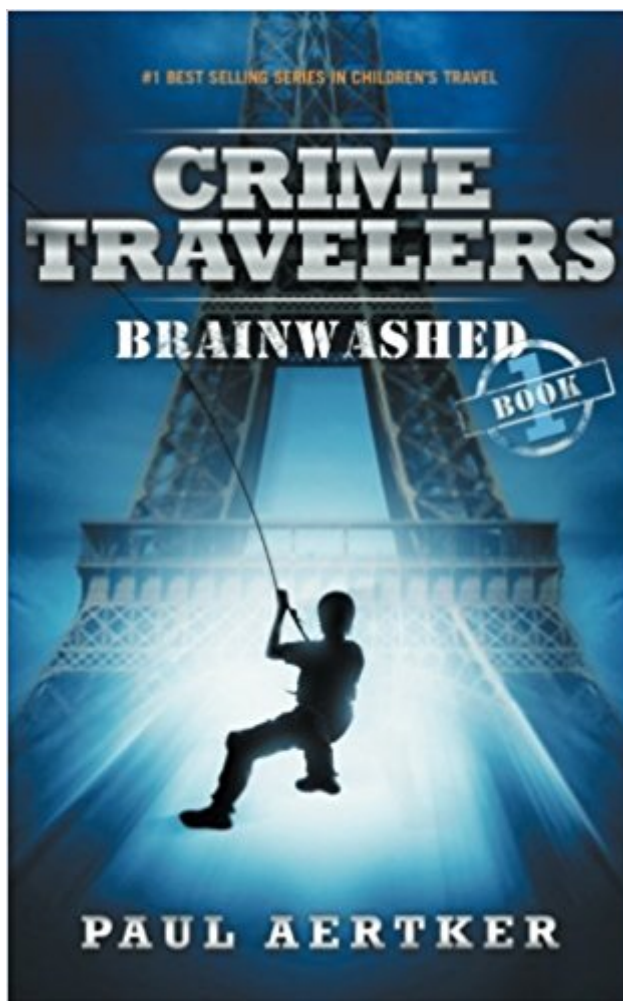




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# Brainwashed: Crime Travelers Spy School Mystery Series Book 1



## Synopsis

"This middle-grade series reads like the Bourne Identity, but for kids." - M. Robichaux, Editor  
Parents, teachers, and librarians will appreciate the worldwide geography and appropriate language for  
Ages 8 - 14 Grades: 3 - 8 | #1 best-selling series in Children's Travel | BRAINWASHED marks the explosive beginning to The Crime Travelers Spy School Mystery Series | 300 Geographic References plus illustrative maps! | Also available: BOOK 2: DIAMONDS ARE FOR NEVER & BOOK 3: PRICELESS | FUNNY. SMART. ACTION. FREE shipping when you get all 3 books in the series!  
While sleeping on the roof of his father's hotel-spy school, thirteen-year-old Lucas Benes finds a baby alone and learns that the Good Company has restarted its profitable brainwashing business. Brainwashed (Crime Travelers Spy Series Book #1) tracks the secret urban adventures of the New Resistance, a school of international teenage spies. Lucas leads a group of friends through the hotspots of Paris-- from the catacombs to the Eiffel tower--in an all-out effort to sabotage a brainwashing ceremony that could potentially turn them all into "Good" kids. This debut novel in the international action-packed Crime Travelers series from best-selling author Paul Aertker is a mind-opening adventure for elementary and middle-grade readers of Gordon Korman, James Patterson, and John Grisham. Readers of Diary of A Wimpy Kid will appreciate the step up in smart reading. This humorous and exciting middle school series with its short chapters is perfect for school reading lists. This is a middle-grade book for boys, a middle-grade book for girls. This mystery is like a secret diary of lost kids in adverse international settings. France. Italy. Spain. India. A secret spy rider who uses Kano, Minecraft, and Psion to help the kids travel the planet. A worldwide spy school. A book about Paris for kids learning about Paris and travel. If you liked Alex Rider, you'll love Crime Travelers. If your children love excitement, don't miss this action-packed read! - Children's Booksellers  
Shelve under: books for boys, books for girls, books for kids age 9 - 12, books for middle grade, books for boys 9 - 12, books for girls 9 - 12, funny hilarious stories for kids, diary of a wimpy kid readers, reluctant readers, travel with kids, Alex Rider, Minecraft readers, appropriate books for kids, librarian-approved.

## Book Information

Series: Crime Travelers (Book 1)

Paperback: 300 pages

Publisher: Flying Solo Press LLC; 1 edition (January 13, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 194013711X

ISBN-13: 978-1940137117

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions](#) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Perfect for preteens and early teens who envision days of action and excitement." - Jane Phillips, education consultant, Carney, Sandoe & Associates

"At first glance, Lucas Benes, the hero of Crime Travelers: Brainwashed, is a typical teenage boy, impulsive, insecure, and brash. Yet, like most adolescents, he proves to be so much more: resourceful, courageous, and most importantly, kind." - Josh Cobb, Head of School, Graland Country Day School

"I love how math helps Lucas and his team escape danger at every corner." - Kevin Graovac, middle school math teacher

**PUBLISHER'S STARRED REVIEW**

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Ripped from the headlines of the world's leading news outlets, this realistic middle-grade novel weaves actual life events into action-packed fiction for ages 9+. Readers are transported to Paris without ever leaving the sofa. With 136 geographic references, this story serves as both fiction novel and travel guide. Parents will appreciate the author's accuracy in the details of Paris. Crime Travelers Spy School Mystery Series stands as a new international series that kids and adults will devour. Multicultural, multilingual, spy action-adventure: This book has it all.

From Goodreads

**CRIME TRAVELERS: BRAINWASHED** is a novel aimed for the preteen market and it hits the mark. The book follows thirteen-year-old Lucas Benes, a typical kid who sleeps on the roof of a hotel, saves kidnapped babies and rappels through windows. Lucas and a group of teens fight the GOOD Company, an organization that is anything but. Racing and whirling through all the major attractions in Paris, this is more of a travelogue than nefarious story and kids from 10 up should relish its campy flavor of excitement and thrills. Crime Travelers starts fast and speeds to a rousing conclusion. "Thrilling plots, humor and wild journeys. An unforgettable

page-turner."-Ã Â Ã Â The Denver PostA reluctant reader&apos;s dream! "This Brainwashed author (and the Crime Travelers Series) inspires kids to read." - Gannett Newspapers

As a traveler and multilingual teacher, Paul has clocked nearly half his life outside the US. When he was a teenager, he slept on the streetsof London to watch a royal wedding. He took the CIA exam because he wanted tobe a spy for the good guys (and not the Good Company). He was an au pair in France and built a children&apos;s library in Africa."I write shorter stories that I would have wanted to read when I wasten, eleven, twelve-- realistic and exciting international espionage novels steeped in mystery, intrigue, and deception. I want children to see that the impossible may in fact be possible, and that children may have more power than they think. This middle school series is set in international locales because travel has made me feel alive and given me an insatiable curiosity to learn.A former middle school teacher, Aertker says he writes for this age group because he relates to it."I act like a child," he says with a laugh. "My emotional level doesn&apos;t really go past age eleven! For me to write for this age group is easy because I can get there pretty quickly."

I was looking for a book for my 12 year old daughter who had hit a dry spell with engaging books she was willing to read to the end. A friend recommended this so I bought it. I thought I'd take a peek and see if it might appeal to my daughter before giving it to her. I couldn't put it down.This book is a rip roaring ride through Paris with a truly likable main character and a cast of supporting characters as colorful as a band of Rhald Dahl characters. It's a page turner packed with cliffhangers that keep the pace brisk.My daughter caught me reading it obsessively and giggling at Aertker's comic scenes. I told her what I was reading and why and she immediately demanded I hand over "her" book. She slipped into her room and didn't emerge. I peeked in and asked her if she liked it and she told me she LOVED it. I let her stay up late and pried it out of her hands at 11pm. (Then I finished it!).She read Brainwashed for the next two nights and finished it. She said, and I agreed, that it's the most fun she's had with a book in a loooong time.I was a 4th grade teacher for many years. This novel has an exciting plot, intriguing characters, and short, snappy chapters that speak to the middle grade reader and keep the pages turning. The hero of this novel, Lucas Benes (pronounced like Tennis) lives in a hotel with an international group of rescued homeless children who are being trained by Lucas's adoptive dad to counter the efforts of a powerful international child trafficking organization posing as a legitimate corporation. The story starts when Lucas finds a baby left at the hotel he lives in and this discovery sends Lucas and friends on a mission that never let's up. It's funny, smart, cleverly plotted and has real heart. I think any child from age 9-14 would love

this book (and so would their parents). It's good, clean fun and the author make Paris shimmer with life. Enjoy.

My son really loved this book! He couldn't put down, was reading it way past bedtime and even while he was brushing teeth for bed. He can't wait for the next book and wants to order it as soon as it becomes available. Great book for tween or early teen reader, suspenseful reading.

This was an excellent book, comparable to the likes of Alex Rider and The Hunger Games. The author fully enthrals the reader with a well-written book, satisfying to any spy-novel fan. I would recommend it for ages 10-14. (From a 12 year old in London)

I thoroughly enjoyed Crime Travelers, Brainwashed. I think it should be a part of all school AR reading curricula. I believe tweens and teens will enjoy. I believe parents will enjoy reading this book to their children. Perfectly sized chapters make for quick bedtime reads and also serve as success points for children who have yet to developed a love of reading. It creates a sense of accomplishment. That along with the excitement of the storyline will keep readers looking forward to the next chapter. Great job Paul!

a very easy read and very exiting with some cool supprises and funney moments looking forward to the next book :)

As a middle school educator, I am always on the lookout for fun and exciting books to share with my students. Crime Travelers: Brainwashed has a little bit of everything for middle readers: action, adventure, humor, suspense, international travel, cool technology, and best of all - no parents to intervene. This book will engage even the most reluctant reader. - Brenda Stockdale

Brainwashed! is a fast-paced story about a cool corps of well-trained crime-fighting kids with the will and the resources to combat criminals anywhere and everywhere on earth. Paul Aertker, the author has done a really nice job of setting up the world his planned series takes place in without ever slowing the action - weaving the background very naturally into the telling of the story. We learn about the kids' world along the way, as we join their mission to foil an outrageous, evil plot and reveal the culprits. The kids reveal a lot about themselves in the process, too, and even more mysteries and secrets, yet to unfold, are enticingly hinted at. I'm really looking forward to the next

leg of the kids' journey. I found the concept of the Crime Travelers and the New Resistance very engaging - very engaging to me, likely to be very engaging for kids, and maybe something that could tickle a kid's sense of adventure in adults (if they're reading the book AS adults and not as a kid to begin with...). The Crime Travelers are a group of kids helping the few adults that recognize what's really going on, combat the horrible threat, the misuse, and suffering - the evil - confronting kids all over the world. These kids of the New Resistance can't help but answer that silent yet earsplitting plea from their fellow, hurting, kids. Many in the New Resistance came from those very circumstances, but persevered, chanced to overcome or escape or, more likely, were rescued themselves. They answer that call by undertaking perilous missions to save others; missions that I'm sure they could do without - they're just kids after all, even if toughly trained. But they can't ignore what's going on. Especially not in the face of an adult world that blithely ignores the crisis as remote and affecting only others, or just refuses to see and acknowledge. Though they may need the adults' material assets and tools to resist and vanquish this evil, the spirit is all their own. I liked how the kids have a comfortable relationship with the group they belong to, even while they may have an uncomfortable relationship with their own skin - still figuring out who they are; what they may be. At least they're sure what their fellowship is all about. Everyone needs a home. Even if it's in a hotel. Or in your head. I liked that each of the kids brings something important and unique to the quest, often despite, but sometimes because of their difficult early life - their painful 'origin stories'. And I liked that there weren't any guns, that I recall. I haven't successfully dealt with that in my own fictional world, but I hope to. Thanks, Paul. I really enjoyed your teaser for Book 2. Looking forward to it!

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