

# Schooling or Unschooling?

*A lighthearted tale about surviving troubles through friendship*

Isaac, Adam, Helen, Charlie, Sean, Jésus and Rover had planned on coasting through their final semester at Ashby Bryson High. Get stoned, play video games, get into college, and get the hell out of Groston.

Instead, the shit kept hitting the fan – over and over and over again. Fights, floods, freezes. . . . And then school got shut down.

So, they threw the rules out the window and made up their own.

THE GROSTON RULES is an edgy book for high school readers. With suspenseful twists and turns, it is a captivating and lighthearted high school tale about teens in trouble, surviving high school through their strong friendships.

Adults, young adults and mature teens won't be able to put it down, because the story is as much about teen survival and unschooling as it is a young adult coming of age tale, rife with dark humor, teen comedy, fuck ups, and the occasional raunchy teen story. It's a fast paced laugh out loud book that teenagers will actually read – a naughty high school teen comedy that you can't put down.

**The very first novel to be serialized on Spotify!**

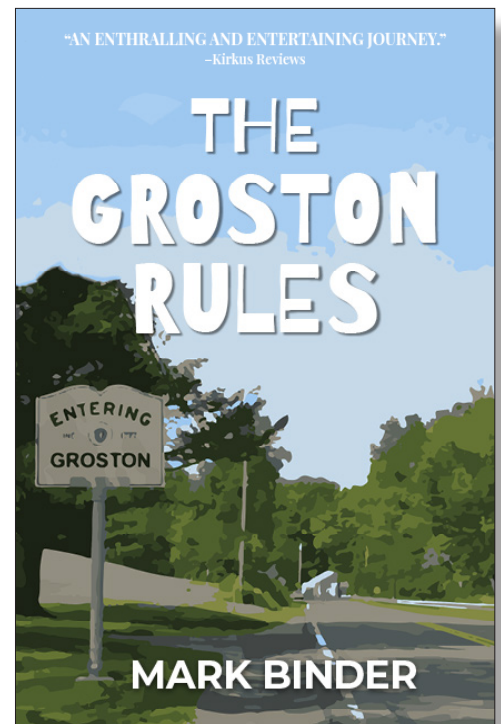
## Advance Praise for THE GROSTON RULES:

“A group of high schoolers deals with mishaps and disasters six months before graduation in this coming-of-age novel. . . . Immensely likable characters on an enthralling and entertaining journey.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

## About the Author

Audie Award Nominee **Mark Binder** is the author of more than two dozen books and audio books. He tours the world as a performer, transmitting the joy of story across boundaries. Mark is constantly pushing boundaries, while keeping his diverse audiences of readers and listeners engaged.

“a gift for humor—both broad and subtle—Binder captivates”  
– *Publishers Weekly*



## THE GROSTON RULES

by Mark Binder

382 Pages - 32 Illustrated Book Plates

release date November 8, 2020

YA • Humor

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# What happens **after** everything goes wrong?

*All they wanted was to get high and graduate...*

Isaac, Adam, Helen, Charlie, Sean, Jésus and Rover had planned on coasting through their final semester at Ashby Bryson High. They called themselves Team Bomb Shelter, and their plan was simple, get stoned, play video games, get into college, and get the hell out of Groston.

Instead, they get caught up in chaos.

Adam assaults two football stars. Fat Charlie's father nearly dies of a heart attack. Jésus can't make his art while chauffeuring his siblings. Rover's never had a date. Helen's house is destroyed in a flood. Sean is coming out of the closet. And Isaac can't get into college to save his life.

The last straw is when Ashby Bryson High School is suddenly shut down, and they're bussed to Fectville Regional, which sucks.

But every time Team Bomb Shelter gets knocked down, they get up again, come together, and solve their problems. They throw the rules out the window and make up their own.

THE GROSTON RULES is like a humorous buddy war movie, with high school as the battlefield. Everyone in Team Bomb Shelter has their own challenges, but by working together, they overcome and ultimately triumph.

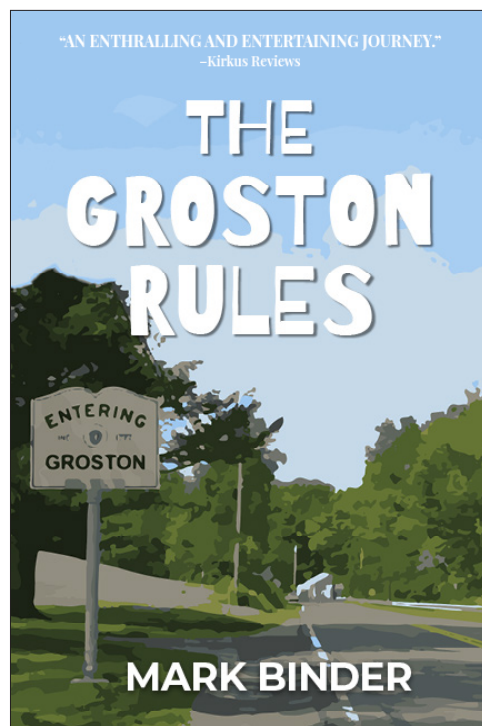
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## What happens when a storyteller for families writes a novel?

*“After decades of censoring myself and avoiding anything controversial, I wanted to write a book that students in high school, and other adults, would enjoy.” – Mark Binder*

Mark Binder’s new book, *THE Groston Rules*, tells the story of seven friends trying to graduate high school who get caught up with bullying, climate change, and other dysfunctions.

*THE Groston Rules* is a fun and entertaining ride that twists and turns, reflecting the challenges of today with a broad sense of humor.

“Isaac Cohen and his friends in ‘Team Bombshelter’ are coasting into their final semester at Ashby Bryson High,” he explains. “They’re good kids, overachievers even, but they’re burned out and ready to coast to the finish line. Then everything starts to go wrong.

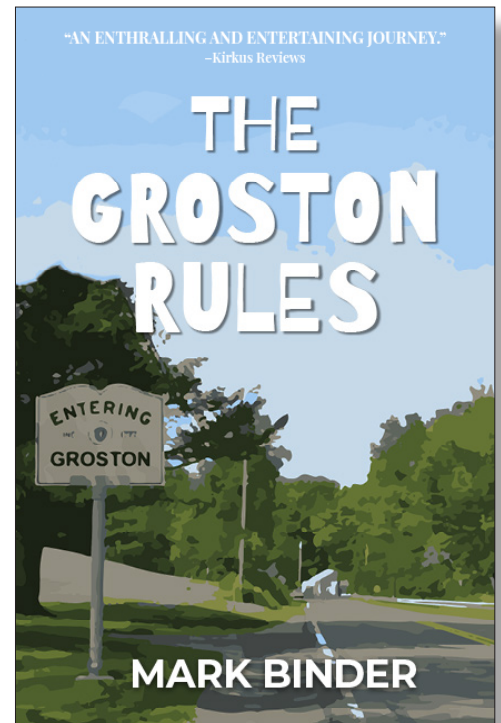
“It’s like the Three Little Pigs,” he laughs, “but with edible marijuana, abusive school principals, and video games. Okay, so it’s nothing like the Three Little Pigs.”

Mark Binder is an award-winning author of two dozen books and audio books. He has told stories to nearly a quarter million people of all ages in schools, libraries, churches, theaters, synagogues, community centers and preschools. His mission as a performer and educator? Transmit Joy with spoken word tales to diverse audiences.

In his work in schools, Binder noticed that most YA books were either harshly biographical, or featured vampires, werewolves, dystopic violent ‘reality’ games, sports, extreme drug abuse, and lurid sex.

“*THE GROSTON RULES* breaks all those rules,” he said. “It’s about fairly normal young people who snipe at each other. Every time the heroes solve a problem, a bigger challenge pops up to hammer them back down. Rather than whine, they work together as a team and handle it.”

*THE GROSTON RULES* is available in softcover, audiobook and ebook in stores and on Amazon, Kindle, iBooks, GooglePlayBooks, Nook, Kobo, Audible, AppleBooks, GooglePlayAudioBooks and more.



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## About the Author



Audie Award Nominee Mark Binder is the author of more than two dozen books and audio books. He tours the world as a performer, transmitting the joy of story across boundaries. His work is eclectic.

A writer who creates at least one new project every year, whether it's a printed book or an audio book, an ebook or a play — Mark is constantly pushing boundaries, while keeping his diverse audiences of readers and listeners engaged.

A performer with more than twenty years of programs in theaters, festivals, schools, libraries, and community centers. Every year Mark gives more than 100 presentations across the United States and around the world and has performed live for more than 200,000 listeners. He has twice toured in Europe and is featured in the Amazon/Audible series, “Story Party Live.”

At Columbia University, where he holds a BA, Mark studied mythology with T.E. Gaster and storytelling with Spalding Gray (1984). He trained with the Adaptors Movement Theater (1985-87). He earned an MA in English and Writing, Acting and Directing from Rhode Island College and the Trinity Rep Conservatory (1990). He holds a third degree black belt in Aikido, has trained in centering and internal martial arts, and promises not to throw you across the room.

Mark is currently working on a new play. He co-created Bright Night Providence (2004-11), and founded The Real Fun Theater Company (1991-1992), the American Story Theater (2004-present) and Spoken Story Saturdays (2020). He has written and directed more than a dozen plays (1986-1999) He has worked as the editor of magazines and newspapers, written hundreds of newspaper and magazines articles, designed books, and produced award-winning books and audios. He has twice run for political office, and came frighteningly close to winning once.

For headshots and more info go to <https://markbinder.com/bio>

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