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The Dark Souls (The Viral Superhero Series Book 1)



Synopsis

The world's first superhero sensation may not live long enough to become a celebrity. Ted Finley is your average suburban nerd, but when a group of thugs threaten to kill innocent people, something incredible happens. After he's gifted with superhuman abilities during a seemingly random brunch, Ted quickly transforms from a nobody into a viral video sensation. Forced to navigate school and life with his newfound powers and fame proves to be difficult. But Ted's biggest challenge lies ahead, because he's not the only one with incredible abilities. Until he can sort out friend from foe, Ted may be the only person who can keep the world safe from total annihilation. The Dark Souls is the first novel in the action-packed Viral Superhero Series. If you like fast-paced thrillers, witty heroes, and evil villains, then you'll love Bryan Cohen & Casey Lane's high-octane series! * This book is an edited and revamped new edition of a novel that was previously published as Ted Saves the World. *Buy The Dark Souls today to watch an ordinary teen become a superhero!

Book Information

File Size: 1665 KB

Print Length: 231 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Bryan Cohen & Casey Lane (June 7, 2017)

Publication Date: June 7, 2017

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0716L27ZP

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #12,875 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9

in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Superheroes #28 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Horror > Comedy #76 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Superheroes

Customer Reviews

The Dark Souls has an interesting pedigree. It is a complete rewrite/revamping of _Ted Saves The World_. I happened to have the original in my library and decided to compare them. _The Dark Souls_ is an improvement. Ted Finley is an average teenage high schooler. When the story opens, he's going through his first breakup with his girlfriend. Although the relationship was good, Ted still pines for the girl-next-door, the girl who outgrew him as they grew up. That girl is missing, and though no one knows it, she's been murdered...but she'll be back. Ted's life is about to change in a big way when, immediately following the breakup, Ted is given superpowers and foils a world-shattering crime at the local diner. And that's just the beginning. Ted is ultimately charged with saving the world, and it won't be easy. This first book sets up the concept, and introduces the characters who will populate the rest of the series. There's lots of action, realistic dialogue, a fun plot, some teenage angst, interesting characters that I cared about, and just a bit of a cliffhanger. It's a YA novel for all ages. I look forward to the rest of the series. NOTE: You can receive the prequel for free when you purchase this first book of the series. Find out how Ted was chosen to be the superhero the world needs.

What a fun read! I was caught from the first page, enthralled with this tale of a boy who finds himself thrust into a world of notoriety almost against his will. How he handles it, and still tries to have a "normal" life kept me awake all night.

Teenager finding himself and adjusting to super-powers.

What a great surprise to read a refreshingly fun novel that fits in a variety of genres! The first few pages had me afraid Ted and friends were going to go from decent people into whiney or spoiled teenagers - like normal teenagers. Full of anxiety, anger, "me" or the variety of moods teenagers go through until they figure out themselves. I found just the opposite in this book. I grew to like the nerdy geeks, the princesses, the over-achievers. I started rooting for the teens as they not only fought the enemy, but tried to figure out life, love and where they fit in the world. The story left so many cliff-hangers I'm actually watching for book 2 to come out. Bryan Cohen has produced a wonderfully fun story that grabbed me, kept me guessing and hating to see the last page appear. I enjoyed the fresh take on possession, light and dark beings, and teens in general. There was no expected outcomes, good people were lost and a few of the baddies remain to visit again. While this is a book that did not keep me up at night, I couldn't wait to grab the kindle first thing the next

morning to keep reading. I can see this book appealing to so many readers - young adult, paranormal, romance, suspense, etc. There is humor as well as some soul searching, some sadness and much joy. Lots of action and fighting, some gentle romance, and some really great writing. There was no noticeable grammar mistakes or errors which says so much about how much effort Mr. Cohen put into his novel. Many books at this price leave me wanting to find a pen and start correcting it, or are quickly written and not thought out. Mr. Cohen has created something that I can recommend and eagerly look forward to more.

NOTE: One of the authors graciously gave me a copy of this book and asked me to write a review. I previously read and reviewed an earlier version of this book, also at the author's request. Being a superhero is a lot tougher than it used to be back in the days when Clark Kent worked for the Daily Planet and Peter Parker snapped pictures for the Daily Bugle. Now, any budding superhero would find himself the center of an overnight social media storm, as formerly ordinary high school student Ted Finley finds out in the lively and generally entertaining YA action fantasy novel, "The Dark Souls," by Bryan Cohen and Casey Lane. Ted's powers literally come as a bolt out of the blue while he's sitting in a local diner, after which he discovers he can move objects around with his mind and do other amazing things as well. These powers come courtesy of some extraterrestrial beings who have bestowed them on Ted to allow him to ward off another, much more sinister group of aliens bent on conquering the world. The bad guys are led by a small time stickup artist named Nigel, who's got some nasty powers of his own, including the ability to "recruit" new followers, zombie-style, by reanimating their bodies after they die. Ted has some reanimated help as well, a gorgeous neighbor of his named Erica who has similarly died and been reanimated with the spirit of one of the good guys. This may sound rather complicated, but "Dark Souls" winds up being fairly easy to follow, although the authors are a bit sketchy with the details of the aliens' back stories. Essentially, the book becomes a handful of combat scenes pitting Ted (with the help of Erica) against various of the Dark Souls who are coming to get him. The authors do a fairly good job of describing the action, and there's certainly plenty of it to keep both high school audiences and older sci fi action fans happy. Beyond the action sequences however, "Dark Souls" features some entertaining supporting characters and relationships as well. Ted harbors a crush on Erica from his childhood days and that doesn't sit too well with his ex-girlfriend Natalie who, in a considerable irony, chose to break up in that very same diner with Ted because he

wasn't attentive enough, literally minutes before he acquired his superpowers. Ted also got a pal and business manager, Dhiraj, a computer whiz who helps manage his social media presence in the days after he becomes a hero. Dhiraj and Natalie are among those who wind up getting involved in the action, Scooby Doo gang style, and there's the suggestion that Ted's friends will take part in future books in the series as well. The best YA novels of this sort, like the "Harry Potter" series, have almost the same or more appeal to adult audiences as they do to high schoolers. "The Dark Souls" isn't quite there yet. The book was revised since its initial release, and most of the changes, it appeared to me, were in the form of streamlining the plot (especially the backstory) and simplifying some of the characterizations. The new version, although it tells pretty much the same story, is more of a concise, straightforward adventure. Overall, I enjoyed "The Dark Souls," although not quite as much as I liked the earlier version of the story. Those who like action interspersed with some humor may enjoy it even better. The authors do engage in some social commentary, especially taking a look at how Ted's story becomes big news rather quickly (and there's the promise they will expand those aspects of the story in future volumes of the saga as well). The result is a fair amount of wit in the story that doesn't descend to the level of outright silliness. Contrary to its title, "The Dark Souls" is a relatively light, breezy, action-filled read and a worthy entry in the superhero genre.

I may be way beyond the high school age range, but I found *The Dark Souls* to be an enjoyable read. I enjoyed the humor, the characters, and the story. Author Bryan Cohen kept me turning the pages, wanting more. I'm in for the series now. Cheers to your #BlissfulLife, Ronda Del Boccio, award-winning paranormal fantasy author

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