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The Trials Of Renegade X (Renegade X, Book 2)



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Synopsis

Can a half villain ever be a full hero?Damien Locke didn’t choose for his supervillain mom to disown him Ã¢â ¬â • just because he sort of defied her and ruined her evil plans to take over Golden City Ã¢â ¬â • and he didn’t choose for his superpower to be flying, a superhero ability that involves his least favorite thing: heights. But now that he’s living with his dad’s superhero family and enrolling at Heroesworth Academy, he’s ready to embrace his new life, get his H, and finally belong somewhere. But belonging isn’t as easy as signing up for classes, and Damien finds himself struggling to fit in more than ever.Just when he’s sure his fate as a hero has been decided, though, he gets a new villain power that he can’t control. And things only get worse when he accidentally screws up one of his sidekick Sarah’s gadgets, altering her personality and turning her into a crazed, anti-supervillain vigilante Ã¢â ¬â • leaving him no choice but to team up with her annoying superhero boyfriend if he hopes to have any chance of getting the old Sarah back, before she captures Ã¢â ¬â • or kills Ã¢â ¬â • another supervillain like him.

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Customer Reviews

I devoured the first one, and despite a few flaws with some of the characters (Gordon in particular) I thoroughly enjoyed it. The main draw is Damien himself. He drove the narrative of the first book with his wit, and he continued to do so into the second. The action while fun isn't the main draw here, its how Damien interacts with his family and friends. He is adjusting to living in a different more loving home of superheroes, and it shows in the awkward, comedic, and sometimes heartwarming scenes that follow. One of the things I felt that needed to be addressed that was left over from the first book was Damien's relationship with his father. It never felt like they had forged much of a bond during The Rise of Renegade X, but during Trials there is finally that moment of truth and honesty that I was waiting for and I'm not afraid to admit I teared up a bit. I could tell that Ms. Campbell was a new writer with Rise but she has refined her craft further in Trials while retaining the style that kept me reading despite minor issues. I look forward to the next book in the series and will be preordering it as soon as it is listed on .

I thought that this book was much better than the first in this series. While there were still a handful of things I didn't care for, I found that there were a lot of things about this one that I enjoyed.In this arc, Damien Locke is trying to adapt to being a half-villain living in a hero's world. He has been living with his father and his father's family for the past six months. Having been rejected by the school for villains, Damien has decided to enroll in the school for heroes. And he's trying to figure out a way to maintain his relationship with his girlfriend Kat who has recently enrolled in the villain school.I don't want to spend too much time on what I disliked about this book, but I will give a brief list.1) It is written in first person POV. Not my favorite style, but I can deal with it.2) It is written in the present tense. Is the narrator describing the events as they are happening?3) Damien's continued over exaggeration of his fear of heights. Silly to think that he is going to fall through the floor of the second story in his home.4) Too much talk about sex. There aren't any sex scenes, but Damien talks or thinks so much about having sex with his girlfriend. Enough. We get it. He's a horny teenager. But He talks so much about it, it belittles all the other reasons why he is with his girlfriend.What I really enjoyed about this story was Damien's growth as a character. He is still the sassy, smart alleck kid from the first book, but in this one it becomes more evident that his behavior is a defense mechanism. In this story, he finds himself surrounded on all sides by heroes, something that is very foreign to him after having lived the first 16 years of his life living with his villain mom. Damien acts obnoxiously so that he can protect himself from feeling hurt should he be faced with rejection, something that I feel he fears especially after he perceives being rejected by

his mother when he begins to adopt views typical of heroes.Damien is faced with many challenges in this arc. In school, he is struggling to accept some of the lessons being taught, especially when they are counterintuitive to what he knows of villain-kind. He is viewed as an outsider and feels pressure to prove to the faculty and student body that he can succeed at Heroesworth. At home, he is trying to fit in this his pure-hero siblings and their mother who doesn't approve of his having a villain girlfriend. (Kat happens to be the granddaughter of Damien's stepmother's arch rival.)With Kat going to Vilmore and with Damien's stepmother not approving of her, he finds it very difficult to continue seeing her. This is only exacerbated by the fact that she is making new friends at her new school and that she has to hide the fact that she is dating a student of Heroesworth. And lastly, Damien is also trying to gain his father's approval. He doesn't have a bad relationship with his superhero dad, but they struggle to connect with each other. Damien wants to please his father, perhaps his way of showing his gratitude for being taken in when his mother kicked him out. Unfortunately, Damien's behavior often leaves his father feeling disappointed or uncertain. To make matters worse, Damien develops a villain power in addition to his existing hero power and he fears that if knowledge becomes known, he will be rejected by his school, his friends, and his family.These challenges push Damien to really grow as a character and it is this growth that makes reading this story very enjoyable. Through his words and actions, he fights the stereotypes of both villains and heroes. That not all villains are 100% bad, nor are heroes 100% good.On top of all these subplots, the main storyline is how Damien's friend and sidekick Sarah falls victim to one of her own devices. It causes her to have a personality shift that makes her an extreme vigilante, to the point that she herself takes on the characteristics of a villain, even though she believes that the things she is doing to combat crime are for the greater good. I thought that this story line was much more interesting than the main plot of the first book.If you can get over the silly little plot devices and Damien's tendency to ramble and conjure up implausible scenarios, the story and minor plot lines are enjoyable and worth reading. I don't this this is a perfect book, but I still recommend it for how well the different challenges Damien faces were written and described. It is in this area where this story shined.

I hate teen angst. In stories I really hate teen angst. Yes, I know teenagers do dumb things and can agonize for hours or even days about a action, but reading the thoughts of a person paralyzed by angst is mind-numbing.However, this tale managed to take that flaw and overcome it with good plotting and an interesting tale of a young man who doesn't understand himself.The world still has some confusing quirks, primarily the way bloodlines generate a permanent tattoo on the right thumb

of those descended from heroes or villains, and the fact that some powers follow specific bloodlines. Here that’s used to increase some of the pressure on our erstwhile hero Renegade X as a villain power starts to emerge, only increasing his confusion. Add in the fact that his "sidekick" is hanging out with another boy and you have all the pieces for a disaster in the making.However, while the middle is frustrating, the hero here overcomes the problems and actually steps up to be a hero at the end, saving others and winning the girl. It’s interesting and fun.You definitely need to read book 1 first, but this series has been solid so far.

When I finished Regenade X, I was so hyped! I had to read it’s sequel-asap. I admit it was an interesting read but didn’t quite live up to my expectation. I have mixed feelings about this one, hence x-rated.Like its prequel, it was enjoyable for its quirky protagonist and snarky dialogue but unlike the prequel, the attempts at plot twists were so blatantly obvious. A heads up, Damien loses some of his edge. (at least to this reader) His clever solutions and sarcastic attitude that so defines him is somewhat lost. Some may say that this is to show "character development" and this is because Damien is learning about responsibility and remorse, and just feeling stressed because of his new living arrangement with his superhero family. But his craftiness is part of what makes him so endearing. I was expecting an anti-hero and his brooding/ defensiveness (again, this is purely this reader’s opinion) was somewhat taking away from some action/ fight scenes.All in all though, I would definitely read a third book of it is coming out. before coming up with a definite opinion on this one series. hopefully it will involve around some actual crime fighting and not just him cleaning up his own mess. I would definitely be more interested if he does something with his Midnight Marvel identity (A dual identity would be epic!)- I blame it on too many episode of Arrow ^.^

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