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Mutation: A Kid Sensation Novel (Kid Sensation #2)



Synopsis

Kid Sensation is back! The intrepid teen super with the plethora of powers returns in a new adventure. Having saved the planet and earned a place with the world's premier superhero team, Jim (aka Kid Sensation) is preparing to attend the prestigious Academy, where teen supers from every corner of the globe learn to master their abilities. At the same time, however, he is approached by a mysterious government organization that wants Jim to work for them - and they won't take "No" for an answer. Moreover, at the Academy itself, an insidious and highly contagious virus is running amok through the student population, striking at the heart of their abilities. Students are losing control of their powers, with lethal consequences. Now, in addition to evading the machinations of government agents, Jim must solve the mystery behind the virus - and how to stop it - before every super everywhere becomes fatally infected.

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Customer Reviews

The first book had some flaws, but I was hopeful that Hardman would figure out how not to telegraph his "twists" and be a tad less cliche. Not only was I wrong, but this book had more bad

cliches, telegraphed the twists (as well as future conflicts) more blatantly, contradicted itself several times and had several minor plot holes. I think I'm done with this series.

I am conflicted about this one. The story is good, writing is good, BUT - the characters stretch my incredulity too much by NOT using their powers ... Still here? OK. So we are to believe that a "government" agency (presumably US) takes hostile acts towards the hero, and he does NOT use his powers in full to defend himself. Worse, we are asked to believe that this "rogue" agency attacks and tries to kill a large number of superpowered children, many of whom have super-powered parents. After the attack is foiled all of these Superheroes do ... NOTHING? Seriously? Even if we are to believe that due to ethical reasons they decide not to retaliate by force (and they could do it easily, and in ways that can't be detected and proven), Wouldn't a super-powered group of Teenagers who were attacked, or their parents, use their powers to expose the "rogue" agency? They don't even go on strike in offering super-powered services to the world until the people responsible for the attack are stopped from any further action? I am willing to suspend disbelief that Super Heroes (and Villains) exist, but to believe they are all wimps?! even in the face of assassination attempts on their kids? Come on.

Before I really go into my review I would like to point out that I rarely review software and reading material/books. I believe that both areas are VERY subjective as to what works and what doesn't for each person so what might be a great choice for me might actually be a disaster for someone else. That said occasionally I do break down and decide to rate something that I found especially enjoyable. That is the case with not only this book but ALL the rest of the books in this series. Which is what prompted me to do this review. I actually thought all the stories in this series have been pretty well thought out and the issues that have cropped up have been very consistent with the types of issues you would find in superhero-based graphic novels so the books work really well with the theme. I also appreciate how well thought out the descriptions of the powers used by the various characters and how and why they work the way they do. It makes reading these books quite enjoyable (for me).

If I was to complain about this book it would be that it's so short that some sub-plots get dropped far too quickly. This story surprised me quite a bit. The first one was not bad, but always felt like some of the plot was forced. This time Kevin Hardman didn't force the storyline and instead wrote a good super hero action/mystery with mostly believable characters. Many of the characters being

introduced were well thought out and the solutions to the problems weren't simply the "bring a bigger hammer" types. My only real complaint would be that the story does end up a bit emotionless. Not that it doesn't bring out emotions, but that the romantic subplots and building of friendships quickly ended up swept away by the latest "the world is about to end" crisis that forms the backbone of the book. This left me wishing I could see a bit more of certain characters who didn't get enough page time. Still a solid story.

The second Kid Sensation novel gets off to a much slower start than the first. It then rambles along, giving a sketchy overview of super-school life, until the plot finally assaults our hero. The main events all take about a week to occur, and end the school year very early. Three supporting characters return, and a half dozen more are introduced. Yet none of them get remotely enough time or characterization to be engaging. The evil mastermind is the only character to evoke strong responses (of the "teleport him into the sun already" kind). The ending is fast, flat, and only partial. The lesser villains are defeated but the evil mastermind walks away untouched, and the girl is not rescued. Clearly the author is setting up a sequel, but I am not sure I care enough to read it. This volume was simply too disappointing.

Wow I thought this was a decent superhero story there were some problems with the main character. Several times his actions seemed out of character. For example he has the ability to phase, fly, and turn invisible. In fact he has done this before when he attempted to do recon. However for all his intelligence and experience he doesn't think about doing this when he needs to infiltrate a location. Instead he goes around the most convoluted plan in order to break in. Several other instances in which his supposed maturity and practical experience does not come into play. Characterization aside the rest of the story was very good and I enjoyed reading it.

As stated in my review of *Sensation*, the first book in what I hope is a long series, I'd been hesitating to make the purchase because earlier reviewers had pointed out that it was a little on the short side. Anyway, when I saw that this second book in the series came out, I made the jump and I'm glad that I did. I actually burned through both books in a little over a day and now look forward to more from this author. A minor note... It's clear that the author is fairly new to the writing game, but he showed noticeable growth just from the first book. I'm sure that as he gains experience and confidence in his gifts, that we will witness ever more growth in characterization and plot development. As it is, these are light, easy reads that grabbed me from the start.

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