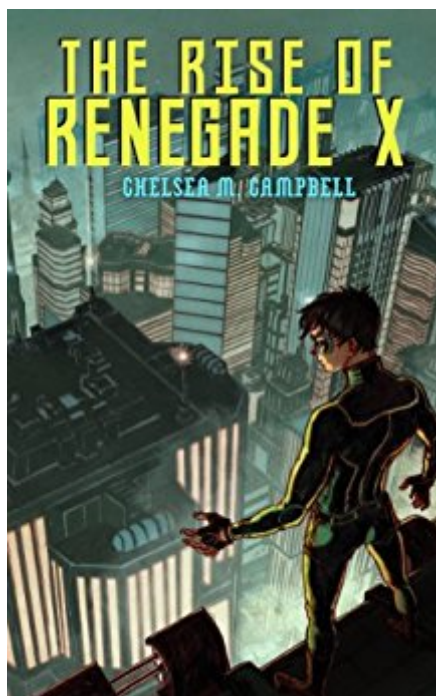


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The Rise Of Renegade X (Renegade X, Book 1)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Damien Locke has a plan: major in messing with people at the local supervillain university and become a professional evil genius, just like his supervillain mom. But when he discovers the shameful secret she's been hiding all these years, that the one-night stand that spawned him was actually with a superhero, everything gets messed up. His father's too moral for his own good, so when he finds out Damien exists, he actually wants him to come live with him and his goody-goody superhero family. Damien gets shipped off to stay with them in their suburban hellhole, and he has only six weeks to prove he's not a hero in any way, or else he's stuck living with them for the rest of his life, or until he turns eighteen, whichever comes first. To get out of this mess, Damien has to survive his dad's "flying lessons" that involve throwing him off the tallest building in the city--despite his nearly debilitating fear of heights--thwarting the eccentric teen scientist who insists she's his sidekick, and keeping his supervillain girlfriend from finding out the truth. But when Damien uncovers a dastardly plot to turn all the superheroes into mindless zombie slaves, a plan hatched by his own mom, he discovers he cares about his new family more than he thought. Now he has to choose: go back to his life of villainy and let his family become zombies, or stand up to his mom and become a real hero.

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Customer Reviews

I picked this book up because the sample was good enough to get me intrigued, and it was inexpensive for the page count. Consider me pleasantly surprised. A bit more teen drama than I wanted or expected, but it was well balanced with a wonderfully fun story. I will probably keep reading the entire series. Also, kudos to the editor. I usually find mistakes with either plot or grammar while reading Indie books. I did not notice any here. Also also, you're an idiot for even being tempted to get back together with Kat, Damien. Cheaters gonna cheat. Stupid teenager.

I was so pleasantly surprised by how well this book grabbed me. The characters are rich and memorable. Damien is so full of snark he reminds me of a young Harry Dresden (of the Dresden Files series). This book wasn't just a bunch of two dimensional super fights like so many others are. There was much more story telling and character development that it was very refreshing. I have read this one and it's sequel, twice. It's always a great sign when you re-read a book. I expect to read the whole series again when the third book comes out soon.

The main character is awesome as are his mother and father. His sidekick is also great. The plot is pretty interesting and kept me reading the whole way through. My only gripe is that it's only barely a superpowered story. The protagonist has exactly one power which he uses exactly twice in the entire novel. And the rest of the supers (both villain and hero) are likewise not much more different than normal humans. All in all this is a really fun read, particularly if you like fun characters. However, if you're looking for a superpower fix, you might want to pass on it for now.

I have a soft spot for superhero stories, so I picked up this book and was wonderfully surprised with how much I liked it. In a world of superheroes and supervillains, a hero scientist figured out the snippet of DNA that makes a superbeing villainous. He designed a virus so that when a person with that DNA turns 16, a "V" appears on his thumb, making it easier for the heroes to recognize a potential villain. Of course, the villains modified the virus so that heroes would have an "H" appearing on their thumb, letting them know that a potential hero is nearby to thwart them. Enter Damien Locke. Raised by his supervillain mom, he's having his 16th birthday party at a local

nightclub where non-super villain fans paid for the privilege of watching a boy get his "V". At midnight, when he turned 16, Damien gets a symbol all right, but it's not a "V". It's not even an "H". It's the one thing that's been talked about but almost nobody has ever seen. An "X". He has BOTH supervillain and superhero genes. His mom had apparently had an affair with a hero! And to make matters worse, when he finds out which hero, he's appalled. It's the most goody-goody of them all! The Crimson Flash! His mom feels it might be useful for him to spend time with the Crimson Flash for various reasons, so he's sent off to live with him for a while. Damien, though, is mortified. Everyone there is so.... good. He wants to be a villain dagnabit! It's a very funny and entertaining tale. Told in a first-person perspective, it's filled with wit and humor. Damien wants to be a bad guy, but even his "bad" acts aren't all that bad. Like when several schoolmates were picking on him. His dad was appalled because he placed scorpions in their lockers. He goes on to explain that they were only robot scorpions and that the venom would just give them a really bad rash for a few weeks. And even with his bad moments, he has a sense of honor and cares about people. If anything, he's the equivalent of the anti-heroes in the comics. If you like funny, engaging tales, pick this up. If you like superhuman tales, you'll like it even more.

Here's the thing. This story is cute enough. I liked it a lot. HOWEVER, buy the book because I listened on audio, and this is BY A WIDE MARGIN the worst audio performance I have ever heard. The reader is TERRIBLE. Beyond awful (and I have never commented on a reader before. I'm not hard to please). His female voices are so bad as to be offensive. Think the old SNL skits about the Sorority girls with David Spade, Chris Farley, and Adam Sandler..... but they were making jokes. THIS reader seems to think that is how women sound because ALL female characters are voiced that way. Just because a character is annoying in the book does not mean you have to voice them in a way that makes you reader want to turn the story off. It's too bad too because when the reader isn't going bitchy-voice for the female characters, his speaking voice is not bad at all.

Now I know that I read a bit fast, but I couldn't put this book down! It easily blends everything about a hero story into a well written story, with a love triangle that doesn't make you want to rip your hair out at the stupidity of the guy's choices! Getting his entire life turned upside down, cheated on, shoved into a new home, and having to make new friends the main man of this story even as a teen can grow on you with a sense of "I lived this myself!(Or could happen to me)....Without the whole villains and heroes part..." There were a few places with moments where you could go "plot device", but it was never just a total 180 of something. You never ran into anything like "I'll love you my entire

life! Then next scene "I hate you never talk to me!" Because the characters in this actually have a brain and actual personalities! I just grabbed the second book, and hope that this world and its characters live a long life!

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