Investigators by John Patrick Green

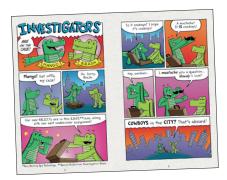
Dear Secret Agents,

I'm here to introduce my graphic novel series *InvestiGators*, which I hope is right up your alley. And when I say 'alley,' I mean ALLIGATORS.

InvestiGators stars Mango and Brash, two alligators who solve crimes in vests. But not just any old vests. They're V.E.S.T.s: Very Exciting Spy Technology! You see, Mango and Brash work for S.U.I.T. (Special Undercover Investigation Teams), a secret organisation that's called in when local law enforcement isn't up to the task, and their V.E.S.T.s provide them with all sorts of crime-fighting gadgets. They'll need them to stop their arch-nemesis: a former agent known as Crackerdile! It's dirty work (Mango and Brash often have to flush themselves into the sewers to get around town) but somebody's got to do it.



Comics have been my absolute favorite way to tell stories since discovering them in the newspaper when I was a child. I've been creating comics for a long time, but *InvestiGators* is closest to the types of comics I was making when I was eleven years old, when my only goal was to make myself and other kids laugh. I have the same goal now, but I hope my work inspires kids to create their own stories the way I was inspired when I was little.



One thing I love about comics and graphic novels, and that I have a greater appreciation for now, is how accessible they are for reluctant readers. With comics, the pictures tell the story just as much as the words, and this can engage readers in ways that prose might not. It can also expand a reader's vocabulary by giving them a visual reference to follow along with the text. And anything that gets someone into reading may encourage them to to try out more books!

None of this would work without support from bookshops and libraries. As an author, all I can do is try to make the best book I can. But it's booksellers and librarians who get books into kids' hands. So thank you for all the effort you put into connecting authors with readers.



I hope you'll find as much joy reading Mango and Brash's hijinks in *InvestiGators* as I've had in writing and drawing them.

Sincerely,

John Patrick Green

