



# The Dragonfly Effect

*Gordon Korman*

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## **The Dragonfly Effect** Gordon Korman

The government has promised to protect Jax Opus and his family from enemies that want to use his hypnotic power to bring more evil into the world. Jax has reluctantly agreed to be protected. But protection has its price -- and soon Jax learns that if the government is going to help him, it's going to want some help in return.

The reach of Jax's hypnotic talents is especially dangerous because he doesn't have to be looking at people directly to control them. No, he can hypnotize people through video broadcasts -- so a person can be innocently checking a computer, and suddenly have a hypnotic message planted.

Even worse? Jax is not the only person who can do this. He is up against a hypnotic mastermind who has more than a few tricks up his sleeve.

It's a race against time and the power of evil in this heartstopping adventure from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Gordon Korman.

## **The Dragonfly Effect Details**

Date : Published July 28th 2015 by Scholastic Press

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Author : Gordon Korman

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## **From Reader Review The Dragonfly Effect for online ebook**

### **Ryan Gerig says**

In The Dragonfly Effect, we rejoin Jax Opus and his family now part of military research. Jax and other hypnotists are being studied to see how their abilities can be used in warfare, and none of it sits well with Jax. When Dr. Mako escapes from prison and starts the end of civilization, Jax will need some help stopping him in time.

The Dragonfly Effect was a nice surprise!

Whether it's a mind thing or I genuinely don't like it, I've never been a fan of any story heavily featuring military. The second I hear "it's a war movie/book/show/etc" I am then 99% less likely to read/watch/whatever. Add this to the fact that I haven't been super invested in this series like some of Korman's others and I was prepared to just get through this book for the sake of continuing the series.

I hadn't read the first two books in The Hypnotists series in a while, so it took me 40 pages or so to get back into the world of the story, but once I did, I read to the end in one sitting. Mentions and reintroductions of characters from previous books made it feel like the world was not static. Lives happened whether Jax was present or not and I thought that was a nice touch.

Really the only thing I wasn't a fan of was that this was yet another "end-of-the-world" story. So many middle grade series I'm reading are doing or have done the end of the world trope and it makes me wonder why. Are middle graders only able to comprehend the gravity of situations if they result in the end of the world?? More variety would be nice.

All in all, though, I did really like this book. It's probably my favorite of the three, solely for tying together elements from the entire series in a way that makes sense.

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### **Dragon Lover says**

If I could put six stars I would!!

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### **Mrs. Downs says**

Jax in the army? What will that be like? He'll be working with many other hypnotists under the direction of the Colonel. What happens when they discover his ability to remotely hypnotise others, and what happens when Jax meets his match in 8 year old Stanley? Great conclusion to a great series!

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### **Memory Toast says**

I liked that this book was weightier than the previous one. Examination of the idea that manipulation can

have good side-effects and still not be worth it popped a few times and there was a nod of gratitude toward the wonder of everyday life.

Anyone look for action, friendship, and laughs can still find those in this book too, but I'd most recommend it to someone looking for a book that will entertain and poke your brain to be a little deeper at the same time.

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## **Joe Sugarman says**

The Hypnotists: The Dragonfly Effect

This is the 3rd book in the series called the "The Hypnotists" and in my opinion the best one! In the first two books, there were too many characters and are a bit confusing. In the 3rd one, you get to learn more about the characters and their backstories.

The storyline of the series is this kid names Jax Opus can hypnotize people. In the first book, he finds a school with other people like him that can hypnotize people. After practicing his ability, he finds out he comes from a family that has been master "benders"(hypnotists). At the end of the book, he finds out the leader of the school named Dr. Mako, Is trying to use Jax to rig the presidential election! The second book has a really bad theme. However, the 3rd book is the best!

My favorite part of the book is the plot! In the book, Jax and other benders go to a secret Military Facility to Practice their ability. Late in the book, they reveal they are working on a project called "Project Aurora". Jax is supposed to hypnotize a small town to stop everything they're doing and just freeze! However, the project goes horribly wrong! I'm not going to say anymore because of spoilers!

I would recommend this series to someone who is kind of into Syfi. I would this book 4 stars and the whole series 3.5 Stars.

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## **J says**

### **Sweet Five-Star Finish**

Unlike the disenchanting Masterminds finale, The Dragonfly Effect does not disappoint. Superb writing, believable characters, heart-pounding plot and the end of the world thrown in for good measure- Gordon Korman has written his latest and greatest (though technically his first) thrilling sci-fi masterpiece

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## **Brenten Gilbert says**

Another fun read from Gordon Korman. Some utterly ridiculous scenarios at play, but a great little diversion that reminds you that reading can be for enjoyment.

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## Jaina Rose says

This review is also available on my blog, [Read Till Dawn](#).

Rather cheesy covers aside (honestly, just look at that green block text - did someone tell the cover artist *The Dragonfly Effect* was a horror novel?!), the *Hypnotists* books are great MG reads, and I've enjoyed reading them. If asked, I would have chalked my enjoyment for the first book almost entirely up to Korman's writing rather than the story itself, because it felt a little too much like other MG books about kids who discover they have powers. The second book, *Memory Maze*, continued to have Korman's uniquely compelling writing style, but also delved into some of the implications of hypnotism, going into the psychological effects it had on Jax. With *The Dragonfly Effect* we continue to explore the (sometimes horrifying) uses for hypnotism, the ethics involved in letting an organization like the military use hypnotism for their own ends, and the very real pain that can spring from the misuse of such power.

I think my favorite thing about this trilogy is that it never treats hypnotism like this awesome get-out-of-jail free card - no, that's not right. It's a get-out-of-jail free card, yes, but it's also the card that puts you into jail in the first place. Jax's hypnotism is pretty much just a curse for him, because it forced him to flee for his life and go into hiding. His parents, who love him dearly and readily sacrificed their entire careers for Jax's safety, are terrified of looking into his eyes because he might accidentally hypnotize them. The "gift" that Jax has comes at a terrible cost, and that cost is safety, peace of mind, familial trust, and, basically, childhood innocence.

Mako is an interesting villain because his innate skills are supposed to be weaker than Jax's, and yet he always seems so much stronger. This comes from the sheer ruthlessness with which he brandishes the ability, doing whatever it takes to reach his goals no matter who gets hurt in the process. That sort of cruel single-mindedness makes him a huge threat to Jax, because Jax is a genuinely good kid who is much too nice for his own good. I liked the almost Harry-Potter-esque contrast between good and evil there, especially with the addition of a third major party in the stand-off (whom I won't name for fear of spoilers - but for those of you who have read the book: I really loved him/her!). In a perfect world, one in which *The Dragonfly Effect* was a longer book, I would have liked to learn a little bit more about Mako's history. Was he always such a terrible person, or did something happen to make him that way? There could have been a fascinating (and probably heartbreaking) story there, but instead we just got the pretty much one-dimensional villain with a crazy evil scheme that would (as far as I can tell, anyway) hurt him as much as it did anyone else.

And that brings me to the biggest issue I had with this book: the ending. Everything was just too convenient. I obviously can't talk too much about it, but why on Earth would Mako set things up so that his opponents could do what they did? For a smart man, he's pretty stupid. And the thing with the airplane was exciting, but a little contrived. As for the number of casualties? Puh-lease.

Then again, this is Middle Grade fiction. And honestly, I actually really loved the way things ended. Sure it wasn't the most realistic series of events, but this is a MG book about kids with hypnotic powers. And the ending was really thrilling, with danger and excitement and a horse trotting through downtown New York. If I said I wanted a more realistic ending, I would totally be lying.

Disclaimer: I received an ARC of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Cindy says**

So glad the way it wrapped up. Very fun adventure Good for 11 and up

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## **Ms. Yingling says**

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

With Mako in prison, Jax and the other Hypnotists are under Army protection, living at a secure base and undergoing tests for the Hypnotic Warfare Research Department (HoWaRD), where Captain Brassmeyer and Captain Pedroia are trying to figure out how to best use their powers. Several people from the Sandman's Guild are there, as is the horrible bully Wilson, but the group is also joined by eight year old Stanley, an orphan whose powers rival Jax's. In addition to seeing in Jax can break into a secure military information facility, HoWaRD is working on Operation Aurora, which includes building an entire town so that they can see if Jax's hypnotic suggestions can be piped in to all 750+ residents at once. In the meantime, Mako escapes from prison, and Jax knows that it won't end well if he isn't recaptured, especially since he begins to realize that there are hypnotic suggestions in a game his father is playing, FreeForAll. When Stanley is "adopted" by a relative, Jax is worried enough that he takes off for New York and looks up his friend Tommy to help him. In trying to locate the Sentia headquarters, the two run into Kira, who agrees to help them. Their research leads them to a posh suburb where they locate Stanley and realize that Mako's plans include highjacking a speech being broadcast from the United Nations to a wide audience. Even if Jax knows how to reverse the hypnosis, will he and his group be able to do so in time?

As always, Korman delivers a humorous, rollicking book. The idea of children who can hypnotize people is a fresh one, and Jax struggles with his feelings about his abilities: on the one hand, it is wonderful to be able to bend anyone to his will, but on the other, he knows that he has a great responsibility to use his power for good. While we don't see quite as much of the other hypnotists in this book, we do get a good feel for Jax's parents, the army personnel, and the intriguing new character of Stanley. It was good to see Jax reunited with his good friend, Tommy, as well.

I loved the variety of situations in which Jax found himself. He is appalled when he thinks the army has made him force a pilot to crash his plane, easy-going about breaking into a high security facility, and matter-of-fact about having to leave the army base to make things right with Mako. In all of these situations, the dangers are made clear, and Jax and his friends manage to use their abilities and knowledge to make them come out successfully. After a short rest, we are flung back into the next situation, so this book was a quick read-- I had to know what would happen next!

While this is a worthy sequel to *The Hypnotists* and *Memory Maze*, and a great book on its own, I'd be just as happy if it's the end of the series. Three is a great length, and I'm curious to see what happens in *Masterminds*, as well as what Korman's brilliant middle grade mind will come up with next! He never disappoints!

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## **Thomas Norstein says**

Damn, 3 years later and I *finally* finish this series...

It's been a wild ride following the world of hypnotists that Korman created. From the Opuses and the Sparks, to the new found Arcanovs, there's always something new. This was my favorite book of the series, simply because of how fun it was for Jax to have such an unexpected rival. It was also like Jax's final test; this is the first big thing he's done without Braintree's guidance. Having him be reunited with Tommy was also really fun.

There's not much else I can say, really. This series is pretty fun overall for middle-grade readers.

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### **Michael Xie says**

Boi... What has my life become.

Badly written, only gave 2 stars cuz the previous 2 were good.

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### **Erica says**

Jax in the army? What will that be like? He'll be working with many other hypnotists under the direction of the Colonel. What happens when they discover his ability to remotely hypnotise others, and what happens when Jax meets his match in 8 year old Stanley? Great conclusion to a great series!

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### **Travis says**

Jackson Opus is one of the most powerful hypnotist alive and is being hunted by a mad hypnotist by the name of Elise Mako, who has just escaped prison. One day he was being trained by Axel Braintree, the next he was being trained General Brassmire and HoWArD a, hypnotic research branch of the army. Jax is now being trained with other people like him, and one of those people is the only who is just like Jax but more powerful. Will danger come to get Jackson Opus and the other hypnotist. I liked this book because it had mystery, danger, fantasy, and excitement. Also because in this book they bring back one of my favorite characters for the 1st book. This book is the 3rd book in the series written by Gordon Korman.

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