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Ex-Heroes



Synopsis

Stealth. Gorgon. Regenerator. Cerberus. Zzzap. The Mighty Dragon. They were heroes. Vigilantes. Crusaders for justice, using their superhuman abilities to make Los Angeles a better place. Then the plague of living death spread around the globe. Despite the best efforts of the superheroes, the police, and the military, the hungry corpses rose up and overwhelmed the country. The population was decimated, heroes fell, and the city of angels was left a desolate zombie wasteland like so many others. Now, a year later, the Mighty Dragon and his companions must overcome their differences and recover from their own scars to protect the thousands of survivors sheltered in their film studio-turned-fortress, the Mount. The heroes lead teams out to scavenge supplies, keep the peace within the walls of their home, and try to be the symbols the survivors so desperately need. For while the ex-humans walk the streets night and day, they are not the only threat left in the world, and the people of the Mount are not the only survivors left in Los Angeles. Across the city, another group has grown and gained power. And they are not heroes.

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Customer Reviews

A friend recommended this to me since I have a love of two things: Marvel and Zombies. I was not disappointed. The story centers around a world that's rapidly changing, people are suddenly so much more than just people, but with the gift of superheroes there is always a price, only this one is more than anyone wanted to pay. The novel, while in some ways very typical of a zombie genre book, full of gore and violence and all those things, had some twists that were utterly shocking,

things that caught me completely off guard. It also took the time to explain the why. As an avid reader and movie-goer, the one thing I have always hated about theme movies and books is that no one ever takes the time to ask the big question, and it's never explored. You have heroes. You have zombies. But unless it's x-men or a radioactive spider or the rare Resident Evil series, no one ever takes the time to explain not only the why but the how. This book does not fail in that regard. It offers insightful history and explanations, and does so in such a mind blowing way.

The potential of this book is amazing but unfortunately it wasn't tapped. It's a good book, but it could be a whole lot better. The story line is really good with a few minor flaws but which are easily overlooked. Great action and suspense with good fighting scenes. The ex hero characters are built solidly and their backgrounds are explained to an extent. But what this book lacks in is visualization. Mr. Cline describes the ex heroes but because of the very descriptive details they are hard to imagine in your head. I would love to see the characters on paper or pages, preferably in a comic book format. This book would be awesome! I don't mean a thin paged comic book but like on the lines of Joe R. Lansdale's "Drive In" or Robert Kirkman's "Walking Dead" series. Looking at the ex heroes and seeing them in action would give the story line a whole new spin. I first read "Drive In" in a book format and the story was good but then I bought the book in comic book format and it was absolutely awesome! Again the visualization gave a whole new meaning to the book. Ex Heroes is still a good read, but it would be nice to see the characters and in action.

I am ashamed to say it, but this review should have been written in March/April of 2010. I bought Ex Heroes in paperback back in March of 2010. I loved it! Zombies & Superheroes! I thought it was a different take on the zombie storylines. As others have mentioned, I didn't want the book to end. I wrote to the publishers and told them how much I liked the book, but it just slipped my mind to post a review. Since I got my Kindle last Aug, I have posted many reviews. When Ex Heroes dropped in priced to \$2.99 on the Kindle I jumped at it. This is one of only TWO books that I have double dipped on (the other being "First Blood" by David Morrell). I am busy right now reading two other books on my Kindle, but I will find the time to squeeze in a quick re-read of Ex Heroes on my Kindle. Then after that I will head out and pick up "Ex-Patriots (Ex-Heroes Book 2)". That book has the superheroes, zombies, and now: super enhanced soldiers! If you are into zombie books at all (and who isn't?), then you will enjoy reading Ex Heroes!

This was a book I had a hard time putting down. It's not as complex a story as say a 1970's or 80's

Stephen King book, but it was a good amalgamation of "The Walking Dead" and "The Justice League." It's nicely paced and the 2 big reveals add depth. You will recognize some of the hero archetypes, but that's a good thing.

"Ex-Heroes" was a surprisingly enjoyable book combining zombies (which I love) and Super Heroes (which I like in some forms). This is set in LA sometime in the near future, shortly after the appearance of the first Super Heroes and the beginning of the Zombie Apocalypse. No spoilers from me: The story is told through chapters set in the "Now", always in narrative, and in "Then", from the viewpoint of a different Super Hero. The main focus centers on a small group of survivors who have taken up residence at Paramount studios, which has been turned into a fortress and nicknamed "The Mount". The remaining Super Heroes, lead by the shadowy (and aptly named) "Stealth" and supported by "The Mighty Dragon" (AKA St. George), do their best to protect and provide for the remaining people. Like all good Super Hero stories, there are interesting secret identities, improbable origins, great villains, and fantastic battles. Making the story even better is the addition of zombies!!! Having read a LOT of new zombie novels recently, I can tell you that what I appreciate the most about this one is that it has a good story plot line, interesting character development, and it is actually very well written. Recommended! CFH

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