Cabell, Robert W.
THE HAIR-RAISING
ADVENTURES OF JAYMS
BLONDE: Project Popcorn
iUniverse (230 pp.)
\$14.95 paperback
July 1, 2007
ISBN: 978-0-595-42474-0



A sexually insatiable gay male hairdresser doubles as a crime-fighting superhero in this pseudo-graphic, Hawaii-based spoof. Flipping the handcuffs off the bed from his latest dalliance, former decorated Navy Seal and champion defender of everything Jayms "I talk like Oscar Wilde and kick ass like James Bond" Blonde (6 feet 4 inches, 235 pounds, 2 percent body fat) receives an assignment from Mama, his superior at the clandestine environmental protection agency S.T.O.P. (Stop Terrorizing Our Planet) located beneath the Jayms Blonde International Salon. Three secret agents have been killed in half a day's time, and Mama wants answers. Together with histrusty 20-year-old sidekick/pedicurist Precious Needmoore and gadget guru Harry Hardware, Blonde battles arch nemesis ZENRON, the subterranean "international cartel of oil and energy" largely responsible for the Earth's atmospheric deterioration, and ZENRON's beautiful and deadly owner Zaroya. Armed with an arsenal of beauty products that double as weapons, Blonde and his cohorts are in near-constant turmoil trying to outsmart the menacing Zaroya and her lesbian sidekick Vichyssoise, who are both determined to kill Blonde at any cost. Hit-and-runs in Hong Kong, mauling tigers, killer ninjas and a kidnapping attempt aren't nearly enough to knock this gay superhero out of action. There's even time to foil Zaroya's airborne-virus conspiracy. While not quite a graphic novel, it comes close with generous illustrations throughout, enhancing the action and providing a sleek visual aide to Blonde's heavily embellished heroics. At the end of the day, the protagonist is happy to just lie back, spout all the sexual innuendo he can muster and relax until the next dastardly villain crosses his rose-colored path. Cabell makes the over-the-top zaniness and mock action-hero antics fun, and everything congeals into a wildly enjoyable ride for readers who enjoy the adventures of a muscle-bound, crime-fighting queen in tights. A super-silly, whirling first episode that will leave gay superhero fans scratching their heads—and eager for the next installment.

Kirkus Discoveries, Nielsen Business Media, 770 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 646-654-7277 fax 646-654-4706 discoveries@kirkusreviews.com