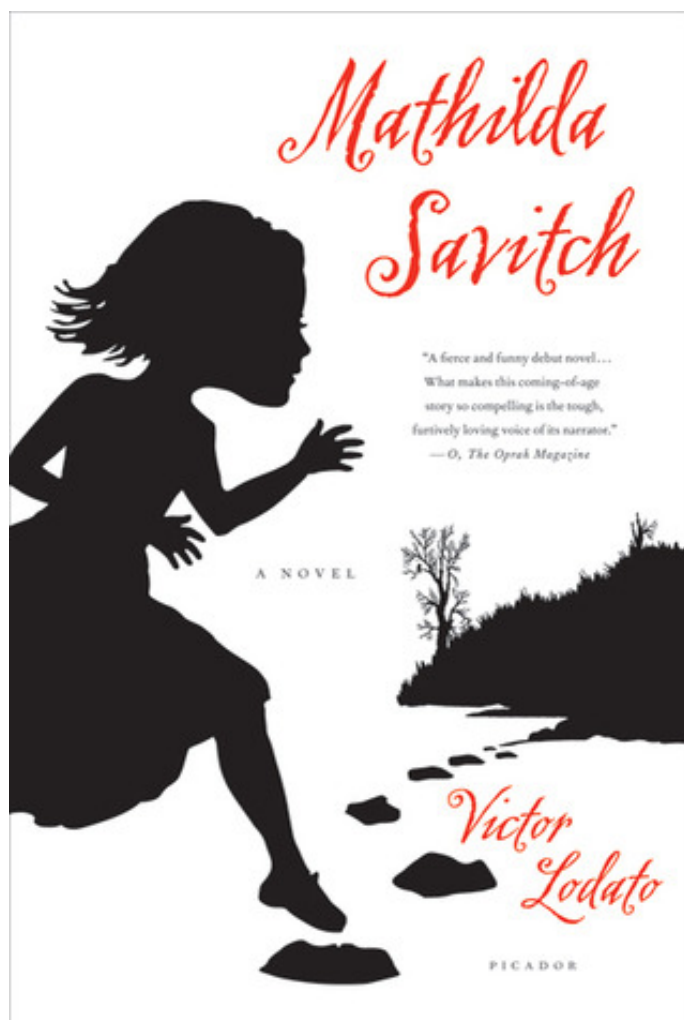

Victor Lodato

Mathilda Savitch



Title: Mathilda Savitch

Author: Victor Lodato

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Description

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR BEST BOOK OF 2009
A BOOKLISTBEST BOOK OF 2009
A GLOBE AND MAILBEST BOOK OF 2009

Fear doesn't come naturally to Mathilda Savitch. She prefers to look right at the things nobody else can bear to mention: for example, the fact that her beloved older sister is dead, pushed in front of a train by a man still on the loose. Her grief-stricken parents have basically been sleepwalking ever since, and it is Mathilda's sworn mission to shock them back to life. Her strategy? Being bad.

Mathilda decides she's going to figure out what lies behind the catastrophe. She starts sleuthing through her sister's most secret possessions—e-mails, clothes, notebooks, whatever her determination and craftiness can ferret out. But she must risk a great deal—in fact, she has to leave behind everything she loves—in order to discover the truth.

Startling, funny, touching, odd, truthful, page-turning, and, in the end, heartbreaking, *Mathilda Savitch* is an extraordinary debut.

Insightful reviews

Diane: I debated about giving this book 2 or 3 stars, and decided to go with 3. I'm obviously not a young adult, but I find many young adult novels are both entertaining and interesting to me. I found myself not liking the characters in this story, especially Mathilda, the main character and about 16 years old. She is so self absorbed, lies constantly, disobeys, pushes her parents and her friends beyond their limits, and makes her own rules.

It's been a year since her older sister Helene died, and she and her family are still living inside the remnants of their family, each one dealing with their pain. Mathilda's perception of the event is very fluid, and she imagines various scenarios. She's determined to hack into her sister's email account to try to learn more about what was going on in her life before she died. Once she figures out the password, she sends taunting emails to her mother and Helene's boyfriend from "Helene" to play with their minds.

Of course, the reality of what's happened is more complex than we are lead to believe, as the story develops. I was actually glad to be finished with Mathilda by the end of the book.

Brittany Pelly: That feeling you get, after you read a book, and you think to yourself...what?

Much like the other reviews, Mr. Lodato convinced me I was reading about a 13-year old girl's coming-of-age story, but I am not convinced that this was the most accurate representation. Mathilda is mean, twisted and cannot be trusted as a narrator. The latter would have made me pick up the book and give it a go, but the plot line is horrible. Simple horrid.

All the while I am reading, I am waiting for this grand adventure to find the killer. To discover more about her sister. To have some sort of climax. Nothing. Instead, I am not sure what I found. A few chapters dedicated to a post 9/11 era that made no useful connection to the story line.

I want to write a million things about how disappointing this novel is. I still cannot wrap my head around it. I want the few hours back this story took from my weekend. The characters did not get better and nor did the plot.

The least I can say is I have a nice tan thanks to this horrid book.

Michael: Victor Lodato is a prolific playwright, and it shows in the wonderfully vibrant voice of Mathilda Savitch, the pre-teen protagonist in his debut novel. Mathilda wants to be awful, but she's got good reason... her sister was killed by a train one year ago, and Mathilda is coping with parents who are checked out, her own unresolved grief, and burgeoning hormones. On top of all that, she's convinced that her sister was pushed, and she'd love to find out who the culprit was. *Mathilda Savitch* is a finely crafted book that takes us thoroughly into the mind of its protagonist. It laces the drama with biting humor as seen through the eyes of a smart young lady.

Maria: From web page 1, i used to be addicted to this book. it's a web page turner, and this type of publication that you simply by no means are looking to finish; you simply wish it to move on forever. The writing kind jogged my memory of 'The Catcher within the Rye' J.D. Salinger — the most distinction being that the narrator is a teenage woman rather than a teenage boy, yet in essence, the way in which the tale is advised is especially similar, in particular as either characters even have matters in regard to their psychological health. There also are a few references within the publication to 'Anne Frank's Diary', and back there are similarities within the manner this personality perspectives the world, and how it truly is written is sort of like a diary; documenting occasions from her life. So even if no longer a completely unique writing style, i think the writer has drawn from very solid, attempted and tested, renowned works as an proposal for the fashion of this book. the nature of Mathilda Savitch is particularly lifelike and the ebook bargains good with how the demise of a kid impacts a family, and specifically how the parents' grief can impact their different children. Mathilda is attempting to come to phrases with the lack of her 16 12 months previous sister, and in a customary teenage fashion, she has invented tales to make the demise more straightforward to deal with. there's additionally the part of the kid looking for out extra approximately this sister, who considering the fact that loss of life has turn into extra of a mystery, shrouded with a few kind of immortal caliber within the more youthful sister's mind. It's an unique read, and even though it offers with a few darkish topic matter, how it is obvious in the course of the eyes of a kid makes it by some means more uncomplicated to digest. the writer offers good with the the naiveté of teenybopper and touches upon a few very important social issues, together with war, terrorism, racism, and suicide. At a deeper point it seems that to be a learn into how the area is relocating fast in the direction of an age of intolerance and eventual destruction, and the way it can be dangerous to destiny generations if the chance indicators aren't picked up in time.

Don Mitchell: A e-book concerning the destructiveness of repressed grief. A family members

spinning apart. each one member destroying him or herself in addition to the others. None prepared to discuss their joint grief. At first i used to be uncomfortable with the male writer talking throughout the pubescent woman as she wrestled with new actual and emotional emotions in addition to grief, yet i feel he did a sympathetic job. He did an exceptional activity of putting us inside of her head and heart. total the e-book spoke fact approximately teenage confusion, dwelling with an alcoholic, and immersion in in charge grief.

Jojo: The again disguise blurb makes use of the Catcher comparison, and i am often drawn in by means of that. the 1st chapters held promise. i did not just like the personality yet I was hoping that as I learn on, i'd come to like her within the comparable manner that i like Holden. either are stressed young ones who do not speak successfully with their parents; either have suffered the lack of a sibling; either do fairly silly issues with a view to take care of the loss. However, Mathilda does not change. whereas the interior workings of her brain are attention-grabbing and - as a mythology instructor - I liked the allusions to fantasy - there wasn't sufficient intensity here, and the big-picture (post-September 11) principles by no means fairly got here together, which i believe they need to if a unique is to be really stunning and effective. quite often the writer took the simple method out (especially with relation to Mathilda's discovery of her sister's secrets). For a e-book that depicts a child facing loss and relatives secrets and techniques in a post-September eleven world, tremendous Loud and quite shut is the type of ebook that brings all of it jointly on the finish and simply blows you away. For a latest publication approximately sibling loss, Francine Prose's Goldengrove does it better. Still, i'm really not sorry that I committed time to Mathilda's journey. speedy read, yet eventually disappointing.

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