



The Super Life of Ben Braver

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Ben Braver is an ordinary kid. All he wants to do is finish his summer watching awesome TV shows and eating his favorite candy. But when some kid screams for help, Ben, like his favorite comic book heroes, tries to save the day. Let's just say it ends badly. But it does lead him to a secret school where kids with super abilities learn to control their powers. Ben's never had any powers—and never thought he could be special. So when he's offered a spot at the school, Ben realizes this is his chance to become the superhero he's always dreamed of. Packed with black-and-white art and comic strips throughout.

The Super Life of Ben Braver Details

Date : Published March 6th 2018 by Roaring Brook Press

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Author : Marcus Emerson

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Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Humor, Fantasy, Mystery, Science Fiction, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Super Life of Ben Braver for online ebook

Green Jazz Blues says

This story is like a better version of "Kid Normal". There was a little mild toilet talk which could have been left out but on the whole, this book was quite enjoyable to read. Am clueless about the reference to Adam West - I don't know who he was or is? Early part of the book fairly slow and his encounter with the bully Dexter seemed weird and not easy to follow.

But when he gets to the school and meets new friends and tries to work out what's going on was great although as he says it was boring like any other school except for the kids and a couple of school staff members in it. Also, Dexter and his friend and sister still stay bullies which I hope will get sorted out for the better in a later book in the series.

Yep! A good book.

Quick question: Did anyone notice something remarkable about the school timetable?

Will be keen to read the next in this series.

Jennifer Bradshaw says

This was a fun, quick read that I think middle-grade readers will really enjoy. The combination of text and comic elements enhanced the story. I am looking forward the next adventure of Ben Braver.

Christine says

2 stars. I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway, and I wanted to like it but really did not. I thought the story was slow to develop and turned darker than I expected or would've liked toward the end. It also lacked a lot of humor compared to most books aimed this audience.

I read this book with my 9-year-old nephew in mind and sadly I did not feel compelled to pass it along to him.

Jackie says

An ordinary act of bravery lands Ben Braver at a school for superheroes. One problem: he has no super powers while every other kid at the school does. Hmm...just why is he here? Headmaster Donald Kepler says he is destined for greatness. Ben is not so sure.

Friends Noah and Penny stick by him as he is made the laughing stock of the school. Yet, when things get ugly, it is the unlikely one who makes the difference.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Plus

Always looking for funny, notebook novel type books, and this did have more illustrations than normal, but the whole "special school for kids with powers" is something I already have. I felt like maybe there was a book before this one that I was missing, and the whole bully issue was not addressed with any fresh twist.

On the elementary side of the Pilkey Line when it comes to goofiness. I was also not pleased with this description "... shady looking people. An old hag was pushing a grocery cart full of live chickens, a small group of punk rockers was break-dancing on cardboard..." Seemed a bit insensitive to people in economically depressed areas. And do punk rockers break dance?

Just not my thing personally.

Serenity says

I received a free review copy of this book from the publisher through my district library services

This book was really fun. Funny (potty humor, but also...just funny) with adventure, friendship, the whole package. I look forward to reading the sequel.

Susan Barnes says

After an altercation with the school bully, Ben Braver is chosen to go to a special boarding school for children with super powers. The trouble is that Ben doesn't know what his super power is, plus the school bully has also been chosen to attend. Still, he has until Christmas to discover his super power and in a big school avoiding the bully shouldn't be too hard. In the meantime, he makes friends with his roommate Noah, and Penny, the girl in the room immediately above theirs. With little homework and plenty of time, they become acquainted with the other students and their unusual powers.

Ben's quest for a super power seems doomed, but then a strange illness spreads through the school infecting significant numbers of students. Ben takes on the challenge of solving the mystery and battles a supervillain. The author, Marcus Emerson, highlights a valuable lesson, which is that being a hero, is more about being a good friend than having super powers.

The book has black and white illustrations throughout, with comical conversations. It is an easy to read, fast paced story that would appeal to pre-teen boys as the humour is often based around food and bodily functions.

Thanks to Christian School Supplier for providing a free book for review.

Chris says

What does a twelve-year-old obsessed with comics and superheroes think when he's invited to attend a school for superpowered youth? He thinks it's a mean prank, of course. Except Ben finally accepts that it is real and heads off with great excitement. Only to discover the point of the school is learning to repress and hide powers. And his is slow to manifest. But he's still making friends, and something mysterious is going on.

This is packed with illustrations, humor, sarcastic dialogue, and action. It's a fun, highly appealing package.

Pauline says

Ben Braver leads a fairly regular life; until the day he decided to leave his television as he wants a peanut butter cup. An altercation with the school bully leads to a life-changing experience. Ben Braver is selected to go to Kepler Academy, a school for children with super powers even though he doesn't actually have a super power. When he gets there he finds most of the time is spent learning to control a super power, not develop it. This is a funny, slightly irreverent book filled with jokes and one-liners, illustrations and pop culture references that will appeal to the most reluctant reader. This is the first of a planned three book series.

Suitable for 8+ - comedy, adventure, comics, super-powers

Charlie says

Funny, adventurous (and just a tad silly), I can definitely see younger readers devouring this! Ben is a really good 'hero' for younger readers to follow and his adventures will definitely keep them intrigued.

Ann Dague says

3 Stars

Clever middle grade novel about a special middle school for kids with "special super-hero type powers."

Has lots of comic book art and great kid humor. This will be a popular new series.

Will appeal to 4th grade and up. Especially good for reluctant readers.

Angela says

Reading it as an adult, I thought it was "OK". I can see some 9 y.o. boys really liking it, though, and anything that gets kids reading is brilliant, so it gets 2 stars from me and 4 for the potential enjoyment by a

child (average of 3).

Ben narrates the story like a diary and in a few places his inner dialogue takes away from the story, IMO. Emerson could have used a better editor to cut/change some of the references to 80s/90s pop culture and humour that children wouldn't get (referencing Goonies? Really? It was completely random and didn't work).

It took a long time for the plot to develop. Then all of a sudden, it's unexpectedly scary (for a kid). This is a case of being glad I read it before I gave it to a child - I'd have to know the reader is ok with darker themes (along the lines of Goosebumps, which can get pretty horrific).

The vomit scene, besides being unnecessarily gross, is basically a rip-off of the anecdote in Stand By Me. I know there are kids, especially boys, who love this type of story, though.

The comic-type illustrations were good, but sometime the dialogue was part of the story and sometimes it wasn't. A little bit of consistency here would have been good.

Brandy says

What a great book! Not what I'd normally choose to read, but I was hooked from the first few pages by Ben's personality! Just when you think you know what's going on-major plot twist!! Will Ben ever become the super hero he aspires to be?

Lyndsey says

I got this book through a Goodreads giveaway. It was a fun book, though super predictable. It felt like a combination of 10 story lines of other books I have read and movies I have seen (i.e. Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, X-men, Avengers, etc) crammed into one book, with a Captain Underpants and Diary of a Wimpy Kid humor and feel to it. It was kind of strange, but not bad.

Gigi H says

The idea was cute. It was a kiddie wannabe version of X-Men. I did however, find this a bit offensive as someone who homeschools. The bully in this book was homeschooled and a dog abuser. I was disgusted by this as it was a very poor representation of homeschooled children.

It was a DNF for me.
