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Fledgling: Jason Steed



Synopsis

Tormented by his mother's death... Taken for granted by his father... Trained in deadly martial arts... Jason Steed is looking for a place to call home. He finds what he's looking for in the Sea Cadets-an elite group of British youngsters being groomed for lifelong service in the military. But when a routine training exercise goes awry, Jason finds himself in the middle of a secret mission. The future of the world hangs in the balance...and Jason might be the only one who can save it. "A coming of age heart wrenching story packed with laughs and fast paced action. Most readers who love action and spy fiction will devour this dynamic book in a single sitting or two, otherwise they'll be in extreme agony waiting to see what happens next." -Fictionreviewer.com

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Series: Jason Steed

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Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #531,413 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #137 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts #12504 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

This book will fascinate a lot of teenagers. It is fast-paced, with action galore, some comic relief through the secondary characters and a pretty original plot. But there are also a few issues you should be warned about: The first third of the book feels like the outline of the story the author really wanted to write. There are a lot of summaries, back stories or 'telling rather than showing'. It's as if the author wanted to get to the juicier parts quickly - the fight scenes and certainly the summer camp on the training ship. The violence of the action builds up towards the final third of the book. I

have read a lot of teen fantasies or thrillers including the Pandragon, Alex Rider, Gatekeeper or Cherub series but none was so bloody. Dozens of young kids get massacred and Jason himself kills a few people in hand-to-hand combat. The relationship between Jason and his father Ray, especially in the beginning, is pretty dysfunctional; even considering the times in which the novel is set, Ray's parenting is abysmal. As a matter of fact, most adults in this novel are useless, maybe with the exception of Jason's first Karate teacher, whose wisdoms he quotes a lot. Jason is portrayed as more mature at 11 than the Queen's husband (!), Brown, the combat trainer on the ship, Wilson, the Jakarta mission leader and many more. Kids are in general incredibly advanced here - how many 10 year olds try cigarettes, alcohol, read adult magazines and have girlfriends they admit to 'love', constantly kiss and take on a multi-hour trip around a 'town' like London? What I struggled with the most (and what younger readers will love the best) were the many unlikely fights Jason gets into and always comes out of victoriously. It seems Jason couldn't go to school or a party without having to thwart bullies or to a restaurant without fighting off muggers. He is better at everything he does than men many years his senior and twice as heavy - and that includes trained marines and disciplines like martial arts, climbing, swimming, flying and even shooting (when did he learn that?)(SPOILER) Really, why would the British Military send such a small and apparently incompetent team for such a very important mission? They have only one person who speaks Chinese (who then gets conveniently killed such that Jason has to take the job) and all but Jason get caught the first chance they have. Then it's Jason who has to collect the goods, free his comrades and fly the escape plane. The book had some opportunity to investigate questions of morality - the strict code of obedience and subordination in the military for instance. The scene where the family of an informer gets killed and certainly the suspicion about why the Sea Cadets' training ship was allowed to enter a war zone would have been perfect chances to make readers explore political or social matters. I loved the book - The Recruit (Cherub) - for exactly that quality. But the author touches these issues only superficially and with that underestimates the intelligence of the readers. I would still recommend this book for action or martial arts addicts. It's something your child will read even if he/she is otherwise glued to a screen brimming with the 'Worlds of Warcraft'.

This was recommended to me as a book with a decent moral compass. I always read anything I buy for the grandkids before I pass it on and this is a definite winner. No spoilers here :~). Is it realistic? No. One of the reviewers bemoaned the lost opportunities to explore political and pragmatic implications and I believe missed the true value of this story for the age group. It was the sort of

things dreams are made of -- both bad dreams and good dreams. Jason Steed has the tenacity and abilities even I - as a grandmother - would dream of. He also has the vulnerabilities of a child. The father son relationship is dealt with compassionately for both. The adventures, challenges, and fast pace make it a real page turner and easy read for the reluctant reader. There is something here for everyone: friendship, conflict, romance, royalty, discipline and responsibility, challenge. I loved it. Was it perfect? No. But close enough for me! I have just ordered the sequels and have several grandsons in mind for the shared adventure. Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Well done, sir!

I just finished reading an exciting and adventurous fictional book about a young English lad that saves his fellow comrades and country. `Fledgling, A Jason Steed Adventure.` Mark Cooper has written an emotional roller coaster adventure story that will have the readers begging for more Jason Steed Adventures. This book will be loved by both adults and young readers. I found myself smiling and laughing one moment and tears of sadness running down my face the next moment. The climactic ending will have the readers on pins and needles. Then Mr. Cooper closes with the possibility of another Jason Steed Adventure. I hope he will continue with a long and exciting series of young Steed adventures. Jim Horton, writer/illustrator of children's books. Myrtle Beach, SC

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