



Origins

Isamu Fukui

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Fifteen years ago, the Mayor of the Education City was presented with an unwelcome surprise by his superiors: twin six-month-old boys. As the Mayor reluctantly accepted the two babies, he had no way of knowing that they would change the city forever....

Raised in the comfort of the Mayoral mansion, Umasi and Zen are as different as two brothers can be. Umasi is a good student; Zen an indifferent one. They love their adoptive father, but in a city where education is absolute, even he cannot keep them sheltered from the harsh realities of the school system. But when they discover that their father is responsible for their suffering, affection turns to bitterness. Umasi and Zen are thrust onto two diverging paths. One will try to destroy the City. The other will try to stop him.

Origins Details

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Author : Isamu Fukui

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From Reader Review Origins for online ebook

Aubree says

This book can be read with or without its companion "Truancy". It is supposed to be a prequel. Despite his age Fukui manages to create a compelling story. He is able to balance three, sometimes more, separate stories at the same time while not creating any confusion. The fight scenes in this book read like they're out of an action movie, easy to follow and full of twists. He makes sure that anything that happens seems entirely plausible and the view of education that Fukui creates is eerie. Hopefully our society never comes to that point.

Erin says

MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS FOR THOSE SPOILER PRUDES WHO THINK THAT ONE SENTENCE FROM THE BOOK IS GOING TO GIVE AWAY THE WHOLE PLOT

As you may well know, I am a sucker for dystopia, and Truancy is no exception. Truancy Origins helped me to answer most of my questions. I really enjoyed this book. The fight scenes are awesome, the dystopia makes me geek out, the cliffhangers are intense, and the connections to the first book tie everything together nicely (such as Jack being Tack and Suzie's dad). However, the one thing that keeps me coming back for more is Fukui's characters. Some people claim that Fukui cannot write, but I beg to differ. Truancy is one of the only series where most of the characters are not stock characters. Even the Mayor, Zen's (Zyid's) enemy, is not all bad. Fukui is really capable of showing the good and bad of all people. You cannot tell who the real good and bad guys are sometimes. He also develops his characters nicely. Most of his main characters are dynamic and round. Can you say that about most YA books these days? Also, you begin to doubt that the education system is really bad until BAM! You read something that makes you shiver. That is what I love about Fukui's writing, it makes you think. The only thing that I would have changed is I would have given more details about how bad the education system is before Zen started the Truancy. I will have to say that I liked the first won better, but this was a great and necessary part of the Truancy.

Overall: 4.75 out of 5 stars

Normally, I would say the cover is bad, but it serves its purpose. I'm sure that Fukui didn't really care about making a beautiful cover.

Tass says

I love, love the *Truancy Origins*! It was exciting and full of anticipation, it's so surreal. We have different opinions on how this book affect us while we were reading and that's okay. So here's my review:

This story was not only exciting, it was suspenseful! It went at a good pace and grabbed the reader's attention eagerly. I'm so happy that I spent my Sunday morning reading this! I'm very satisfied by the book and feel like it went so right, and everything fell into place evenly. A little disappointed Umasi didn't kill Edward

right where he had him, perfectly humiliated and ready to death, but it doesn't matter because you see this side to Umasi that still goes on strong. Umasi is a round and dynamic character and I enjoyed his point-of-views greatly.

Zen is a flat character, but his point-of-view was still very enjoyable to read. He had made little progress, but we don't get to see that till the end of the book where he realizes he just might lose his brother forever and he tries to savage it by saying all that nasty stuff; but nevertheless, it didn't work out.

All and all, Zen and Umasi are definitely my favorite character and I'm so glad we got see why Tack's father lost his position. Aha, at least the mystery has been solved :D

Anyways, gave this book a five star. It's a great read and totally worth it!

Catherine Liu says

Overall I did like the book. As most literature that is geared toward teens lacks the symbolism and literary rubbish that I hate. For the most part it is a book that is composed of the angst that teens feel toward the education system and how they manipulate students in order to maintain power and authority. It is very well written considering that the author was only 15 at the time. It was a very interesting read to observe how two people: identical twins reacted to their surroundings and how they became twisted as they reached beyond the threshold and into the abyss. The two character, Zen and Umasi are as different as can be, which in reality is not very realistic nor do I like this plot point. However overall the book was interesting enough. Unfortunately none of the books that I have read in the recent past have really pulled me in, not even *Catching Fire*. This book leaves an aftertaste of slight disappointment even though I do acknowledge the youth and inexperience of the author.

Thebubbles says

Honestly, this book in my opinion was a little better than the first one. I had read *Truancy* about 1 or 2 years ago and after seeing *Truancy Origins* in the library I was surprised because I didn't even know that *Truancy* was part of a trilogy (I know what you're going to say: duh it's a trilogy where have you been?). At first, I was kind of hesitant to read it. It had been so long since I read the first book that I thought that I would get completely lost in this one. But I realized later that you can read the first two books in any particular order and still have a clear understanding of what's going on; actually, I'm glad that I read the prequel and reread *truancy* because it gave me a better understanding of the series as a whole.

Isamu Fukui did an excellent job on this book and I believe that after taking about two years to write this prequel, his writing skills greatly improved. I have to admit, when I first read *Truancy* and looked at the back, I was surprised that the author was only 17 years old. I really enjoyed the stories of the two brothers Umasi and Zen and found that I liked both of them (even though Umasi was my favorite). You can learn a lot of life lessons from this book and it teaches you some amazing proverbs about honor, wisdom, ambition, love, fighting, humanity, and restraint which is intriguing seeing that it's all coming from a teenager. I also felt like it expanded more on the story and it's concepts instead of the excessive fighting that was displayed in *Truancy*. The action scenes in here are brief but climatic; a fighting style similar to Japanese manga. It opened my eyes as well to notice how much Umasi and Zen reminded me of ying and yang. This novel

reveals the past of these mysterious characters creating a mixture of empathy, suspense and sadness until the very end.

Nicole says

This was pretty amazing. I was told it was like the Hunger Games. Um, no. It's not like it, minus the dystopian society and rebellion, but it's still just as good!

I was so sad while reading, seeing how brothers become enemies.

Anyways, psyched to read Truancy, and then Truancy City! :D

Wendy Lu says

killer streetfighting scenes, a war, and how the weak have to grow up. only regret is that i didn't read the series in order.

Christine Gaza says

Well, I had a student lend this to me (sorry Sruthi!)...and I may have given it one star, but it was written by a 15 year old, and I respect how well done it was for someone at that age. I thought there was too much action and not enough backstory. I liked that Umasi eventually redeemed himself even if it was through negative means. However, I didn't really understand WHY the government was so terrible or WHY Zen was so upset. The overall language to me seemed kind of forced and disjointed. Sorry Sruth, but I shall never tell a lie about a book :)

Cooper Mumford says

This book was only better than the first book was, as it answered most of my questions, but at the same time, giving me new questions which will be answered in the third book, which sadly is not out yet. But this book is about the history of the two most mysterious characters in the original book, about whom most of my questions were, and the farther I read, the more questions were answered, so, once more, I could not put this book down. Some of the characters from the previous book were also included, like the main character, however, he wasn't *really* in the book, but it answered some questions, and there were even more characters incorporated into the book, making it only better. All in all, this is the best book I have ever read so far. I can *not* wait for the last book.

(TWO BOOKS)

Thomas says

Umasi and Zen are twin brothers who are alike in many ways: they both suffer under the cruelty of the school system, they both have a father whose too caught up in his position as Mayor of the city to properly care for them, and they both are shocked when they realize their father is the one causing all of their misery at school. Despite these similarities, Umasi and Zen are complete opposites. Zen has never really fit in with the educational structure - instead he decides to cut class and receive failing grades. Umasi, on the other hand, is a straight A student who strictly abides to his teachers. After learning of their father's betrayal, the brothers split up on two different diverging paths: Zen utilizes his anger to form a rebellious group of students called the Truancy, while Umasi struggles to grow stronger in a city of chaos.

Although my rating for *Truancy Origins* and its predecessor *Truancy* is the same, *Truancy Origins* was slightly better, for various reasons. Fukui seems to be developing his skills as a writer and is improving gradually; he's decreasing repetition, expanding his characters' development, and of course, making his fight scenes even more intense. This novel would have been worthy of at least 3.7 stars if Fukui didn't possess one major flaw: not streamlining.

The plot of *Truancy Origins* was stronger then the one in *Truancy*. That being said, it could have been even better if Fukui shortened up the book by about 50-100 pages and cut out unnecessary action sequences or random side story lines. At times it seemed like a bad, rambling fan fiction - with chapter after chapter being added simply to keep the readers entertained. The story lost some of its fluidity because of its massive length, which hopefully Fukui will correct in his next upcoming book, *Truancy City*.

Duncan says

In the City, The Mayor rules all, including the school system, but he's troubled. He has just discovered that the higher government has assigned him to take care of two twin boys, Umasi and Zen. He is worried because they will have to be put into the school system and treated like all the other students. Unable to let them know, the boys live life like all other children, until one day when they discover that their father was behind it. They both run away, Zen to form the Truancy in order to destroy the school system, Umasi to stop both the Mayor and the Truancy.

Sybelle van Erven says

This is one of those books that explains some of the things written in the one before it. I did not realize it, so I read this one before *Truancy*. I am positive that changed my experience, but not in a negative way. I think you could read them in any order. Just know the author's intent is for you to read this one after the first one. I just totally love the "evil" twin/"good" twin thing he worked out in here. It definitely shows how "bad" people can have very good reasoning and how you can agree with them on many levels. Again, if you un/home school, read it!

Arynn Ishikawa says

I actually enjoyed this book more than it's predecessor... Which I believe was released first. However, this book is a prequel to Truancy.

The book was quite easy to read and very descriptive. A little hard to visualize what this city would look like and I kinda wish there was some sort of map or something to show the districts. I was, however, able to visualize my own images to go along with the story and the fight scenes were very imaginable. I really enjoyed the way the various characters are introduced. I wish I read this one first, so I could get the story in chronological order rather than in the order of publication. It helps everything make a little more sense.

I think there's one more book to this series so I'm looking forward to seeing how the story ends up playing out!

Nick Booth says

When I finished Truancy Origins for the first time, this is the first thought that popped into my head: *Oh my gosh how is it even physically possible that a book can be this good.* I'm not joking. Truancy Origins is a must-read, with well written action scenes, a compelling plot, and amazing characters. Isamu Fukui has really outdone himself this time, writing a sequel even better than his compelling debut, Truancy.

Lois says

I read this book, thinking that this is the first book of a series. It turns out, this is the sequel to the first book. I don't know what to feel about that, because, in a series, I always read the books in order of when it was published.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading this book, and I look forward to reading the first book of the series.
