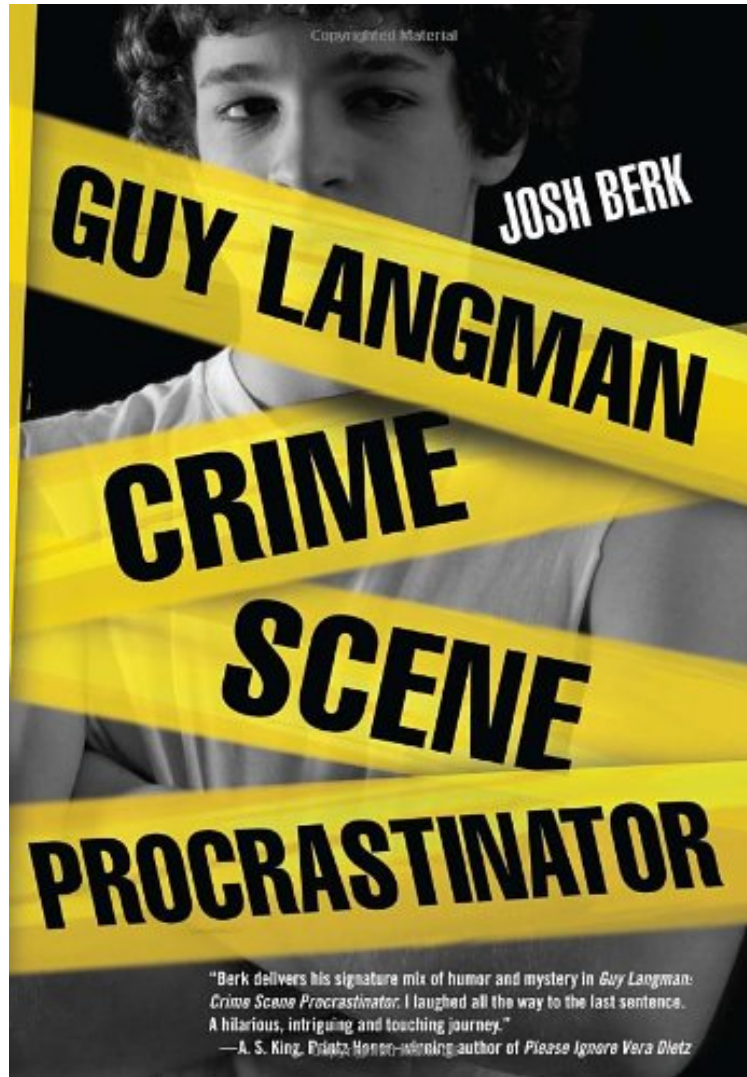


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Josh Berk

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Josh Berk : Guy Langman, Crime Scene Procrastinator before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Guy Langman, Crime Scene Procrastinator:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More Than A MysteryBy PDXbibliophileGuy Langman is an average normal 16 year old dealing with some very difficult adult problems. Not only has his larger-than-life father died, but Guy is discovering secrets about his father that are causing Guy question his relationship with both of his parents. Like many bright 16 year old boys, Guy uses sarcasm to get through emotionally tough times. (The sarcasm is very witty, but will probably be over the heads of younger teens.) Guy's best friend, Anoop, talks him into joining the new Forensics Club at school using a popular teen manipulation technique - He tells Guy the hottest girl in the club

was telling everyone she hoped Guy was going to join. The odd assortment of misfits who make up the club become Guy's allies in trying to solve three mysteries in his life that all seem to be linked to his father - Why had his father kept secrets about their family from Guy? Who stole his father's Spanish treasure coins from the attic? Who killed the kid from the rival high school who looked like Guy? (If Guy had not been such an emotional mess, he would have solved all three mysteries in ten minutes. Any reader who does not solve the mysteries as soon as they are introduced, is not paying attention.) Even with three mysteries, this is not a mystery story. It is very much realistic fiction with a good mix of humor. Teens will love Guy and his oddball friends. All of the characters learn that people are more than what you see, and no matter how individually weird each of them is, they are all just trying to navigate teen life and find their place in the world. Guy Langman, *Crime Scene Procrastinator*, is a great guy and a good read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellent By JMW Plantation Like his first book, Josh Berk has written an engaging humorous novel. Young Adults should love it. I am older and loved every word and every character. The author is very creative, and makes the most of his ingenuity. If you have not read his first book *Hamburger Halpin*, it is available, I notice from , and I heartily suggest it. While I love this book, his first book was really memorable and the characters unforgettable. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Funny, touching, and clever By Julie I loved this book! Guy Langman, the main character, is just the right blend of funny wisecracking wit and real emotion. His personal history intertwines with his current adventure to make for a very satisfying read. I highly recommend this book! Josh Berk is fast becoming my favorite author.

Guy Langman can't be bothered with much. But when his friend Anoop wants Guy to join the forensics club with him in the (possibly misguided) hopes of impressing some girls, Guy thinks why not. They certainly aren't expecting to find a real dead body on the simulated crime scene they're assigned to collect evidence from. But after some girlish, undignified screaming, the two realize it is indeed a body. Which means they have stumbled across a real, dead murder victim. Meanwhile, Guy has been looking into the past of his father—a larger-than-life character who recently passed away. He was much older than Guy's mom, and had a whole past Guy never even knew about. Could his father's past and the dead body be linked? Does Guy want to know? He's going to need all his newfound forensics skills to find out. . . .

From School Library Journal Gr 7-10-Teen boys will be drawn into Josh Berk's tale (Knopf, 2012) from the very first chapter. Guy Langman is a typical suburban teen, but his father recently died and he has a few unanswered questions. Rather than becoming saddled with morose introspection, he pokes fun at himself and shares his insecurities with humor and sarcasm. Guy joins a forensics club to meet hot girls, but also finds that some of his questions will be answered as he studies death in a scientific way. The story builds slowly in the beginning, but the engaging plot twists (especially toward the end) keep listeners hooked. When Guy experiences a home burglary, he has the opportunity put his forensic study into practice. During his forensic final, he encounters a real dead body, and eventually he connects these two crimes to his long-lost brother, Jacques. There are some touching moments, but these are not over-written or drawn out. Guy simply reflects on his situation and moves on. Much of the humor is a bit crude, but not offensive. Jim Meskimen delivers the self-effacing comments perfectly, and he doesn't create distracting girl voices. The book should not be sold as a mystery or forensic novel. It will be enjoyed by the same boys who loved Con Calame's *Beat the Band* (2010) and *Swim the Fly* (2009, both Candlewick). -Pamela Schembri, Newburgh Enlarged City Schools, NY (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. Kirkus s, January 15, 2012: "Hilarious wit and serious gloom blend seamlessly as Guy wades through the year after his dad's death...Guy's running inner monologue is sharply observational, sardonic, funny and sad...Best friend Anoop and other peers are freshly unusual, not recycled character types." About the Author JOSH BERK is the author of *The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin*. He lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with his wife and two children, and is a children's services librarian at the Allentown Public Library.