, I was born with an extraordinary talent that's superior to brute strength:

AWESOMENESS!"

"Add to the equation my incredible intuition--sometimes it feels like I can predict the future--and a pit bull-like work ethic, and you have yourself AWESOMENESS in a nutshell."

"I can only please one person per day...and that person is me."

"I didn't get much time to prepare my school for the big good-bye. I knew there would be lots of tears. Who wouldn't be upset over losing their school's most prized pupil? I was like a national treasure."

Okay, in *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* this self-centered thing actually works. But even Greg Heffley looks like Mother Teresa next to this Jake kid.

Also, Jake doesn't do anything redeemable. First chapter, what do we get? Him wrapping his sleeping sister's teddy bear in toilet paper and dunking it in water. She hasn't done anything to prove to readers that she deserves that kind of treatment.

Funny thing is, Jake-protagonist is clearly based off of Jake-author, as Jake-author has stated in several interviews. I suspect Jake-author doesn't realize how unlikeable Jake-protagonist is, because as Jake-author states in his TODAY show interview, Jake-author "always knew his book was going to become a New York Times bestseller." Ooooh-kay. That's a totally modest thing for anyone--let alone a middle school student--to say on national television.

There are also several instances where it's obvious the author is young. At one point, Jake stumbles into a second-grade classroom and doesn't notice. He just thinks, "Wow, the kids in Maryland sure are small!" This is completely unbelievable, especially since Jake is supposed to be AWESOME.

However, I'm hoping these problems will be fixed in the rest of the series as the author gets more mature. I'll probably check out the sequel.

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### **Suzy says**

This is a great start to a new series by a young author. It is a wonderful fresh alternative to the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Both boys and girls alike will enjoy this tale of elementary to middle school turmoil and transition.

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### **Johnny Kraynak says**

I think this book a pretty good and we probably read it again. I think it's good because it shows someone's life when they have all these friends then move to whole new star. Also it a kinda fast pace book.

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

Jake is not happy to move from Florida to Maryland because of his father's job change, but he feels that his new school will go well because he is such an AWESOME kid and he had lots of friends at his old school. He does have an annoying older sister, Alexis, who doesn't help the settling in process when she yells at neighborhood kids who are commenting on the family's possessions as they are moved in to the new house. Things go even more poorly at school, where Jake goes to a 2nd grade classroom by mistake and can only

manage to make friends with the "misfit toys". At least he has friends, though, and an interest in drawing that leads him to create a series of "Kid Cards" that take the school by storm.

**Strengths:** This is a notebook novel with good illustrations, and the clip art photos add an interesting touch that I have only seen in a few books. It has its humorous moments, and the author is to be applauded for attempting to make up for the dearth of funny books for boys. The cover alone will make it a book that students will readily pick up.

**Weaknesses:** This was written by an actual 12 year old, which I didn't know until I finished the book but which did explain the characteristically slim plot online. I should remember that Gordon Korman wrote his first book at an early age and went on to become one of the best middle grade authors around. Perhaps Mr. Marchionette's writing style will mature as well.

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### **Bernadette says**

Good recommendation for boys who are fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

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### **Teaghan Warren says**

My friend gave me this book to borrow and she likes mostly humorous books. Humorous books are not my favourite. She loved this I didn't

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### **The Brothers says**

Asher (11yo) read.

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### **Angie says**

Jake has just moved with his family from Florida to Massachusetts and isn't happy about it. In Florida he was the cool kid with tons of AWESOMENESS. However, his awesomeness doesn't seem to have followed him north. He has problems making friends and his cool factor is near the bottom. His one saving grace is the kid cards he makes. They are trading cards of all the kids both in his old school and his new one. I didn't realize this book was written by an actual 12-year-old until the end. It actually makes me feel a bit better about it. As I was reading it I thought the story was a bit unsubstantial and juvenile, which makes sense when you consider the author. However, I thought it was a great effort by young Marcionette. I think this book will appeal to fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Patterson's Middle School series.

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### **Renee MA says**

Fun debut from 12-year-old author.

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### **Nathar Ufo says**

Kid was narcissistic, wondered how he made friends with that guy, Wild Kid. Did not expect the whole "secret karate expert" thing.

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### **PlutoTheGoat says**

Horrible book . A kid is just totally all about himself. In the middle of the book you will probably get annoyed by him and stop reading it. The writing is also really horrible. The only good thing I have to say is that he is a kid writer which is good.

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### **Melissa Rosas says**

Just Jake is a very fun, unique take on a sixth grader named Jake who is the new kid in Maryland. He is a very confident kid and measures himself in "awesomeness". At his old school he made up kid cards which categorized the kids in his school with hilarious phrases and descriptions. He was sort of a big shot at his old school and now, unfortunately at his new school he is at the bottom of the popularity scale. So, to build his awesomeness back up he becomes friends with as many people as possible and starts making new kid cards of the great friends he meets. There is a school bully that others in the school call wild boy, a.k.a. Micheal, that gets in the mix and tries to pick on Jake. Jake tries to get the help of a school friend, Jason, to help him defeat the bully. In the meantime, his collection of the new friends he's made, called the Kinney collection that's named after the school, is missing! It may have made it's way into the hands of the adults or worse, wild boy! This book had great drawings throughout along with references that kids today would get and absolutely love and relate to. The author is a teenager himself and totally gets the minds of his peer readers. This is a great book for the young adults and made me remember what it was like to be a "tween" with adults who just don't understand, kids who you want to impress and befriend and bully you need to stay away from.

#### Questions:

- 1) What would you do when faced with a bully like Wild Boy?
- 2) How could you make a new kid like Jake feel welcome in the school?
- 3) What were some of the "rules of awesomeness" that were in the book and how could you relate to them as an elementary student?
- 4) How could you use your "awesomeness" to do great things for your fellow classmates?
- 5) Do you think confidence is necessary to make through school and what can you do to build your confidence?

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### **Aiden says**

a good book because it's funny and has a lot of detail in it. plus I got to meet the author in my school at BRES stands for Boothbay region elementary school he was funny and a talented kid.

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