



The Specials

Kel Pollard

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When three very different high school students are rushed to the school nurse's office with severe headaches, they realize they have something very special in common...

Kory can move things with his mind.

Heather can hear people's thoughts.

David can freeze time.

How did the powers develop? What caused them? Are they dangerous? Rogue scientist Dr. Walter Strong seems to have all the answers, but the three teenagers are wary when he tries to warn them about Ascentia, a secret organization whose sole purpose is to capture and control them by any means necessary. It is only when members of Ascentia's Specials Recovery Unit attack their homes and abduct their loved ones that Kory, Heather and David are left with no choice but to trust Dr. Strong, and to risk their lives to save the people they care about most.

The Specials Details

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From Reader Review The Specials for online ebook

Jody says

I won this book through a goodreads giveaway.

This book was interesting at best. I found that it wasn't overly well written, and the character's reaction didn't always seem suitable (ex. Heather is in a chokehold fighting for her life and she starts blushing when she hears the mention of her school crush... life, death or puppy love? It seemed unrealistic).

That being said, I also found the story was cliché. It's been done before, in all shapes and sizes. From the X-Men right down to Disney's Sky High. This book didn't bring anything new to the table. A secret Organization specializing in super powers.

I also found the 1st person narrative a little confusing. Every chapter is told from a different person's p.o.v and it got confusing because I had to keep flipping back to the first page in the chapter to remind myself who the "I" was in that chapter. This went on for the first 18-19 chapters, switching it up between the three main characters, and then all of a sudden, for some unknown reasons, the last two chapters are told from Clarke's P.O.V.

This book wasn't awful, but it wasn't great either. I will probably read the next books in the series, only because when I start a series I feel I should finish, but if I had never won this book, I probably wouldn't have read it. When I first saw it on the giveaways page, I think my expectations were too high!

Roxanne Barbour says

I received this book for free from Goodreads First Reads.

Blurb:

When these three high school students come together for the first time in the school nurse's office, they each realize that they have something special in common, but shortly after their revelation they are approached by a rogue scientist, Dr. Walter Strong, who forewarns the naive teenagers of a secret organization called Ascentia, whose sole purpose is to capture and control them by any means necessary. (I won't continue with the blurb as it contains spoilers).

Let me just say that I think the author has some interesting ideas for his novel. However, "The Specials" has all the trappings of a first novel.

To start with, we have some formatting errors:

- (1) p.83 missing ending quote mark
- (2) p.104 gap at top (first line)
- (3) p.149 gap at top (first line)

The novelist needs a good editor (we never see our own errors).

For example:

- (1) p. 107: I am on the run from them. ('from them' is not necessary)

- (2) lots of 'ly' words sprinkled throughout
- (3) p. 108: A few have tried that before. ('before' is not necessary--when else would it happen?)
- (4) be careful of duplicate words close together (p. 163, exactly, etc.)
- (5) p.162: We already established a while ago ('a while ago' is redundant)
- (6) p.161: amaze-ment (I'm not sure about the '-')
- (7) some other favourite words: exactly, actually, that, -- do some research on what authors like to repeat.

I found Kory and David fairly well characterized, but Heather just annoying.

The author needs to research 'show not tell'.

For example, don't use 'could feel, could see, etc.). Describe the emotions; describe with actions of the characters. Don't say 'David looked sick', describe how he looks.

By the way, I found the s-bands most unbelievable and too convenient. I like the concept but they didn't come across as workable. Rethink the idea.

As for freezing time for some, and not others, you haven't convinced me.

This all sounds negative, but take heart.

I think the author has some interesting ideas, but just needs to work on the craft of writing.

The urban myth is that you have to write one million words to come close to perfecting your craft. For myself, I am now starting to believe that.

The author has not yet found his voice, but I believe there is great potential.

You have good concepts, and that is important.

Keep on writing!

Daniel says

This is one of, if not THE, best books I've read all summer. I can't remember the last time I read a book with such well developed characters. And what makes them well developed is the fact that they each have that one human quality that makes them feel genuine. They're all flawed! I can't count the number of times that I read a book and the main character was just perfect all the time. That is the most annoying thing in the world to me! But yeah... anyway... this story had everything that I'd expect in a YA SF book. Love, loss, action, adventure, and even a little mystery. I loved how it started off and I loved how it ended. Having not too long ago finished high school myself, I could easily relate to the atmosphere that the book created and I enjoyed it.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK to any and all fans of YA SF, and I'm eagerly awaiting the next installment in this series!

Maz Marik says

A superhero story with a good deal of imagination and wit. The characters are perhaps a little familiar, but the way they grow and develop is really well done. The constantly swapping narrative structure (each chapter is narrated first person by a different character, except towards the end) is novel and works surprisingly well.

Most important of all, the story leaves a lot of unresolved mysteries and questions which makes the sequel(s) essential reading!

YA Reading Guru says

'The Specials' was not at all special to me. I feel two stars is actually a little generous, but don't feel right giving it only one star.

It's a novel that's been done before - to death. It appeared to be an amalgamation of X-men, Chronicle, The Avengers and all remotely similar books, television shows and films.

I'll start off by stating that the copy I read was a free download on Amazon Kindle. Judging the text by its blurb, I was expecting the text to be a decent read, but was let down greatly by the quality of writing and believability of the text - not the concept behind the novel (let us not forget, it is science fiction), but what was happening at stages throughout the book. Things would happen throughout the book that would make me stop and scrunch up my face, thinking 'seriously?'... One such example was provided in another review here on Goodreads - thinking certain things at inappropriate times.

The writing itself is bearable. I think that is the only way I can describe it. The jumping between characters also does make for a peculiar read, often leaving me confused by who was speaking, and to whom. It was also interesting that very rarely did characters 'speak' to one another or 'say' anything. It was generally shouted, or screamed, or replied, or asked, or ordered. It just seemed that everyone was shouting at someone. Yes, mix it up a bit, but have a normal conversation here and there.

I did enjoy some of the action scenes, but I feel that the quality of writing left these scenes somewhat lacking.

You might want to give this book a go, but don't have the blurb leaving you with higher expectations than what the book will offer you. I am glad that I got this for free, because honestly, I wouldn't have downloaded it otherwise.

Linda says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

It took several attempts of starting to read this book. It had aspects that were interesting, but it didn't capture my attention.

Erin Stroot says

In process...

jgyweniverel says

This sounds like one of those 'one more chapter then I will go to sleep....maybe...!
