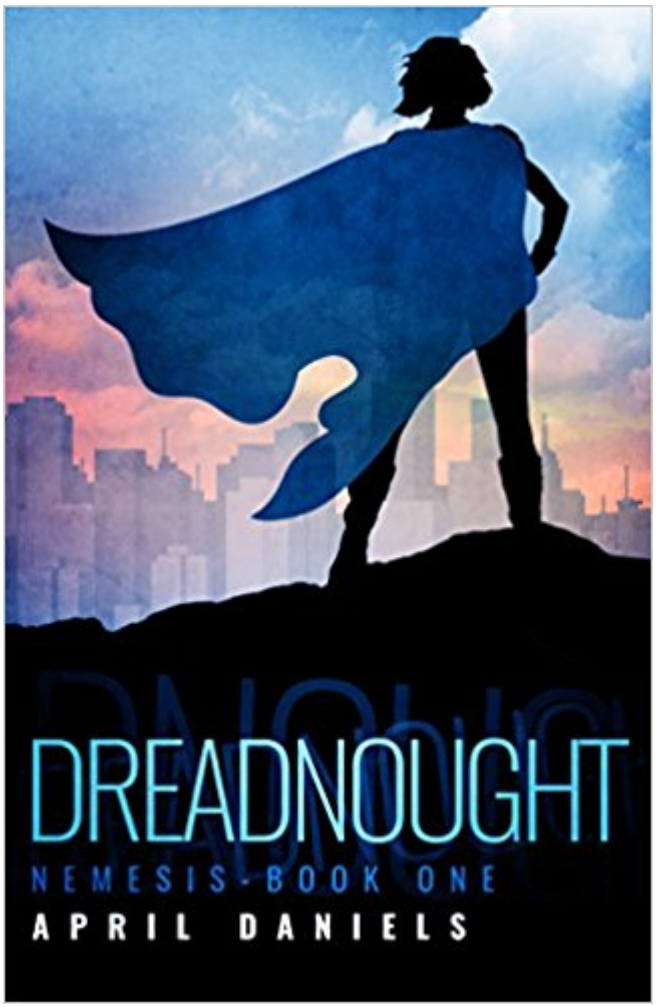
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Dreadnought: Nemesis - Book One



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Synopsis

An action-packed series-starter perfect for fans of The Heroine Complex and Not Your Sidekick. Ã¢â ¬Å“I didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know how much I needed this brave, thrilling book until it rocked my world. Dreadnought is the superhero adventure we all need right now.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Charlie Jane Anders, author of All the Birds in the Sky Danny Tozer has a problem: she just inherited the powers of Dreadnought, the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest superhero. Until Dreadnought fell out of the sky and died right in front of her, Danny was trying to keep people from finding out sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s transgender. But before he expired, Dreadnought passed his mantle to her, and those secondhand superpowers transformed DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s body into what sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s always thought it should be. Now thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no hiding that sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a girl.It should be the happiest time of her life, but DannyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first weeks finally living in a body that fits her are more difficult and complicated than she could have imagined. Between her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dangerous obsession with Ã¢â ¬Å“curingÃ¢â ¬Â• her girlhood, her best friend suddenly acting like heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s entitled to date her, and her fellow superheroes arguing over her place in their ranks, Danny feels like sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s in over her head.She doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have time to adjust. DreadnoughtÃ¢â ¬â„¢s murdererÃ¢â ¬â ¢a cyborg named UtopiaÃ¢â ¬â ¢still haunts the streets of New Port City, threatening destruction. If Danny canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t sort through the confusion of coming out, master her powers, and stop Utopia in time, humanity faces extinction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •While many teenagers have a challenging time dealing with school and peer pressure, for 15-year-old Danny Tozer, life is a little more complicated. For starters, she is transgender and living in a world where superheroes and supervillains exist. When Danny unexpectedly becomes the recipient of popular superhero Dreadnought's mantle, the superpowers also transform her body into the female one she has always identified with. Because Danny is not yet an adult, the Legion of Superheroes is divided on how to approach her unique situation. Her father is in denial that his son is now his daughter, and has been verbally abusive toward Danny. A promise of romance adds a further layer when Danny's best friend wants to date her. There are some violent fight scenes when Danny sets off to find Dreadnought's killer. There are also some light moments that offset the deeper questions about establishing identity. VERDICT This first title in the series offers a rich, unusual mix of subjects and themes for fantasy fans.Ã¢â ¬â •Vivian Ho, Port Washington Public Library, NY

Ã¢â ¬Å“I didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know how much I needed this brave, thrilling book until it rocked my world. Dreadnought is the superhero adventure we all need right now.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Charlie Jane Anders, author of All the Birds in the Sky Ã¢â ¬Å“A thoroughly enjoyable, emotionally rich, action-packed story with the most exciting new superheroes in decades. Unmissable.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus Starred Review Ã¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â¦A fascinating exploration of gender identity in a fantastical setting.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly Ã¢â ¬Å“This first title in the series offers a rich, unusual mix of subjects and themes for fantasy fans.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢School Library Journal Ã¢â ¬Å“IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m not normally a fan of superhero narratives, and then I find an exception that grabs me by the throat and makes me love it. Dreadnought is one of those exceptions.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Liz Bourke, Tor.com Ã¢â ¬Å“Dreadnought is a coming-of-age story: itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s all about Danny coming to terms with her own power and her own agency, not just as a superhero, but as a person (and as a person who chooses to be a superhero), and itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s one that doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t shy away from consequences, either. People get hurt, sometimes badlyÃ¢â ¬â ¢sometimes killed, and itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s this willingness to highlight the fact that standing up doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t come without real cost that gives Dreadnought its real heart.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Locus Magazine

So, I started this book one night, read till I fell asleep, then woke up and kept on reading till I finished. Then a day or two later I went back and read it again. In other words: I really liked it. But maybe that's because it is exactly at the intersection of things I love: a) superhero stories starring

genuinely good, decent people who nevertheless recognize that the world is a difficult and complicated place, and b) stories starring trans women (confession: I am a trans lady).This book contains several sequences of great superhero action (the airplane rescue and the fight against the mechas really stand out as pulse-pounding, fist-pumping action sequences), but it also focuses a lot on Danny's (pretty rough) social life, capturing with really pitch-perfect gut-wrenching nuance how hard it is to be trans in high school, especially when you're going home to systematic psychological abuse.But because Danny's a good old-fashioned hero, with a sort of unwavering decency that carries her through all the problems the world throws at her, through rabid TERFs and wavering allies and friends lost and found and the occasional world-ending supervillain.Anyways seriously you should go read it.

This book is not so simple as to be just about cis/trans, nor about normal/powered/capes.In a dozen different ways, it is all about Identity. From the villain's ultimate evil plan, to the claiming of the colors, to minds bound under the control and opinion of others, to the simple acceptance who and what the MC is.Who you are is what matters, if you just claim it with your entire heart.Wonderfully told, well edited, a joy to read.

I wasn't expecting this book to grab me as hard as it did, but within 5 pages I knew I wouldn't be able to put it down until I finished it. The pacing is fast, but doesn't neglect deep character development and rich world building. I love the author's writing style as she takes me from scene to scene quickly and effortlessly with powerful paragraphs that punch hard and aren't drunk with unnecessary descriptors or rambling. The dialogue is memorable and charming in most places, and gut-wrenchingly real in others. This is an author to watch out for, if her first book is any indication she has a very bright future ahead.

Look. I'm a cis-male, and love superheroes in part because of their aspect of wish fulfillment and for them dealing with the struggles of normal life. Dreadnought: Nemesis, has this and more. It moves fast, is highly enjoyable, and the fights are well described and exciting. The lead heroine is transgender, and I'm 100% okay with that, and her fighting the good fight against both prejudice, secret identity issues, and dealing with suddenly seeing even worse things once she gets the power of her dreams, deals with MORE prejudice from both secret identity and superhero sides, and unsupportive parents. The steel in her is unbendable, even if she struggles. Read this book.

The smoothest integration of coming-out story, YA superhero novel, and exploration of familial dysfunction I've ever read. It's told entirely in first person from the point of view of the main character, a deeply closeted, emotionally abused teenage trans girl who is also funny, painfully honest and believably flawed. The world building is excellent, too; the author has clearly thought through the implications of the existence of a tiny minority of people with superpowers and the ways the world would be different if we'd had them around since WWII. There are occasional editing errors, dated references (Michfest?) and, in the action sequences particularly, a few instances of inadequate description, but no worse than I've encountered in commercial fiction for sale in supermarkets. A bigger problem for some readers is going to be the detailed depictions of the abuse the main character suffers after coming out, at the hands of family, supposed friends, and even superheroic colleagues. There should be a trigger warning. Overall, though, I consider this story to be worth it's price and then some.

Every so often you pick up a book that you then guiltily stay up half the night reading, knowing you're going to be trashed in the morning, but feeling like it's worth it. This was one of those books for me.Love the protagonist, the consistent and engaging characters, the very real-feeling friendships, and the level of awareness of the author in engaging with a variety of complicated issues.

Pleasantly surprised by this book, both for the level of investment/identification the author manages to pull for several of the central characters and for the way she manages to draw the reader into the universe despite an off-handed treatment of the way the world works. Well crafted and addicting. I'm very eager for a next installment.

You know a book is going to be good when you decide to glance at the first couple pages and have to put it down at the beginning of chapter 6 because it's nearly midnight and you have to get up in the morning. Great story. Wonderful characters. Great action. Really can't recommend this one enough.

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