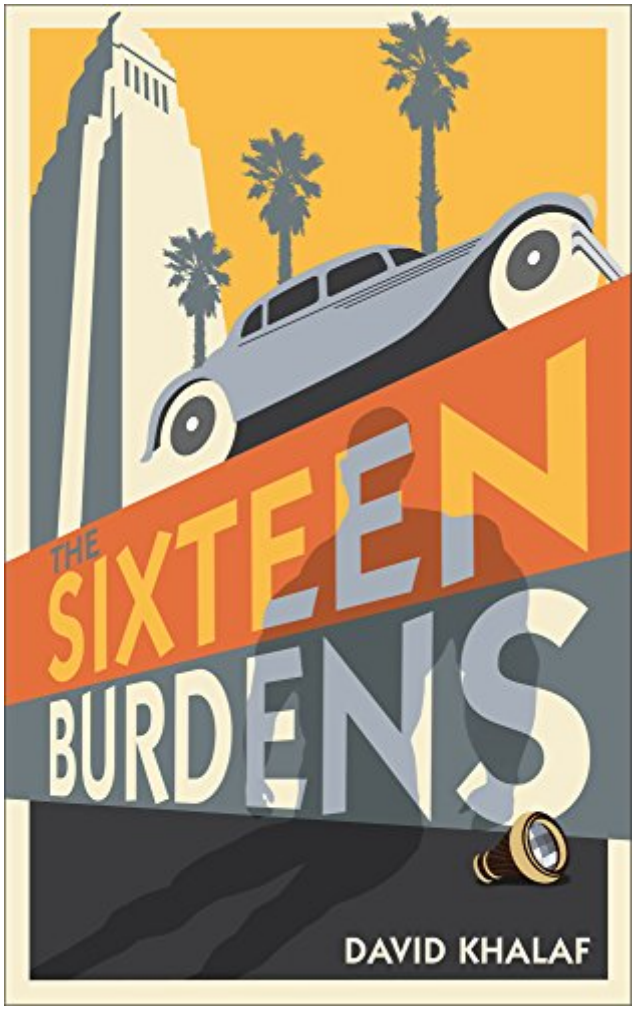
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The Sixteen Burdens (The Burdens Trilogy Book 1)



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Synopsis

A secret society. An indestructible madman. And a strange young man cursed with powers to end the world. When Gray Studebaker discovers a pattern on the movie-star maps he sells on the street corner, he thinks he’s solved Hollywood’s biggest crime mystery of 1939. Instead, he stumbles into a secret world where society’s greatest figures share a fiercely guarded secret: They’re supernaturally talented. As a half-crazed circus strongman hunts them down, Gray realizes he’s the only one who has the clues to find a mystical talisman that can stop the maniac. Gray embarks upon a wild, dangerous hunt through the gritty streets of Los Angeles, dodging cutthroat mafia bosses, Zoot-suited gangsters, and knife-wielding circus clowns. But the end of the search may force Gray to reveal his own secret, a mysterious power that will either save the society or destroy them all.The Sixteen Burdens is the first book in David Khalaf’s historical fantasy series. If you like The Night Circus, The Paper Magician, or Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, then you’ll love Khalaf’s page-turning period-piece adventure with a fantastical twist. Named 2016 Editor’s Choice (Historical Novel Society) and a Favorite Indie Book of 2015 (Self-Publishing Review).Buy The Sixteen Burdens to read the first in Khalaf’s award-winning series today!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book a great deal. It had elements of historical fiction to the golden age of Hollywood. It had elements of fantasy with the aspects of the Burdens. It was a good mystery -a -"who done it to whom". At its core it’s also about family and friends. The friends who become family.It took me a little to get into the book at first, but the action buoys. Like most fantasies, you need to suspend your disbelief and allow yourself to fall Into the world the novel creates.I enjoyed the real life names and likeness used from Pickford to Chaplin to Houdini. Also loved the call outs to LA and Hollywood -the industry.Overall a great debut novel. I look forward to more in the Burdens Series and more from the author.

If you’re someone who enjoys either YA fantasy or historical fiction, you’ll love this book. If you’re someone who enjoys both YA fantasy and historical fiction, you’ll be obsessed with this book. Author Khalaf does an impressive job creating and presenting an authentic representation of the story’s time and place. The characters--both those he created and those based on real people--are complex while still being completely accessible. Though I didn’t fly through the book quite as quickly as some of the other reviewers, I moved steadily and enjoyed reading.

I went into this book with no expectations, but I came out of it wanting more. While reading I often found myself casting the movie version in my head because this story is a natural for the big screen: Interesting characters (some real, some fiction), intriguing relationships and a fun historical setting. The author had a knack for surprising the reader with clever twists in the story line, right up to the very last page! I’m really looking forward to the sequel.

This debut by David Khalaf was interesting and well-written. I enjoyed it because it wasn’t typical. Much of the fantasy genre that is written today is derivative--vampires, ghosts, werewolves, witches, zombies, etc. Khalaf does something entirely unique and new. For that reason, I moved slower through the book. The ending exploded from the pages with a power punch of surprises and twists. I’ll definitely pick up the next two in the trilogy to see where the trail leads.

Wow-- I was pretty impressed with this book. First point, I LOVE the silent film era and all the actors

within it. So, getting to "live" in that era, even for just a little while was really fun. The characters were well-developed to the point where I could picture them all clearly in my mind. The plot line was logical, yet surprising at times. I won’t talk spoilers, but the end totally paid off. Already pumped for additional books from this author.

Definitely an enjoyable read. The book left me curious as to what happens next to the characters and that’s always a good sign! On top of that, the book is in the young adult category so is a quick read yet still raises some great ideas to explore such as when do strengths become weaknesses. I also appreciated the historical setting of the story; definitely felt the writer portrayed that era well. Looking forward to the next installment!

The Sixteen Burdens is a well thought out very well written book. From the first page the reader is transported back to the days of old Hollywood. The plotline is engaging and full of surprises. The character and setting details are spot on. My favorite quote from the book, "Destiny has a way of barreling through place and time whether or not you want it to. ". So true!!! Looking forward to the next installment.

Oregon transplant from Southern California author David Khalaf studied print journalism at the University of Southern California, serving as editor of the Daily Trojan newspaper, and progressed to graduate school at USC for a degree in creative writing. He has been a waiter longer than he cares to remember. His novels ring of the Los Angeles atmosphere and David has obviously absorbed the culture of the city ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the history, the Hollywood influence that paints most every aspect of LA, and the tongue in cheek humor that is necessary to survive life in the sunny mecca.Reading David Khalaf is an experience all lovers of fine contemporary writing should absorb. His style is addictive, and he has found that fine line that traces senseless incidents with both the macabre and the comic. An example: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœThe fifth woman was abducted late on a Thursday night. Police had discovered no evidence at the scene other than her gold lipstick cap, which officers found gleaming in a dirty gutter like a used bullet casing. Aside from that, she had vanished like the others. Like magic. A headline in the Los Angeles Examiner stretched across all six columns: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“STAR STALKER STRIKES AGAIN!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The only thing larger than the headline was the photo, a recent headshot of the victim, so sultry and seductive that men had picked clean the newsstands by mid-morning. The rest of the dayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s newsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • the boring stuffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • was squashed together at the bottom:

Winston Churchill pushing for pre-emptive action against the German Reich; Mahatma Gandhi enacting a hunger strike against the British; Adolf Hitler narrowly escaping an assassination attempt in a Munich beer hall. Europe was slipping into another great war, but that was half a world away and not nearly as interesting as kidnapped movie stars. Gray Studebaker chewed on the tip of a bent cigarette as he read the story. He had filched the paper from the newsboy on the corner, the one his age whose face was always filthy with newsprint. He scratched at his peach fuzz and read on. The story itself was brief; the actress had been plucked from the sidewalk late last night as she waited for her driver outside the Cocoanut Grove. There was a scream, and the witnesses who had seen her only moments before saw thin air in her stead. Her name was Nina Beauregard.' The case rests.David supplies an apt comment for his evocative novel: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœWhat if humanity's greatest talents were concentrated into the hands of a lucky few? That's the question I set out to explore in The Sixteen Burdens. Surely those talents would have belonged to some of some history's greatest figures: Sampson with his strength. King Solomon with his wisdom. Joan of Arc with her courage. This story could have been set in any place and time, but I chose my personal favorite: 1930s Hollywood. At the time, Los Angeles was an epicenter for talent and a magnet for some of the world's greatest figures of the day. It seemed a natural fit. With the world on the brink of another great war, what would happen when these Great Talents start to meet and vie for power? That's what you'll find outÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Or for the storyline, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœWhat if humanityÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s great historical figures werenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t just talentedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•they were supernaturally talented? In this fresh spin on urban fantasy, historyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s illustrious leaders, thinkers, warriors, and entertainers all share a secretÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|and a perilous destiny. The year is 1939, and everyone whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s anyone has descended upon the glamorous streets of Hollywood. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a great place to be if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re an actor, singer, politician, or businessman. Not so much if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re Gray Studebaker, a young guttersnipe stuck selling movie-star maps on the street corner. But then Gray never wanted to be rich or famousÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d be happy just being left alone by his tyrannical caretaker. During a rash of celebrity kidnappings, Gray discovers the stars on his map are hiding unusual talents for which they are being abducted. When Gray tries to solve the crimes on his own, he finds himself caught up in a battle for power that stretches back to the beginnings of humanity. The hunt begins for an ancient tool that can rescue celebrities the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks from an indestructible maniac who wants to steal their talents to create an invincible army. But Gray has a secret of his own, a mysterious disease that will either

save the others or destroy them all.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢David Khalaf is a bright and shining new talent, one who most assuredly in on his way up. Highly Recommended. Grady Harp, December 15

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