



My Life as a Ninja

Janet Tashjian , Jake Tashjian (Illustrations)

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Book 6 in the bestselling My Life series!

Derek Fallon has expanded his taste in cartoons to the world of manga and anime. Together with his friends Carly, Matt, and Umberto, Derek has fun learning about all the cool aspects of ninja culture. When someone starts vandalizing their school with graffiti of a mischievous troll-like figure, these ninjas-in-training are convinced they'll be able to crack the case. But it turns out that being a ninja is a lot more work than they thought, and this adventure brings about new opportunities for Derek to embarrass himself. For once, can he be the hero that saves the day?

A Christy Ottaviano Book

My Life as a Ninja Details

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Author : Janet Tashjian , Jake Tashjian (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review My Life as a Ninja for online ebook

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Derek and his friends decide that they need to be ninjas-- and of course, ninjas need black clothes, which makes a huge mess when they try to dye them. His mom (who runs a vet practice next door to their home and is the reason Derek has Frank, a capuchin monkey they are fostering until he can be trained as an assistance animal) and his dad (who finally has a new job with a guerilla advertising agency) decide that the best was to short circuit future attempts at misguided ninja-ism is to enroll Derek in a martial arts class with Sensai Takai. Derek is not impressed. He wants to kick things, not think about things, and even when he realizes why he can't just karate chop bad guys, he still wants a little more action in his life. He does get it, but in an unpleasant way. Someone is painting graffiti of a Minotaur on buildings around his neighborhood, including his school. When he and his friends try to investigate (they're ninjas, after all), they run the risk of being blamed. To avoid getting in trouble, Derek is willing to investigate everyone, including folks who work with his mom and dad. The culprit causes some complication in addition to the graffiti, but Derek and his family deal can deal with whatever life throws their way.

Strengths: These are a lot of fun, and are so much better written than Wimpy Kid! They always have discernible plots, character development, moral lessons; everything one wants in a book for middle grade readers. Tashjian is a great writer, so half of me wants her to keep writing these, while the other half of me wants to see something like Fault Line or For What It's Worth (which is brilliant, but not overly popular with my students). I hope that she'll keep writing so we see LOTS of new titles from her!

Weaknesses: Horrible, horrible bindings. These get so much use that they wear quickly. I might have to start ordering these and the Big Nate titles from PermaBound. Gah. Multiple vendors. I'm also not a huge fan of the illustrations, although it is nice that Tashjian gets to work with her son.

What I really think: Yep. Checking PermaBound. I need to replace some of my Captain Underpants books, as well. Now if I can just remember my log in...

Walter says

4th choice book. 3rd quarter.

Lemme just start out by saying that I loved this book! This is a funny book in general. The main character Derek, deals with a lot of struggles. Derek wants to become a ninja, so he's taking ninja classes, and throughout the book his teacher really confuses him. Then there's a bunch of vandalism going on throughout the town, and Derek's mission is to find out who the culprit is. Then there's the school play, that Derek never really wanted to join in the first place, but it happened. Derek has a lot of conflicts but he gets through them just fine. The author does a great job writing the story:)

Tracy Bailey says

I love this series. It is great for reluctant readers and students who need a little help with vocabulary.

Stacey says

The characters have grown up some since the first in this series, but they still maintain their quirky dynamic and honest opinions. A fun read for grades 4-6

Eileen Winfrey says

It took me forever to get through this book, because I just wasn't that interested. However, what reading this has done for me is this: I have a new series that I can recommend to kids who only want to read Diary of a Wimpy kid. A group of friends get together and overcome some kind of not-too-threatening problem. I especially like the stick figure drawings on the side that demonstrate the meaning of words. I'd recommend this to reluctant 3rd and maybe even 4th grade readers.

Sam Oestreich says

Happily Flad

John says

A wonderful story about friendship, persistence, and the art of being a ninja.

I read this series in the most interesting way possible. I began with the second book. Then, I moved on to the fifth. Before long, I had finished the second and fourth. Afterwards, I tackled the third. After a long wait, the seventh was done, and then the sixth.

And through this series, I learned two big things: One, art and vocabulary go great together. Two, we can all have many different lives, whether it's as a book or a cartoonist, gamer or YouTuber, ninja or reader of this wonderful collection of books.

Roberto R says

Good book read it if u have read the other books or if u like stuff about ninjas.

Chris says

I liked this book. As a teacher, I really like the way the author used drawings to explain possible unknown words. This is a fun book to read.

Caleb says

Oh My God this book was so amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!! if you havent read the first book read it or read this
