



The Science of Supervillainy

C.T. Phipps

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Gary Karkofsky a.k.a Merciless: The Supervillain without Mercy™ returns in the fourth volume of the popular Supervillainy Saga. Having discovered the world's greatest superhero slain by his doppelganger from another reality, Merciful: The Supervillain with Mercy™, and the arrogant President Omega, Gary dedicates himself to overthrowing both. Unfortunately, this is harder than it looks since Merciful has all of Gary's genre savviness while President Omega has the entire brainwashed United States military behind him. In the end, though, there can be only one ruler of the world and two of these three feuding villains will have to go.

The Science of Supervillainy Details

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From Reader Review The Science of Supervillainy for online ebook

Gavin says

This fourth instalment of The Supervillainy Saga did not disappoint. It was packed full of all the action, humor, and crazy super powered happenings that we have come to expect from the series! As hilarious as this series is it also has some dark and cynical moments that offers balance to the story.

Gary Karkofsky a.k.a Merciless: The Supervillain without Mercy has his hands full this time. The worlds greatest superhero has been slain and someone else needs to step into the void and save the world from evil President Omega and his henchmen. To make matters worse the Omega regime is being propped up Merciful: The Supervillain with Mercy, Gary's even eviller doppelgänger from another universe.

As always the story was a ton of fun. There was a good balance of humour and drama and Gary is an easy character to like despite his imperfections. He is also backed up by a whole cast of fun secondary characters. The stand out secondary characters in this one for me were Mindy, Mandy, and Cloak.

The battle against Merciful and Omega was exciting stuff but if I have a moan about anything it is the way things are developing in Gary's love life. I was not keen on the developments with Cindy in the third book and developments in this fourth instalment have only made things even worse!

All in all I did enjoy this and I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Rating: 4 stars

Audio Note: Jeffrey Kafer is the perfect narrator for this series. He is good at most things and really gets the tone of the story.

AudioBookReviewer says

My original The Science of Supervillainy audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

Gary, aka Merciless, the Supervillain Without Mercy™ wakes up and finds himself in a community of brainwashed people. With the help of Nightgirl he escapes. Other Gary, aka Merciful from another now destroyed dimension is using brainwashing techniques to make everyone happy and delighted with his dictatorship and his harnessing all the power for his evilness. Merciless and his hench-people must save their world yet one more time. Merciless is due for a change – in himself – but is he ready for it? Are the people around him ready for it? Regardless, Other Gary is not going down without a fight and there are a lot of surprises for both!

C.T. Phipps once again brings life to the supervillain and superhero worlds. In his sardonic wit, he connects his readers through his characters, their traits albeit some are really skewed a tad bit ... or a lot. They are relatable and fun; even traits the Other Gary exhibit are ones we can relate to in a fundamental way. Throw in the pop culture references of Star Wars, Star Trek and more, one's trip throughout the world of Supervillainy is fun, engaging and downright entertaining.

The dialog is awesome and flows even though at any minute you expect someone to slap Merciless silly with all his pop culture references and seemingly half-witted references that only the characters do not get but the readers do. But that is what makes the book fun!

Phipps writing style is fun, full of energy and intriguing. I enjoyed Gizmo (a reference to Gremlins I am sure!) and her abilities and her new relationship with her father. I thought the way Other Gary learned his lessons were poignant and reflective. Phipps uses characters and their flaws to show us our own flaws. Very well done! Plus, it helps that he is a wonderful story-teller.

Jeffrey Kafer is a wonderful narrator. His commanding voice and ability to roll the sardonic witty comments from his tongue were amazingly delivered. Between the Phipps and Kafer, one cannot help but enjoy the books!

If you enjoy comic books, action heroes and villains, fun and downright zaniness, these this book is for you. If you are a curmudgeon, who thinks fun is evil and has no life read it anyway - it's fun!

There were no issues with the audio production or quality of this book.

Audiobook was provided for review by the author.

Gemini says

Okay this one just had me confused. Not to the point where it was bad. To me it just seemed all over the place.

Yossi says

Ultimately this series ran out of steam after the second book. The rest is a rehash of the same concepts and jokes. The characters are so repetitive that they become annoying to read. This started out so good, but regrettably dies like the movie version of the Lord of the Rings (I had to put a useless reference here to stay within the spirit of the book), or even worse, the movie AI (an even more obscure reference for the hardcore readers and the inner-joy of the author)

Melissa Hayden says

*I was voluntarily provided this review copy audiobook at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator.

Gary aka Merciless may have stopped President Omega (for now?) but he still has Other Gary to tend to. After his imprisonment by Other Gary, Gary returns to Falconcrest to find Other Gary has taken Gary's name and turned the city into a wonder, run by a superhero. Gary must now overthrow Other Gary to get things to return to normal.

Jeffrey is a treat to listen to. In this book, he made me laugh out. What did he do? He did a villain's laugh for

Gary. Yes, a laugh laugh not just telling me the words describing the laugh. It was awesome! These are the little things narrators do that catch my ears and draw me in. I wonder how many times Jeffrey had to speak the tongue twister sections, as they are perfect in the audiobook.

I'm so excited to get back into this world. Gary is kicking it strong with his references in this book. C.T. has weighted the book heavily with these cool nods to all sorts of memories of shows, comics, and so much more. All hit home as soon as I hear them, and make me smile at the memory and joke. So many references to the shows, comics, and more are in comment, actions, and title.

Gary's colorful look on events and life makes this book a joy to listen to. If you enjoyed Gary's perspective on events and life, you'll continue to enjoy this book. He really believes what he thinks, whether it's true or not. When he's wrong his friends point it out and he plays it off. He never thinks back to it and rolls with it. It's a hoot.

I love the twist to good and evil and live and death interpretation on things done in this book. It's a fun twist authors enjoy playing with, and C.T. has the ground work in place to do that with Gary and Other Gary.

Gary keeps friends and loved ones near and dear. Gary loves his wife, Mandy, so deeply. He is so caught on her, and it's great. He's not stalkerish, he's just full of heart or heartbroken or... well, he always wants the best for Mandy and hopes to have his relationship back. Gary meets a very special little one. The communication and conversations with the little one is cute and fun. I love the references to cartoons.

We get a lot of family (blood and picked) time. Gary was imprisoned in a town for five years and has a lot to catch up on. We do, and learn what happened with Other Gary in their town.

Just when I think things are going to become as I expect, C.T. throws in a surprise. I just never know what's going to happen or appear in a scene. Sure, I can guess and let my mind run wild, but then I miss something! lol.

Gary gets sidetracked so easily! lol. It's funny how this mans brain works. We have a goal, to stop Other Gary. But we get waylaid with family and friends along the way because things are different after five years imprisoned in Undertown, living the 1950's life style. At times I almost forgot what the end goal was with all we talked through with family/friends. This story's focus feels to be more on family, those we create by blood and more.

Susan says

Note: This is Book 4 in the series and it works best if you have read the previous books.

Gary Karkofsky, a professional supervillain, is up against some serious foes. President Omega has brainwashed the mighty USA military while Gary's doppelganger from another reality has all of Gary's abilities and most of his knowledge. Gary, aka Merciless: The Supervillain Without Mercy, might have to do the unthinkable. He might have to become that thing he dreads most: a hero.

The gang's all back and for some of them, we get a bonus copy. For ease, the doppelganger Gary from another reality will be called Other Gary. This book was just as much fun as the previous books in the series, though I feel it has a touch more seriousness (which I liked). Gary is still popping off one-liners, there's

plenty of Star Wars references, and the crazy supervillain outfits & names continue to be amusing. Also, if you're a Phipps fan, you might catch a few references to his other series here and there.

Mandy, Gary's vampire wife, has a lot of great lines in this book. Several of the characters make references to adult relationships that don't fit the standard married couple routine. Mandy's extended life and need for blood has given her an extra spin on such relationships and I have to wonder where Mandy and Gary will take their relationship from here. Is there a harem in the future? Maybe....

Both El Diablo Man and Cloak have some serious chats with Gary. There's a few points in this tale where things get a little heavy. Take for instance young Gizmo. She's definitely going to need a parent around. Also, Phipps kills off a favorite character of mine (though I do hold a secret hope that this character will return in some sort of form).

Some of my favorite scenes were actually in the first part of the book. Gary and Mandy are being held in a warped prison where they and everyone else there are under this mindcontrol. It's a cruel version of happy home-makers from the 1950s, complete with period outfits and enforced gender roles. Mandy has some great lines about blood and mayhem said in the sweetest happy significant other voice. Luckily, Night Girl comes along and helps them escape but it's at a cost.

All around, it's another great addition to the series. I like the few scenes that bend toward seriousness. It bodes of bigger things to come for Gary. Bigger things that may very well squish him.

I received a free copy of this book.

The Narration: Jeffrey Kafer Is just great at this series. His enjoyment of these characters comes through in his performance. He makes a great Gary/Other Gary and I love his snarky voice for Cindy. He's great at pulling off all the humor while also making the characters sound very concerned when they come up against a worthy foe.

Ed Nemo says

I have a serious love for funny superhero/villain fiction and this book delivers.

Gary escapes from a hellish prison and teams up with his super family to take down his Evil doppelganger. Action and comedy is the result. Gary, AKA: Merciless: The Supervillain without Mercy™, juggles family and friends while battling an uber-powered version of himself. But even when he is completely down, he never stops quipping. He jokes, snarks, and pops every pop-culture concept that pops in his head...and he wins. Why? Because at the end of the day, he knows what it takes to win in a comic book Universe. You have to know the rules and the tropes to succeed. You have to know the enemy is never really dead, (Thanks, Die Hard!), and that with great power comes great responsibility...wait, I think he forgot that one.

This is just a fun read in an equally fun series.

Montzalee Wittmann says

The Science of Supervillainy
The Supervillainy Saga, Book 4
By: C. T. Phipps
Narrated by: Jeffrey Kafer

This is an audible book I requested and the review is voluntary.

I love this series...I think they just get better and better. There isn't a paragraph that goes by that isn't full of snark, witty and clever comments (often I catch later on), and more that keep a smile on my face or bring out a giggle or two. The dialogue alone is worth it, so funny and hilarious. The descriptions of the characters, their names, (Evil McEvil Pants) but don't quote me but something like that, I was giggling at the time. This was an audible book after all. The crazy plot, only Phipps can think of such craziness. I enjoyed the whole book. I wish I had all of them in audible so I could listen to them just to unwind.

The narrator is perfect. It is hard to do comedy right and this narrator is spot on! The lines are done so the comedy comes out as they should! Funny, sly, witty, and with just a bit of snark but not enough to be annoying. Great performance and perfect audible book!

Melanie says

Review originally posted at BooksOfMyHeart.net.

I really love Gary, aka Merciless, the Supervillain Without Mercy™. He wants to be a supervillain so bad he can taste it, but he always seems to be on the side of good in the end (even if he might not have the “superhero” way of getting there).

In The Science of Supervillainy, he wakes up in a world where everyone is being drugged into a happy state by Other Gary, aka Merciful. Other Gary is Gary's doppelganger from another dimension. He is making the world a more peaceful place by taking away free will of the citizens.

This Supervillainy Saga series has been a lot of fun from the beginning. I love this world he's built where superheroes and supervillains are a daily thing. The characters are a lot of fun. There are some of the craziest supervillains, like The Typewriter, Icecream Man and President Omega. There are also some fun superheroes, Ultragoddess and Nightgirl. There is also Gary's sidekicks, Cindy Wakowski aka Red Riding Hood and Diablotman. There is also Cloak, which is the cloak that gives Gary his supervillain powers, but is also sentient and has all the knowledge learned from previous wearers, including superhero, The Nightwalker. Cloak talks to Gary in his head and acts a bit like an angel on his shoulder and conscience. Last but not least, Mandy Karkofsky, Gary's wife.

These characters are what really makes this series fun for me. I've really enjoyed watching them grow as characters. I love how they want to be villains, but just can't seem to do what is best for mankind. I'm a big character driven reader, so I love it when an author really makes me care for characters, even if they are sentient objects like Cloak.

I don't want to go into this story too much, to avoid spoilers for previous books. Just know this story seems to wrap up the story arc as the final battle finally happens. While, there was some sadness with the ending, I think it was very fitting for the series. I was happy with how it all wrapped up.

This is a fun series full of pop culture references, especially for the nerds out there like me. There are some references I didn't get, but I got most of them. I think most people who've grown up with Lord of the Rings,

Star Wars and the other classics of nerd-dom will enjoy all the lines that reference these stories.

If you want to try this series, do start with book one, *The Rules of Supervillainy*, and read in consecutive order or you will be completely lost.

Narration

Jeffrey Kafer continues to do a great job with the narration of this series. He really brings out the humor in these stories. He's great with male and female characters. And his pace and tone are perfect for this series. I highly recommend people to check out his work, if you've never listened to him before.

Hamda says

If you thought the other books were full of geek references then you've seen nothing yet!

Delightfully full of pop culture references both obscure and well known this installment in the *Merciless* saga has a more natural flow it and will have you smiling from ear to ear with every line you read /listen to.

Although a bit on the darker side this one was easily my fav. and I would highly recommend it... after reading the previous books, this is a cont. not a stand alone.

My one comment is that the audiobook is pretty short (6 hours), full of action, character development and progression though the credit, just wish there was more of it!

BookLoversLife says

Gary, aka *Merciless*, has woken up in a community of brainwashed people but with the help of *Nightgirl* he escapes. Other Gary is using his powers to rule Gary's home place. It's, once again, up to *Merciless* and cohorts to save the world, but by doing so they may have to become something they never wanted to be!!

OK so this is book 4 and by now you would think that the story has slowed down and become stagnant, but not so!! This is just as fast paced and entertaining as the other ones. It's also a little darker and a little more serious, but still has the wit and geekiness that I've come to expect from these books. The writing flows well and the story is exciting, intriguing and as well written as ever.

The characters that we've come to love are all present here, plus we get a new addition that you just know is going to be amazing!!! *Gizmo* has all the traits of her mom and dad and I loved her character. I can't wait to see what she will be like.

It's getting hard to write reviews for this series because I feel like I'm repeating everything I've said before!! I love this series and this author and highly recommend everything he writes. Can't wait for the next one.

Jeffrey Kafer is one of the best in the business. He makes for a perfect *Merciless* because he can bring across his snarky manner perfectly and has a strong grasp on using the right inflection at the right time. Brilliant.

Ammon says

The Science of Supervillainy was my second favorite book in the series (Secrets is tough to beat), so far. It definitely leaves the door open for Merciless and his hench . . . er . . . people to return for another entry. I could describe it like *the Princess Bride*, it's got fighting, revenge, true love . . .

The books are starting to become a little more dependent, however. Meaning that in order to really enjoy them, you need to have read the rest of the series. They've definitely passed the point of being stand-alone novels and are now more of an episodal series. Nothing wrong with that--I love a good series--just be forewarned.

Merciless continues to evolve/mature as a character and is coming to grips as a villain with some heroic tendencies. I'm beginning to like him more.

(view spoiler)

Narrator Jeffrey Kafer is utterly dependable. He's very well-suited to the tone of the series and keeps me engaged throughout the performance.

***Full Disclosure: I was voluntarily provided this free review copy audiobook by the author, narrator, or publisher.

Shane Phillips says

Interesting but it seems author is over doing the pop culture references. They have been in all books but this time it seems a little forced.

Harold Phipps says

Much better than his previous book

I have been a fan of this series and loved books one and two. Three was lacking but he redeemed himself with this one.

L.B. Sisk says

Damn! I realized that I forgot to review this...

This is an enjoyable series: fun characters, nice references and allusions to pop culture and historical events, and interesting interplay between pro- and antagonists. There were some very minor incongruities concerning character descriptions (initial description of antagonist Gary) and timeline origins (century from which President Omega was from)--NOTE: I only noticed because I read Book III and IV back to back. However, they did not at all distract from the pacing of the book or the enjoyment of it.

I look forward to more books from this series. And will start adding more books from Phipps on my "want to read" list!
