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Hero



Synopsis

The last thing in the world Thom Creed wants is to add to his father's pain, so he keeps secrets. Like that he has special powers. And that he's been asked to join the League the very organization of superheroes that spurned his dad. But the most painful secret of all is one Thom can barely face himself: he's gay. But becoming a member of the League opens up a new world to Thom. There, he connects with a misfit group of aspiring heroes, including Scarlett, who can control fire but not her anger; Typhoid Larry, who can make anyone sick with his touch; and Ruth, a wise old broad who can see the future. Like Thom, these heroes have things to hide; but they will have to learn to trust one another when they uncover a deadly conspiracy within the League. To survive, Thom will face challenges he never imagined. To find happiness, he'll have to come to terms with his father's past and discover the kind of hero he really wants to be.

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up
At the same time that he's coming to terms with his sexual orientation, basketball star Thom Creed is trying to figure out exactly what his untrained superpowers can do. In an attempt to break away from his seemingly non-understanding father (an ex-hero with something to hide) and homophobic community, Thom runs away, only to find himself in the middle of a multi-hero rescue operation. Using his ability to heal, he keeps an injured woman alive until the League superheroes arrive and impresses them enough to get an invitation to try out for a hero apprentice position. Thom is teamed with an old woman who can see into the future, a spiteful girl

who unleashes her power through fire, a sickly boy who is able to inflict disease on anyone, and a demoted hero with insane speed. With superheroes dying in mysterious circumstances, Thom is forced to admit publicly that he is gay in order to prevent a miscarriage of justice, but finds himself cast out of the League. He organizes his ragtag team to figure out what is really going on and to fight society's prejudices as well as the criminal element of the town. The story tackles love, friendship, and the eternal struggle to come to terms with who we really are in a tactful, interesting, and well-developed manner. Although the beginning is a little slow, there are subtle hooks that will keep readers' interest, and once the action picks up, Hero becomes a real page-turner that is worth the wait. --Dylan Thomarie, Johnstown High School, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Thom Creed tries not to disappoint his dad, a disgraced caped crusader who now toils as a factory drudge, so he keeps his gay identity and his developing superpowers under wraps. Then he secretly tries out for the prestigious League, joining aspiring heroes in villain-busting adventures that escalate alongside more private discoveries. Written in a wry, first-person voice realistically peppered with occasional slang and slurs, this ambitious first novel from a Hollywood producer doesn't entirely cohere. The alternate-reality framework is too cursory, and the more realistic strands feel overstuffed with problems, even as they incorporate many well-chosen scenes (including Thom's awkward, anonymous first pickup, which goes only as far as a kiss). Still, Moore's casting of a gay teen hero in a high-concept fantasy marks a significant expansion of LGBTQ literature into genres that reflect teens' diverse reading interests; given the mainstream popularity of comics-inspired tales, the average, ordinary, gay teen superhero who comes out and saves the world will raise cheers from within the LGBTQ community and beyond. Mattson, Jennifer --This text refers to the Digital edition.

I have to say I really enjoyed this novel. A good story with a likeable protagonist. A fragile human being overcoming "the odds" to save the world.....what's not to like? Before I purchased this novel, someone had commented that there was an explicit gay sex act in the novel. This is not true at all. Also, even though Thom (the protagonist) is gay, it's a novel that isn't about sexual discovery. It's about relationships with family and dealing with a possible love interest, all the while navigating what the author (and also myself) deal with on a day to day basis in society by being gay. Decorate that journey in the guise of superheros and mystery, and you've got this novel. I liked it, although there

were a few aspects that I didn't care for. I would have preferred to have a totally unique superhero universe, instead of the incorporation of a Superman-like figure, and a Wonder Woman-like figure. It felt too "borrowed" to have those characters, and the ending and the ultimate villain was too easy to deduce, given the events leading up to the finale ending. Also, I needed more of a resolution with the father as well and more understanding into his actions towards his son, which seemed a bit contradictory. The "I hate you" relationship between his fiery friend and her boyfriend (?) just annoyed me as she was always being hateful to him. I would recommend reading this book. I got it done in a day (mostly in one sitting while on a flight across the country). I wish the author had lived to continue this universe he had created....Rest In Peace, Mr. Moore.

This was everything I could have hoped for in a Gay Superhero Novel. Also, if you liked Ready Player One, I guarantee you'll like this book. (Shameless hook) Moore's work is inspired. He managed to "dupe" me several times by revealing twists that dropped my jaw enough times for me to have grounds to sue. Mind you, he did this in such a way that he sewed these twists hundred of pages beforehand. Furthermore, while reeling me into a fantastical world, Moore also was able to maintain a sense of realism. The main character's, Thom's, inner struggles resonated so strongly with my own (and those I know many in the LGBT community have as well), I found myself identifying with a Superhero on a level no DC or Marvel comic has been able to achieve. If you enjoy Superhero movies or books, read this book. If you are Gay, read this book. If you are struggling to come to terms with who you are, read this book. I guarantee you won't regret reading it.

Stray Thoughts: There's a reason Stan Lee called this "An unforgettable experience" • not one to be missed! It's tragic that there hasn't been a movie or TV adaptation for this book • Especially in 2016. If for some reason a producer stumbles across this review know that if this book were ever to become a movie. I'm confident it'd appeal to nearly every archetype within the LGBT community. Don't pass up on this book. There needs to be more LGBT superheroes • the community is already such a huge fan of them already, why not reel it in more?

#commercialsense Moore passed away in 2011 and having just binge read his book in 2 days I'm heartbroken. This book was ahead of its time and the world lost a great author, LGBT label aside, the day Moore died.

I can't begin to describe how into this novel I was... I read it in less than one day because I simply couldn't put it down. It had moments that made me smile, cry, chuckle, and even had a few

messages to send including that of a parent's undying love for their child. Now being real, I think the anti-homosexual aggression displayed towards the protagonist was a bit over-dramatized (yes, even for 2007) but knowing the author was a young gay through the AIDS crisis I can perhaps see why this was the case (especially since we don't know exactly what year it was set in). If you liked Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, or Twilight and you don't mind some medium frequent use of cussing, then please read this book.

I picked up Hero, and it only took one paragraph to get sucked in. The characters in Hero were so unbelievably vivid, especially Hal Creed who both filled my heart and shattered it to pieces. I know I get too close to the characters in the books that really speak to me, but that is a trait about myself that I wouldn't trade for anything. These characters are able to fill up my heart and stay with me long after I've read that last sentence. I especially loved the characters of Goran and his little brother with his high kicks. How can I measure the importance of a book like this? I'm so tired of gay characters being the joke in the book, the easy laugh, the one who can never defend themselves and gets kicked around a lot. We all have a popular hero to look up to (don't we), some kind of super hero that is identifiable to everyone, just not an easily identifiable gay super hero. But that was before this book. I picked this book up on a Saturday evening, just before I had to get ready to go out. And I literally got to the end of the first page and I canceled my plans for the night. I could predict what a Saturday night in downtown would be like, but I had no idea where this book would take me.

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