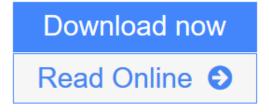


# **Harrison Squared**

Daryl Gregory



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#### Harrison Squared Daryl Gregory

From award winning author Daryl Gregory comes a thrilling and colorful Lovecraftian adventure of a teenage boy searching for his mother, and the macabre creatures he encounters.

Harrison Harrison—H2 to his mom—is a lonely teenager who's been terrified of the water ever since he was a toddler in California, when a huge sea creature capsized their boat, and his father vanished. One of the "sensitives" who are attuned to the supernatural world, Harrison and his mother have just moved to the worst possible place for a boy like him: Dunnsmouth, a Lovecraftian town perched on rocks above the Atlantic, where strange things go on by night, monsters lurk under the waves, and creepy teachers run the local high school.

On Harrison's first day at school, his mother, a marine biologist, disappears at sea. Harrison must attempt to solve the mystery of her accident, which puts him in conflict with a strange church, a knifewielding killer, and the Deep Ones, fish-human hybrids that live in the bay. It will take all his resources—and an unusual host of allies—to defeat the danger and find his mother.

# **Harrison Squared Details**

Date: Published March 24th 2015 by Tor BooksISBN: 9780765376954Author: Daryl GregoryFormat: Hardcover 320 pagesGenre: Horror, Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Mystery, Science Fiction, Lovecraftian

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# From Reader Review Harrison Squared for online ebook

# Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum http://bibliosanctum.com/2015/03/13/b...

I'm always on the lookout for good Lovecraft-inspired horror, and so when I stumbled upon the description of Daryl Gregory's new novel Harrison Squared I just knew I had to check it out.

When Harrison Harrison (nicknamed Harrison Squared by his scientist mother, because geek humor is the best kind of humor) was a toddler, his family's boat was capsized by a giant tentacled sea monster. Officially, the authorities said that it was a sharp piece of metal that claimed Harrison's leg, and that the storm was what drowned his father, but Harrison knew he did not imagine or hallucinate what he saw that terrible day.

Now sixteen years old, he travels cross-country with his mother to Dunnsmouth, Massachusetts, a quiet seaside town where everything seems creepy as hell. His school is like a labyrinth out of myth, the teachers don't seem to care whether he shows up to his classes or not, and the other students are like the Children of the Corn. The first night in town, his favorite comic book gets stolen by some weird fish-boy. Then tragedy hits when Harrison's marine biologist mom goes missing at sea. Refusing to believe she's dead, Harrison goes investigating. Pretty soon he's gathered about him a group of unlikely allies to battle the nightmarish Scrimshander, an ancient Dunnsmouth legend come to life.

Why do I love the Lovecraftian subgenre so? For the atmosphere, of course. As a setting, Dunnsmouth perfectly embodies the rural, insular feel of Lovecraft country, belying the terrible secrets kept under wraps by its townsfolk. The horror featured in these stories tend to involve cosmicism and the occult, which is psychologically so much more effective. Daryl Gregory delivers all these aspects, combining both fantasy and horror elements in a neat little package. There's no small amount of weirdness in the plot, which is usually something I can't tolerate, but Gregory somehow renders it into a conceivable, real-world everyday kind of weird that his protagonist Harrison takes in stride...so I did as well.

The book will also do well with both adults and teens, striking the perfect balance for crossover appeal. On the surface, Harrison seems to be like a lot of other kids his age, struggling with a volatile temper and his desire to fit in at a new school. But gradually, the reader will learn that he's also not your typical teenager. Harrison is very well written and convincing; his quiet resourcefulness both charmed and intrigued me, and I sympathized with his fear of the ocean and felt for him when his mom was reported lost at sea. So much of his life has been shaped by the boating accident when he was three years old, and unraveling the mysteries behind his character ended up being as much fun as keeping up with the story itself.

Gregory also rounds out the cast with several fantastic secondary characters, including Lydia, a fellow classmate from school; Lub, the half-human-half-fish boy; and last but not least, the most memorable of all for me was Harrison's Aunt Selena who arrives in Dunnsmouth from New York City to take care of Harrison after his mom goes missing. Breezing into town in a flurry of silks and designer clothes, Sel was not at all what I expected, but it sure made me wish I had more relatives like her.

I had a great time with this book. It's not a heart-pounding tale of horror, but rather a well-paced delectable mystery that's also a fun adventure filled with lots of unexpected twists and turns, while exuding an eerie vibe. I enjoyed uncovering the secrets of Dunnsmouth with Harrison and his strange but really cool group of

friends, and hopefully there will be some sort of follow-up to this book and that we won't have long to wait for it.

# **Paul Nelson says**

Harrison Harrison the fifth or Harrison Squared, so named as a bit of a family tradition is 16 years old and about to be dropped off for his first school day at Dunnsmouth Secondary school in the curious little town of Dunnsmouth. Opting to stay with his Mother who is rocketing into her latest adventure and obsession, the fuckmongus and very giant colossal squid.

The opening chapter begins with tentacles and teeth, at three years old Harrison nearly lost his life. He describes the memories, fragmented and reconstructed to fit the traumatic moment his Father was killed and he lost his lower leg, saved by the only thing left in his little world, his Mother.

Back to the present, strange things occur, something is not quite right with the town of Dunnesmouth and it starts with the eccentric behaviour of the kids at the school. Pretty soon the bizarre, turns to calamitous when his Mother is lost at sea in a pelagic tragedy.

In comes Aunt Sel, who is definitely not parent material but still managed to be one of my favourite characters, a looker, a drinker, a spender and caring in a not too fussy kinda way.

Things are afoot in the caves under that school and that's beside the swimming lessons, cult worshiping and the odd monster. Bring on the bone carving knife of the Scrimshander and possibly the best name for a bad guy I've ever heard. Rescue is the name of the game, friends come from where you least expect and the villains of the piece are, well, bloody big.

Harrison Squared is a very well written and entertaining story, if I was to categorize it, I'd say a YA urban fantasy and there lies my only issue with this story. It was like a toned down prelude to the author's first story set in this world, We are all Completely Fine and that was a bit of a shame. Almost like an episode of the A-team but with school kids, loads going on, lots of action, explosions aplenty but no-one ever dies, they do of course but you get my drift. No-one swears, I never felt uneasy and the darkness alluded to was barely touched.

Recommended for people who like young adult fiction but if like me you're after something more, something a bit darker then it might not be for you.

I received Harrison Squared from Tor Books & Netgalley in exchange for an honest review and that's what you've got.

# **Rachel the Book Harlot says**

Not feeling that cover. In any case, this is the prequel to *We Are All Completely Fine*...but at \$12.99 for the kindle version, I'm going to say that we are most definitely not all completely fine. Goodness. What is up with the pricing of these books? Mama is not paying that much for a digital version. Will purchase it at some point, but at a reasonable sales price. Sheesh.

#### Mimi says

Harrison Squared is perfectly autumn and perfectly Halloween, which is why I'm now putting up a short write-up that I wrote awhile ago. Out of season. In spring. Over 2 years after having first read it.

Anyhow, this is another fun read by Daryl Gregory. I'm convinced he can write anything and I hope he doeswrite everything, I mean--because he's got a great way with words, well-timed humor, and a way of turning familiar, tired, old tropes into something new and exciting. They're still tropes, but he makes them fun to read.

This is my 4th Daryl Gregory book (Afterparty, We Are All Completely Fine, Raising Stony Mayhall), and I still find him exciting. It's still exciting to see his name on the new release list, and I'm still trying to make room in my reading schedule for his latest, Spoonbenders.

Every autumn, I try to plan a vaguely Halloween-themed reading list, but rarely follow through because I'm a mood reader, forever destined to follow whatever the mood calls for. So I pick up whatever that "feels right." Some years I get lucky and end up with vaguely autumnal books, and other years I get typical YA paranormals (because people keep recommending them). This year, though, I've been lucky in my picks. Almost every book picked up from the beginning of October to now goes quite well with Halloween. They all have that quintessential chilling undertone that I always associate with this time of the year, and this book is among the best of them.

In short, I was thinking about this book today and so just wanted to briefly recommend this book to anyone queuing up their autumn reading list. There's a good blend of creepiness and humor, and the characters and setting are a lot of fun. If <del>fishy</del> dodgy small towns, open water, Lovecraftian sea creatures, and urban legends are any interest to you, I would highly recommend this book.

She looked up at us. "Who are you?"

"I'm Rosa Harrison," Mom said.

"This is my son, Harrison."

"And his first name?" She stared at me with tiny black eyes under fanlike eyelashes.

"Harrison," I said. Sometimes—like now, for example—I regretted that my father's family had decided that generations of boys would have that double name. Technically, I was Harrison Harrison the Fifth. H2x5. But that was more information than I ever wanted to explain.

#### [...]

Dr. Herbert waved. This gesture was made a bit threatening due to the fact that he was holding a scalpel, and the sleeve of his coat was streaked with blood up to the elbow. His uncovered eye blinked wetly at me. "Have you taken biology?" the doctor asked.

"Freshman year," I said.

"Oh," the doctor said. He sounded disappointed. Suddenly he brightened. "Have you taken *crypto*biology?"

I grinned. "In my family, cryptobiology isn't a course, it's dinner conversation."

"I like this boy!" Dr. Herbert said.

#### [...]

This was the problem with a small school in a small town. Not only did the students all look like each other, they'd all developed the same nervous tics. It made me wonder about inbreeding. Take off their shoes, and did they have webbed feet? Was the weird-looking fish boy who'd stolen my book just a relative on the more damaged branch of the family tree?

# [...]

Oh no, I thought. Physical Education.

And then I realized it was even more horrible than that. The boys began to pull on swim trunks. This wasn't just PE; it was *swimming*.

Some of the boys glanced at me. I stood there, holding my backpack, not moving. I was not about to get naked in front of these ignorami. I waited until one by one they made their way out the far exit. When there were just a handful of boys left in the changing room, I went out to the pool.

### [...]

I stood up and stifled a yelp. The pale shape coursed toward the edge of the pool at tremendous speed. At the last moment, the water broke, and the creature threw itself onto the deck. It slid a few feet, then threw out its arms and rose up on its belly like a walrus.

It was a man. A bald man, fat and white as a beluga. He smiled. "Who's ready for laps?"

#### [...]

"When the supernatural turns out to be real, it's not super natural anymore—it's just nature. Yes, it may be strange, uncanny, or frightening. It's always scary to find out that the world is bigger and more complex than you thought."

#### [...]

They were all sure they'd fulfilled their holy duty and that the destruction of the human world was nigh.

Cults. They always thought the glass was half-doomed.

Cross-posted at https://covers2covers.wordpress.com/2...

#### Kealan Burke says

Gregory continues to impress with this YA (which, like all good YA, is indistinguishable from OA - Old Adult) prequel to the wonderful WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY FINE. Awash in atmosphere and humor, this homage to Lovecraft is enlivened by wonderful characters, particularly the charming Lub, and a compelling adventure story. Highly recommended.

#### **Miriam says**

Fun, and better than the average YA (although do teens these days know Lovecraft? Dunno) but not as compelling and distinctive as the best Lovecraft, or as rich and original as Gregory's better novels. I doubt this will stick in my memory the way Pandemonium did. Still, a perfectly adequate book.

#### Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I was looking forward to reading this book, so, of course, it only took me months to read it. But anyway, the first time Harrison Harrison was introduced was in the novella *We Are All Completely Fine* and now it's been a while since I read the book, but stuff about his childhood came back to me while I read this book. But I must admit that I feel a bit inclined to read *We Are All Completely Fine* again now that I have read this book.

Harrison Harrison or H2 has his mother calls him has been terrified of water since he was very young and the boat he and parents was on capsized and his father vanished. Now he has moved to the town Dunnsmouth because his mother who is a scientist is locking for a squid, or at least that's what she has told Harrison. But Harrison discovers that not everything is as she has told him when it comes to the boating accident when she goes missing on a trip out on a boat. Now he must find his mother before it is too late.

I had some problem connecting with the story and the characters in the beginning, but around 50 % into the book then it's starting to get really good. It was then everything started to get more intense and questions is starting to get answered. This may be YA, but the story is darker than I'm used to when it comes to YA. The book started out OK, but it turned out to be really good and the ending is wonderfully open for a sequel!

I received this copy from the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review! Thank you!

#### Kaora says

My parents saved me. My brain can make up all the scary stories it wants to, but I know that much is true.

Harrison Squared is a prequel to We Are All Completely Fine, a book I thoroughly enjoyed, so when I saw it on Netgalley I had to pick it up

Harrison Harrison is terrified of the sea ever since an incident as a toddler left him without a leg and without a father. So when Harrison and his mother move to the strange town of Dunnsmouth he is less than thrilled. His mom, a marine biologist is searching for a colossal squid, but when she disappears it is up to Harrison to uncover what is really going on in this town and to overcome his fears to save his mother.

Daryl Gregory and I have had a rocky relationship. I did not enjoy Raising Stony Mayhall, but after accidentally picking up We Are All Completely Fine and loving it I decided to give him another chance. And I sure am glad I did.

Harrison Squared was a great read. While short, I feel like it did a great job developing the character of Harrison, and setting up the plot. While I feel like some parts were a bit slow moving, overall the creepy town and monsters Harrison encountered kept me interested.

I didn't enjoy this quite as much as I enjoyed We Are All Completely Fine, but I feel like I got a better sense of who Harrison Harrison is. There are so many characters in We Are All Completely Fine, so I enjoyed the background on him. You don't need to have read WAACF before you pick this up, it did make me want to go back and re-read it so I can apply what I now know of him, so this may be better to read first.

There are a few unanswered questions and the ending was open ended, so there is potential for a sequel, and I hope there is! I'll definitely be picking it up.

Cross posted at Kaora's Corner.

# **Kimberly says**

#### 4.5 stars.

Harrison Harrison-or Harrison Squared--is a character I was first introduced to in Daryl Gregory's outstanding novel, WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY FINE. In this new novel, we are presented with a prequel, of sorts, showing us events that Harrison faced in the town of Dunnsmouth, Massachusetts as a young teenager.

The first thing that I thought it vital to know: this novel is not of the same intensity of WAACF. As it is the story of a young Harrison, it is told in a young-adult style. You won't find a lot of gruesome descriptions or "bad" language here--many of the scenes leave that up to the readers' imaginations. Considering that this is from the point-of-view of a younger boy, I personally found that this works in the story's favor, as it makes Harrison's character that much more authentic.

Knowing that this was more of a YA Lovecraftian-Fantasy novel ahead of time actually heightened my enjoyment, since I wasn't expecting anything else.

Yes, this is Lovecraft's famous Dunnsmouth--home to the Deep Ones, Elders, and Gregory's own horrific creation, the Scrimshander! Harrison is "sensitive" and tuned into some of these supernatural beings as a result of a toxic encounter with one as a toddler--an encounter that ended with his leg being bitten off, and

his father killed. Now Harrison's mother has returned with her son...only, the creatures that populate the town besides the common humans have not forgotten them...

If you don't mind the YA viewpoint, this story is an original, captivating novel of creatures both old and new. Personally, I'm hoping that Daryl Gregory plans on writing more detailing the lives of those characters he first brought to us in WAACF.

Recommended!

#### Althea Ann says

I very much enjoyed Daryl Gregory's 'We Are All Completely Fine.' (https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...). Seeing that this was billed as a prequel to that one, of course I picked it up!

In 'We Are All Completely Fine,' we meet Harrison Harrison, who's part of a 'survivors' therapy group, and learn that he was once known as the Boy Hero of Dunnsmouth. Here, we go back to Dunnsmouth, and find out exactly what happened, ten years ago.

Now, either there's going to be another chapter in the story of Harrison and Dunnsmouth (I think there might be), or some details don't quite match up between the two books. I'm not going to worry about that too much, though. Each book stands on its own merits - but they're very, very disparate books. The style and feel of each is totally different. (I also don't really feel that the Harrison we see at the end of this book quite 'matches up' with the Harrison we meet a decade later.)

'Harrison Squared' is much more clearly an homage to Lovecraft, through-and-through. It's also much more a YA novel, and not just because the main character is a teenager. It's also, much, much funnier. That's not to say that there aren't some truly some spine-tingling and eerie moments of bleakness - but it's also a pretty humorous book, especially for fans of Lovecraft.

Harrison Harrison, a regular teen from San Diego, comes with his mother, a scientist, on a research trip to San Diego. The trip is expected to last a couple of months, so he enrolls in school while his mother gets started on oceanography stuff.

The school is a dark and weird place, the students oddly silent, and the classes seem to cover bizarre subjects. (Can I just say how very, very much I love the school in this book? It's done amazingly well. Especially the pool... that just raises the mundane and universal suckiness of P.E. to a whole new level.) However, Harrison buckles down, gamely, to make the best of it... until, abruptly, his mother goes missing (and is presumed dead).

In her absence, Harrison's cosmopolitan Aunt Sel swoops into Dunnsmouth, and Harrison learns some disturbing things about his family history - including the accident that killed his father and caused him to lose his leg at the age of three. It was no coincidence that his mother came to Dunnsmouth... and Harrison is impelled to try to find out why his mother disappeared. He might be able to get some information about what's going on from his strange and unusual classmate, Lydia (think a combination of Lydia from Beetlejuice and Wednesday Addams), who hints that his mother is far from the first person to disappear from this town.

Many thanks to NetGalley and Tor Books for the opportunity to read. As always, my opinions are solely my own.

#### Carol. says

Review posted permanently (with photos!) at https://clsiewert.wordpress.com/2015/...

Harrison Squared. Formally known as Harrison Harrison. Or, to be exact,  $H^2 \times 5$ . Despite some consternation about the name, it is an excellent book. However, followed so quickly after reading Kraken, I will note my suspicions of the order *Teuthida*. I'm just saying--I'd think twice about visiting the Tentacles exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Or stick with the jellies.

"'There are questions in that book,' the professor said. 'Important questions, buried in page after page of interminable droning. Isn't that always the way, though?'

'I was kind of hoping for answers,' I said.

'You can't have quality answers without quality questions,' he said."

Harrison has decided to accompany his mom on her research trip to Massachusetts. Unfortunately, he's sixteen, which means attending the local school for the month or two the project will take. Harrison has a healthy degree of suspicion for the atmosphere in his (hopefully) temporary school. With good reason: the building looks more like a tomb, there's morning religious services in an incomprehensible language, and the cafeteria ladies are gutting live fish in the back of the kitchen. Action picks up fast, so in the interest of avoiding spoilers, I'll say while it didn't head in entirely unexpected directions, the plotting makes interesting work of intertwining Harrison's past with his present circumstances.

I loved the characters, from Harrison, to the librarian, to Lydia, to Aunt Sel. Told in first person, Harrison's voice is perfect, a blend of naiveté and intellectualism that works perfectly for the child of two scientists. The school staff is suitably odd in vaguely creepy ways. Take Mrs. Velloc, who "seemed to be constructed of nothing but straight edges and hard angles, like the prow of an icebreaker ship... her nose was sharp as a hatchet, her fingers like a clutch of knives." But Mom is a counter-whirlwind of force: "'Thank you,' Mom said. It was the 'thank you' of a sheriff putting the gun back in the holster after the desperados had decided to move along." I worried a little when Aunt Sel appeared--there was so much potential for the trope-ridden clueless adult--but it turned out my worry was completely unnecessary. Aunt Sel was a delight, and most certainly a new role model for me: "For lunch, Aunt Sel refused to consider the food court ('Because all the food has been found guilty'), and led us to a Mexican restaurant attached to the mall, where she could order a margarita."

Mood was spot-on for me, balancing humor and horror, slowly adding tension and then leavening it. I was pleased to note an absence of maudlin sentimentality that I feel so often ruins a young adult book for me. It is fairly comparable to Gregory's novella We Are All Completely Fine, in tone and events. Having read that book, it was especially intriguing knowing Harrison's eventual destination, and learning about the road he traveled to get there.

I love Gregory's writing; for me he hits an enjoyable blend of clever description, interesting characters, fun dialogue and nicely paced plotting. I highly recommend reading both *Harrison Squared* and *We Are All* 

Completely Fine.

Just beware the tentacles.

Thanks to NetGalley and Macmillan-Tor/Forge for a review copy.

### **Dan Schwent says**

When he was three, Harrison Harrison lost his father and his leg in a boating accident. Or was it? Now, at age sixteen, he moves to the Massachusetts town of Dunnsmouth for his mother's latest research project. When she goes missing, Harrison quickly finds Dunnsmouth has more than its share of secrets...

Harrison Squared was a tough nut to crack for me. Aside from the missing leg, Harrison Harrison was kind of a Gary Stu. Also, I hated his implausible name. Who the hell would do that to their kid? Anyway, despite being a curmudgeon, I wound up being entertained by it.

Taking place in a safe, Pat Boone version of HP Lovecraft's world, is a fish out of water, coming of age tale that happens to include a nerfed version of the Cthulhu mythos. Harrison struggles to fit into a school of fish worshipers only to have his mother disappear. The rest is a Hard Boys mystery featuring fish people and their townie cohorts trying to open a portal and summon Urgaleth.

The writing was standard YA fare. The kids are smarter than the adults, everyone has overly clever dialogue, etc. While I knew Harrison would live, there was a sense of jeopardy at times. The ending was a little too easy but the book had series written all over it so I wasn't all that surprised. There were some Lovecraft references that I thought were hilarious. "My people do weird things with geometry," or something to that effect.

I thought the supporting cast were more interesting than Harrison. Aunt Sel, Lydia, Lub, and some of the others really livened things up. I wouldn't have minded learning more of The Scrimshander's past, however.

Although it wears its influences on its sleeve most of the time, if there had to be a young adult Cthulhu mythos tale, I'm glad it was this one. Annoyances aside, I wound up liking it. I could see it being a gateway book into deeper and darker things. Three out of five stars.

#### Kate says

4.5\*

\*Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*

Harrison Harrison has moved to Dunnsmouth where his marine biologist mother is doing research on a giant squid. WIthin a few days his mother has gone missing whilst out at sea and Harrison is left with a feeling that the strange town is hiding something. As he uncovers the towns history and secrets he soon sees that this is no small conspiracy and that it connects to a tragedy from his youth. With the help of some of his strange

new classmates and friends, Harrison finds himself pitted against a strange cult, a knife wielding maniac and ancient monsters.

This is a prequel to last years amazing We Are All Completely Fine and whilst it's a YA novel and therefore a different tone to it's sequel, I thought it was a cracking read.

Whilst I enjoyed Harrisons character in WAACF, I thought he was more engaging as a teenager, the story is told mainly from his perspective and I loved his voice throughout the novel. Aunt Selena was another character I liked and probably the other main strong character in the book.

Another thing I thought the author did really well with was the detail he put into the book especially the mythology that he used and he seemed to touch on various cultures which I thought he blended in really well. The lovecraftian elements were done well and again I thought the attention to detail really lifted the story.

I really hope the author visits this character again for future projects as he was a lot of fun to spend time with.

Highly recommended.

#### Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/

3.5 Stars

#### "You know what killed the cat? Me."

Thirteen years ago Harrison Harrison (or Harrison Squared, if you prefer) and his family set out from the shores of Dunnsmouth for a three hour tour . . .

#### (\*sings A THREEEEEE HOUR TOUR\*)

when a storm kicked up and *stuff and things* happened that caused Harrison to lose his leg and his father to lose his life. Fastforward to the present where H2 and his mother have returned to Dunnsmouth in order to for his mother to research the *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni* - or in layman's terms the "colossal squid"...

You're probably thinking: "I've seen enough Hentai to know where **this** is going!" To which I reply – ewwww. Good grief you perverts, does everything have to be nasty? It's a young adult book for cripes sake!

Because this **is** a young adult book, the leading male is a . . . . you guessed it YOUNG ADULT. That means he's stuck suffering through as the new kid at high school. Let's just say his classmates aren't too interested in making new friends . . .

Ha! Just kidding. They aren't **that** bad. Lucky for Harrison, not everyone in town is a d-bag (especially after his mother goes missing like **IMMEDIATELY** after their arrival) and he's able to enlist the help of his new buddy . . . .

in order to figure out exactly what happened.

After reading We Are All Completely Fine I was most definitely interested in seeing what else Daryl Gregory's crazy brain could come up with. When I heard that he would be taking the leading male from a **very** grown-up sort of story and putting him in the wayback machine in order to create a YA novel my curiosity was **really** over-the-top. I'll be the first to admit that I wasn't sure Gregory could pull it off – but boy did he. This was a solid story and since it was written by a guy NOT known for young adult books, he didn't fall into the tired trope of a stupidass love story. Nope. This was all about solving the mystery, building the world of Dunnsmouth, filling the reader in on H2's (and the town's) past and leaving enough breadcrumbs for there to be a future with the series. That's really the only part that lost me. I am a fan of the standalone so I'll be a jerk and round down due to the potential for a part two.

If you have a youngster in your life who appreciates a little action and adventure, I highly recommend this one. You might even want to read it too, because Gregory is pretty awesome when it comes to dialogue . . .

"Superheroes wear masks - they don't try to get credit for everything they do."

"Aquaman doesn't wear a mask."

"Lub, I hate to break this to you, but no one cares about Aquaman."

#### "Wow. Hurtful."

Hehehehe.

Man all this talk about fish is making me hungry!

#### **Yodamom says**

Four big fishy stars-Young Harrison Harrison is moving to a new town with his big water creature research obsessed mother. Not something he really wants to do but the other choices are much less appealing. Almost immediately he is left alone when his mother needs to go off on one of her research trips to track giant creatures. He is quickly placed in the local school, which is not at all the average school. He is treated like an outcast, unable to communicate with these odd students. The town is isolated, his rented house even more so, no internet, no cell phone service. There is a mystery that effects him in this location one he will soon encounter and his dreams or nightmares may may come true.

[image error]

The staff at the school are all really off center. Weird off beat, unusual in their lessons. The library was my favorite room, you will find a great mystery there.

I loved it. It is a book for all young adults to old souls. The adventure is waiting, bring your swim suit and jump in.