



## The Point

*John Dixon*

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**The Point** John Dixon

**“[A] rousing mash-up of military SF thriller and paranormal adventure . . . Scarlett is a resourceful and endearing heroine.”—*Publishers Weekly***

What if you had a power you had to hide from everyone—until now? In this bold sci-fi action thriller, a secret training program at West Point is turning misfits into a new generation of heroes.

Scarlett Winter has always been an outsider, and not only because she’s a hardcore daredevil and born troublemaker—she has been hiding superhuman powers she doesn’t yet understand. Now she’s been recruited by a secret West Point unit for cadets with extraordinary abilities. Scarlett and her fellow students are learning to hone their skills, from telekinetic combat to running recon missions through strangers’ dreamscapes. At *The Point*, Scarlett discovers that she may be the most powerful cadet of all. With the power to control pure energy, she’s a human nuclear bomb—and she’s not sure she can control her powers much longer.

Even in this army of outsiders, Scarlett feels like a misfit all over again, but when a threat that endangers her fellow students arises from the school’s dark past, duty calls and Scarlett must make a choice between being herself and becoming something even greater: a hero.

## **Praise for *The Point***

“An exciting military SF adventure . . . This action-packed military thriller keeps a fast pace and will appeal to fans of *X-Men*’s Charles Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters and TV military series such as *The Unit* and *SEAL Team*.”—*Library Journal*

“A thrilling mix of SF and coming-of-age story.”—*Booklist*

“This ‘school for superheroes’ sci-fi action thriller moves faster than a speeding bullet.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

## **The Point Details**

Date : Published August 7th 2018 by Del Rey

ISBN :

Author : John Dixon

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Thriller, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review *The Point* for online ebook

### Fabi says

Scarlett just graduated high school. She's ready to leave her misspent youth behind and backpack through Europe with her bestie.

Scarlett's parents hope for college or the military life for her. During a big family fight about her irresponsibility, two military recruiters show up at her door to give her a choice - prison for her latest escapade or West Point and military service for the next 8 years.

In spite of her rebellious nature, she's a smart girl and chooses West Point. Only to discover that she's been secretly recruited to an undercover training program for youth exhibiting super powers.

Similar to the X-Men, these youth have powers ranging from telekinesis to super speed, enormous strength, etc. Scarlett is one of a kind, even in this exalted environment, because she can absorb energy and re-emitt it to a target. She acts as a sort of boomerang for any type of energy. But that's not enough. If she can't learn to harness and store that power, she will not be of any use in defending against the biggest threat the country has ever faced.

This was a thrilling and intriguing new adult story. Among all the mystery and hair raising suspense, I really enjoyed watching Scarlett grow and mature into her full potential.

*A big thanks to the publisher for this NetGalley ARC.*

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### Shelley says

\*Source\* Publisher

\*Genre\* Science Fiction / Military / Action & Adventure / Thrillers

\*Rating\* 3.5-4

\*Thoughts\*

John Dixon's *The Point* is a story that could easily be called X-Men at the US Military Academy. Instead of calling those with strange powers mutants, let's instead call them post-humans. The protagonist of the story is 18-year old Scarlett Winter a rebel by nature who chaffs against responsibility. Winter's father is a retired Master Sergeant in the Army, while her older brother is a Sergeant in the Marines.

\*Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

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## Lauren Stoolfire says

**I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

Scarlett Winter has always been an outsider as a daredevil and troublemaker, but she's hiding special powers she doesn't understand. She has no choice after graduation - either go to West Point or jail. She expects that she'll just be joining the army like her father before her, but she's actually joining a special unit of others with powers like her. Scarlett and her fellow students are learning to more accurately use their abilities, from telekinetic combat to running recon missions through strangers' dreamscapes, for eventual government service. Scarlett may have the strongest ability in her year with her power to control energy and use it as a weapon, she's a bomb waiting to explode, and she's not sure she can control herself for much longer. When a dangerous threat arises from the school's dark past, Scarlett will need to decide if she can truly step up and be a hero.

*The Point* by John Dixon is an addicting sci-fi thriller with a great central premise. Honestly, as soon as I heard military training, *X-Men*, and a secret West Point unit I was absolutely sold. Some of my favorite moments of the story are the training sequences and seeing the cadets powers in action. As for Scarlett, Dixon has created a pretty fantastic character arc for our leading lady. She really comes into her own as a part of the Long Gray Line and through her training. That being said she never loses herself in the process, though she does seem to change her ways a little too quickly for my tastes. By the way, when it comes to Scarlett's power did anyone else think of Sebastian Shaw from *X-Men*? Anyway, one of my few issues is that I wish the world-building had been handled a little more thoroughly for the posthumans. I enjoyed what we got about they came to be, but it wasn't quite enough for me - bit of a missed opportunity there.

Overall, *The Point* by John Dixon is a great standalone sci-fi for fans of *X-Men*. This story isn't terribly unique, but it's still a fun read that you can quickly devour. It is an older YA read, but I think that it could make a great adult crossover story as well. This novel was my first read by this author, but I think now I'm going to have to read more of his work - I think a great starting place would be *Phoenix Island* which inspired the tv show *Intelligence* with Josh Holloway.

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## Monica says

This story had some strong points: a good female lead, especially after she left the immature, teenage whining at the beginning of the book; unusual characters, also known "posthumans" with very strange powers; a secret spy organization located underground at West Point; and of course, villains, originally trained by the secret spy organization.

There were some cool, but less obvious, connections through out the story. One example is the senator and his long lost daughter: they could have played a much bigger role. Their appearance at the end of the book was surprising but it could have been a startling revelation.

Overall it was an enjoyable read, definitely in the young adult category.

*Thanks to NetGalley and publishers for an advanced reader's copy in exchange for my honest review.*

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## Paul says

Mutant training, coming-of-age stories, government conspiracies. *The Point* by John Dixon is a hybrid of all the types of books I love to read. With a main character you can't help to root for and a bevy of twists and reveals, this is a solid addition to any one of those genres.

For the full review: <https://paulspicks.blog/2018/07/24/th...>

For all my reviews: <https://paulspicks.blog>

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## Dianne says

Scarlett was a rebel without a cause, a daredevil, a born troublemaker, a teen with a secret and now she has met her match. She is about to become part of a secret training program hidden deep within the bowels of West Point, but is she ready to become a hero?

**THE POINT** by John Dixon is a brilliantly edgy young adult science fiction tale that is jam-packed with action and danger, but where does the danger really lie? Teens with superhuman powers are being trained covertly to become the nation's secret weapons, but is everything as it seems?

Called "posthumans," these teens are raw, untrained and possess potentially deadly abilities. They are also highly intelligent and something just doesn't feel right. Scarlett will be forced to choose between her own survival and the survival of her fellow students and her country.

John Dixon just blew me out of the water with his creative talents! **THE POINT** opened with a bang and never let up! Feel the emotional turmoil of young adults thrown into an unknown world, sense the tension that is building and witness some incredible characters rise to the challenges set before them. Personalities will clash, lies will be told, and blood will be shed as we become part of an incredible world filled with characters who come alive with the intensity of a fireworks display finale!

Magnetic from start to finish, horrifying at times, mesmerizing at others, science fiction lovers, this one's for you!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Del Rey!

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Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews, Giveaways, Fabulous Book News, follow: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Yellagirlgc says**

I've read similar books. The characters in this one and the way it was written set it apart. Scarlett, Seamus, Lucy & the others made me feel like I was apart of what was going on. I definitely wish I had post human powers lol. Now that the foundation has been set I hope author John Dixon carries this iinto a series and really develops the story.

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## **Sherwood Smith says**

By anyone's definition, Scarlett Winters is a screwup as well as a daredevil and thrill-seeker. She even blows off high school graduation, unaware that her long-suffering mother had planned a surprise party. Which is the last straw as far as her tightly-wound vet dad and even grimmer brother are concerned.

She goes off to visit a friend, and ends up in a violent scene. She goes straight from that to a family argument that swiftly turns violent. It ends only when her father's friend, Colonel Rhoads of West Point, arrives with an offer for Scarlett: join or jail.

Though Scarlett is insanely reckless, she isn't stupid.

What Scarlett discovers at West Point is a super-secret unit for extraordinarily-gifted young people. But, like her flat-eyed dad and her grim brother, the other cadets are far from a happy family of misfits. There are problems here, and layers of secrets. Is this really the opportunity of a lifetime, or a pathway to black ops terrorism?

Scarlett and her unit are considered posthuman, and that's not always a good thing. As this tightly paced, vivid thriller unfolds, Scarlett has to find a way to master her powers and to decide if she, and the others, will truly join the Long Gray Line and the unfamiliar West Point world of duty, honor, country.

I really liked Dixon's characters. Under the wisecracking and banter, the dark side of PTSD becomes a substrate under the story, comprehension hard-won, sometimes heartbreakingly.

Dixon's narrative choices are interesting, employing a kind of omniscient third (with the narrator way behind the scenes). This enables the reader to see into key characters, as the tension inexorably winds up to the explosive (and I really mean explosive) finish.

Copy provided by NetGalley

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## **Carrie says**

Scarlett Winter is a rebellious teenager who just wants to find adventure and not bend to the rules around her. On the night of her graduation Scarlett blows off the ceremony to hang out with friends only to find her parents had planned a surprise party she missed.

After a fight with her family Scarlett leaves yet again when the signs of her hidden powers start to get the better of her. What Scarlett didn't expect was to come across a bomb and stop it from exploding with

witnesses to the event.

The next thing Scarlett knows to the delight of her father a couple of military men show up at her door. As much as her father would like her to enlist Scarlett is determined to do things her own way until she's taken aside and threatened with prison unless she signs up for a secret training program at West Point.

The Point by John Dixon was a decent science fiction thriller about a teen gaining super human powers and getting pulled into a secret program. The thing is this one didn't feel overly original to me but blended in with a lot of other books of this genre. I also thought this one could have used a bit better world building with explanations of how posthumans came about and their powers right away to draw readers in a bit more quickly in stead of tossing them into the action. In the end I'd give this one 3.5 stars when finished.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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## **Joan says**

### Review of Advance Uncorrected Proofs

Daredevil Scarlett Winter has always had a propensity for causing trouble. She doesn't exactly mean for things to go awry, but somehow turmoil always manages to find her. And her family's understanding hits a new low when she decides not to show up for her high school graduation and misses the celebratory surprise party they've planned for her.

Everyone thinks Scarlett is selfish, thinking only of herself. But she hides a secret, one she doesn't fully understand herself. When Colonel Rhoads maneuvers her into joining a super-secret West Point unit for extraordinarily-gifted young people, she soon finds that The Point holds a dark secret from the past. Will Scarlett continue to struggle to be herself, or is she destined to become something even greater than she could ever have imagined?

In the posthuman world of the future, some people have inexplicably gained extraordinary abilities. As this fascinating narrative unfolds, readers discover how those gifted young people react to their abilities, how they relate to each other, and how they might ultimately merge into the Long Gray Line and the unfamiliar West Point world of duty, honor, country. Peopled with well-developed characters, the narrative spins out its tale as the young people, long believed to be misfits in society, make themselves into something new and strong: heroes.

The sometimes-predictable plot holds several unforeseen twists and offers some unexpected reveals. The abilities of the posthuman young people are drawn and integrated into the narrative with great believability. Their struggles are realistic; their backstories credible. Readers who enjoy an action-packed thrill ride will find much to appreciate in this unputdownable tale of rebellion, determination, grit, and heroism.

Highly recommended.

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## **Teri says**

I'm an X-Men fan, so obviously I couldn't pass up reading this book. Think military X-Men battling rogue X-Men, but the 'good' X-Men are under government regulation - the bone of contention in Captain America: Civil War - and are a secret.

Scarlett is a great protagonist - an out of control, rules-be-damned, free-spirited teen who learns a hard lesson in responsibility and consequences. But once she commits to something, she's in it wholeheartedly. I thoroughly enjoyed her character arc.

Clearly, the author did extensive research on West Point, and it makes the story feel more authentic. Nearing the last quarter of the book, I assumed there would be a sequel, but after a no-holds-barred climax, I was pleasantly surprised to see this novel is a standalone. All questions are answered, and no plot lines are left dangling.

Although The Point doesn't really bring anything new to the genre, it's a fast-paced, action-packed read that will appeal to superhero and sci-fi fans.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the ARC.

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## **Linda Romer says**

I loved The Point! A great story that grabbed me right from the beginning. Scarlett Winter is an amazing character. I love West Point and the premise of the story I thought it was unique and very interesting. As a matter of fact all the characters were executed perfectly. I enjoyed this Authors writing and look forward to reading more of his work.

I give The Point 5 stars for its thrilling read.

I would recommend this book to Dystopian fans, YA lovers and anybody that just loves a good read.

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## **Karen says**

The Point starts with Scarlett skipping out on her high school graduation to party. She's a troublemaker and I did not like her whatsoever.

Scarlett is given a choice, go to West Point, or go to prison... She chooses West Point. When she gets there, she discovers that she's actually a "superhuman" with powers and although she's attending West Point, she's actually attending The Point, the secret underground school for superhumans, where she's learning to control her superhuman power. This was kind of a military X-Men.

I thought this was a really interesting premise and learning about the real West Point was fascinating. Scarlett's character arc was great and she really grew on me over the course of the book. I loved her friendship with her roommate.

It was fun seeing the powers of the others, especially Dalia, who I hated. Dalia was a pretty scary character

and I can understand why Scarlett tried to stay on her good side.

Jagger... Wow! He was quite the villain and I was sure that this book would have to end on a cliffhanger as I was running out of pages. But, whew. There was a decent ending that had me sighing in relief. I'm not sure if there will be any sequels, but I'd like to see more of this storyline and these characters.

\*Thank you so much to NetGalley and Del Rey Books for the advance copy!\*

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## **OutlawPoet says**

There may be a spoiler here. You've been warned.

So, I finished this book last week, but I found that I had to give a lot of thought to my review.

There were things I liked about it, things I hated about it, and nothing I loved about it.

After a bit of a jolt when we meet Scarlett (naked but for socks, outdoors, high, cool power, and one inconsiderate young woman), I kind of liked her. At least she had spirit. And the book is all X-men/Mutant/Find and destroy the Villain kind of fun.

Unfortunately, Scarlett soon lost all her boldness and edge and became a Basic Becky (ick) and her cool power? Seemed only to activate when a man tortures or hits her (except for one early incident). Yet, doesn't activate when she's being telekinetic-style beaten while being hazed. It was weird. But seriously (and this may be a spoiler, but whatevs because it bugged me so much) - at one point she's begging her bland boyfriend to hit her so she can activate.

Ick.

Look the book is an adventure and it's superhero fun most of the time, but there were a couple of elements that really gave me pause.

\*ARC Provided via Net Galley

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## **Rissa says**

Thank you so much to Random house publishing group via netgalley for sending me an ARC copy of The point by John Dixon. This will be released on August 7 of 2018.

The point ??

“A shotgun blast of emotion filled her with conflicting impulses”

Scarlett Winter. She had everything, good grades, amazing at all sports, beautiful, a loving boyfriend and yet... she quits every sport, doesn't care about others, doesn't really do anything.

So what's the point?

Scarlett has the potential to do so much more but she coasts through life not a care in the world. But soon we

find out that Scarletts life is not perfect its quite a mess.

His writing style is gorgeous and flows so beautifully! His use of emotions and Adjectives make the story that much better.

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