



Wearing the Cape: A Superhero Story

Marion G. Harmon

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WHO WANTS TO BE A SUPERHERO?

Hope did, but she grew out of it. Which made her superhuman breakthrough in the Ashland Bombing, just before starting her freshman year at the University of Chicago, more than a little ironic. And now she has some decisions to make. Given the code-name "Astra" and invited to join the Sentinels, Chicago's premier super-team, will she take up the cape and mask and become a career superhero? Or will she get a handle on her new powers (super-strength has some serious drawbacks) and then get on with her life-plan?

In a world where superheroes join unions and have agents, and the strongest and most photogenic ones become literal supercelebrities, the temptation to become a "cape" is strong. But the price can be high—especially if you're "outed" and lose the shield of your secret identity. Becoming a sidekick puts the decision off for awhile, but Hope's life is further complicated when The Teatime Anarchist, the supervillain responsible for the Ashland Bombing, takes an interest in her. Apparently as Astra, Hope is supposed to save the world. Or at least a significant part of it.

***Wearing the Cape* is a 300-page superhero novel for anyone who ever loved comic-book heroes, and wonders how they might behave in the real world.**

Wearing the Cape: A Superhero Story Details

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From Reader Review Wearing the Cape: A Superhero Story for online ebook

Cheryl says

The evil Teatime Anarchist has just brought destruction to the city again. Hope Corrigan is a normal eighteen year old girl. She was driving along when she was struck by hundred of pounds of concrete. Hope was lucky to survive. Before she can really comprehend what is happening, she is flown away...literally from the accident.

Hope's savior is Atlas aka John Chandler. Atlas is a superhero and part of a network of other superheroes. Hope is recruited and becomes the newest superhero. Just call her Astra, which means star.

This book is like a combination of the younger version of the X-Men and the Incredibles. Only these superheroes don't mind if the public know about them. This book started off with a big bang...literally. While, I liked that the superheroes were made up of all different ages and genders. At times, it felt like there was too much detail. For example, when Hope aka Astra was first learning to become a superhero, I appreciated and understood that there was a lot of training before someone just puts on the suit, cape and mask but I didn't need several chapters of explanation. A chapter would have been fine with me and even two chapters would have been alright if it was to explain about the other characters powers, which was done but at a later point in the book. I liked Astra as a main character. She is a relatable character and a superhero that readers can get behind and cheer for. Despite some of the little things, this book is a fun read. Wearing the Cape will have you wishing you were a superhero!

Sara says

As a rule, these days I avoid books with teenage protagonists like the plague. (Harry Potter is a big exception here.) Why? Because for some strange reason, most recent teenage characters (and not a few adult ones, sadly) are so stereotypically *teenage* that they are horrifying, over-the-top parodies of a teenager. (I'm looking at you, Bella Swan.)

I didn't know, when I impulse-bought the self-published Wearing the Cape ebook (this was right after I got my shiny new Kindle) that the protagonist was eighteen years old. Fortunately, this turned out for once to not be a Bad Thing at all. Hope Carrigan is eighteen--legally an adult, but in the eyes of everyone else (including herself), still little more than a child. She's the daughter of extremely well-to-do parents (so well-to-do that she actually had a society debut at the age of 16), and has four elder brothers. Sounds like the lineup for half a dozen or so teen soap operas on tv, right?

Wrong.

Setting aside the superhero elements (I'll get to those in a minute), Hope is the kind of teenager I like. I've met teenagers like her (though, mind you, without the high-society elements): an intelligent, moral, thoughtful human being who, yes, has her occasional bouts of self-pity or whining (very little, thank Heaven), but who actually tries to live up to the things her parents taught her. And who, miracle of miracles, not only HAS parents--an incredible rarity in the world of teenaged heroes--but also has a good relationship

with them. Her major fight with her parents in the book is the result of conflict between their desire to keep their daughter safe and her determination to live up to the principles and morals they taught her.

Is there angst? Well, of course there is. It wouldn't be a very interesting book without it. But does the angst drive the plot, Twilight-style? Heavens, no. In fact, most of the angst has to do with a very young woman coming face-to-face with very real horrors. The real joy I found in Hope's characterization (and, incidentally the joy the romantic lead also found in her) was the fact that she waited until the bad guys were locked up, the innocent were safe (or at awaiting burial), and there was no longer an immediate threat before she broke down. She's a tough cookie, because unlike far too many of her literary counterparts she relies on her brain and her upbringing rather than merely on gut emotion, and in doing so she becomes strong. Funnily enough, Hope's superpowers--awakened when a villain with the delightful moniker of The Teatime Anarchist drops an overpass on top of her car--really play second-fiddle to her overall characterization. They're not uncool powers, but they're bog-standard in terms of 'superpower' tropes: super-strength, enhanced senses, invulnerability, and (just so she has one thing to really truly enjoy) the ability to fly. Granted, they've put her in the top notches of Super-strength-type people in the world (leading to one poor, persistent supersoldier to try repeatedly to recruit her into the Army), but compared to some of the others only mildly intriguing. Other superheroes have far more entertaining powers, however, such as her teammates The Harlequin--who is more or less made out of living rubber--and Chakra--who apparently draws her psychic abilities from tantric sex. (Which the eighteen year old Hope is really, *really* uninterested in hearing details about.) She even meets (much to my personal delight) a Mormon superhero.

The true interest lies in Hope's introduction to the world of 'capes.' The author has plenty of nods to genre tropes, but also plays with them, twists them, and turns them on their head. For instance, most of the professional superheroes are not ashamed to use their supercelebrity status to make money--though that money mostly goes to pay for their bases, medical care, and replacement costumes--and there are more than a few who enjoy the groupies and superfans who trail after them. But most are also aware (and Hope--renamed 'Astra'--has this pointed out to her) that they're really there as really flashy emergency response units, and are not equipped to deal with 'normals' when it comes to law enforcement. I particularly enjoyed a scene where Atlas, Hope/Astra's trainer and the first 'official' cape, explains to her why they wear the ridiculous costumes: because in the first scary days after 'the Event' (when superpowers manifested amidst a worldwide crisis), people were, understandably, terrified of these new-made superhumans who could do all sorts of impossible things. Atlas put on a mask and a cape and a costume not because he was trying to protect his identity--everyone knew who he was--but because when people saw a flying, superstrong man wearing a cape and a mask they immediately thought 'superhero,' and it meant that Atlas and others like him could help their fellow human beings without frightening them too much: comic books and pop-culture had already eased the way for them.

Overall, Wearing the Cape is a fast and entertaining romp with a wonderful balance of character development, world-building, and some very excellently done action-scenes. It's laugh-out-loud funny in some parts, but it will also break your heart in others. I plan to go buy the next two installments of the series as soon as I'm done writing this review, and I look forward to more from this author!

Gabriela says

Oh my goodness! What just happened? This book was great (though it had a few things that weren't so great or appropriate).

Ever since the Event, random people have had superhuman breakthroughs and have incredible powers. Nine years after the Event, Hope, an eighteen year girl living in Chicago, is about to start her freshman year of college. Her life is pretty great, but then she has her breakthrough. Her whole life is changed upside down. She joins the Sentinels (Chicago's own superhero team) to learn to control her powers and is code-named "Astra". But after that, what will she do with her life? Will she take on the mask and cape and make a career as a superhero? Or will she go back to her plan for her life? Another thing is that the Teatime Anarchist, a major supervillain, has an interest in her. He thinks she is supposed to save the world, or, most of it. At other times, he seems to want to kill her as soon as he has an opportunity.

It book had a very different feel to it from others that I've read. It was written very frankly. I really do think that this book was awesome. Superheroes in a modern world! What could go wrong? There was action. It had that good versus evil style that is so classic. I loved it! The violence felt bitter and rough and real. It was so real.

I didn't care for how the romance was done. Don't get me wrong, I love a little romance here and there. But the romance between Hope and this guy got a bit, shall we say, out of control. It never got drastically horrible, but it was a bit uncomfortable for me. Also, there was a lot of times that bad and inappropriate "romance" was mentioned about certain superheroes, but it was never really explained or described.

Then that ending! Woah. It totally caught me off guard. I wanted to cry. How could you do that to her? To me? The rest of the books won't feel the same now. That was so terrible. I'm sure that many of you that read this will sob your eyes out. Needless to say, I want the next book now!

I'd recommend this to older teens and adults who love superheroes, dystopian (it wasn't that futuristic, but at times it felt that way), and/or fiction. It was good.

You can check out this review on my blog too, at: <https://aheartredeemed.wordpress.com/...> Thanks!

Rachel says

Oooo. ALMOST great. I love the way this author tells a story. A Watchmen-esque vision of what life would be like if there were superheroes on Earth.

One of my favorite things about this book was the inclusion of certain details about the main character's life which are included where relevant, but not belabored. She's Catholic, for example, and a cancer survivor. The author works it in almost incidentally.

It was the author's treatment of Islam which rubbed me the wrong way and cost her two whole stars. SPOILER ALERT-- If Muslims become superheroes, they will be terrorists.

Ewww: "I can't tell the difference between a Palestinian and a Persian, let alone a Syrian and an Egyptian, but I know jihadists when I see them...."

I don't belong to the camp of the politically correct who believe that we should never ever use stereotypes

like Muslim terrorists in art. It's just better to be responsible and kind to readers. Throw in a good Muslim character. Avoid being a complete jerk by not having your narrator/ central character say things like the quote above.

So, it was worth a read for me, but I would never publish this book or recommend it. Too bad.

Daniel says

Great book. A little girly... I survived because the story held up past the fashion accessories.

Rich says

I've been on a Super-hero novel kick lately (Not graphic novel -- real book with words and paragraphs and everything!) and found this via amazon's "Readers who bought this also bought..." recommendation I believe. So, I bought it and wasn't disappointed.

I'm not sure who the target audience is on this. Fortunately for me I was in the mood for flying capes busting up baddies and chucking cars and saving the day so that scooted me into the target audience camp regardless of what demographic it was aimed at. It didn't feel like it was aimed at a female audience (The protagonist was female.) but it didn't seem aimed at... you know. I don't know if there WAS or HAS to be a target demographic split on gender lines on this type of book. I wanted super-hero novel and it's what I got.

There's no real attempt at explaining the why of hero powers, they just happen, and I'm totally OK with that. I liked the characters but while the main ones were well fleshed out the secondaries seemed almost too two dimensional sometimes. I know every character can't be filled out, especially in a cast as big as this one but I didn't really KNOW any of them except the leads.

The story was well done and one of the commenters commented about the pacing of the book. I don't know if it was pacing or characters, but there were times, toward the middle, where it was easy to put down and read something else (especially dangerous to us Kindle folk who have something else ready-to-hand lol) for a while. I didn't do it because I didn't like *Wearing The Cape* so much as because my interest in something else that I wasn't reading would rise higher than what I was actually reading... that being said I never stayed away for long.

The last quarter of the book I read at work and I tore through it. It was excellently written. The pacing was good. The story was good. The edge of the seat feeling was good. I'm not going to say what else was good but it was good. Go read it. You'll agree.

Some hay has been made about the age disparity between Atlas an Astra and that's OK I guess, but it didn't bug me. If it'd been tawdry or a little blue then I'd have had a problem with it, but these are super-heroes. They're noble. They don't do blue. I thought it was well handled and it didn't bug me.

If you're in the mood for super-hero fiction I recommend this one. I think it's a first novel and if I can come out with one as good as this I'll be well pleased.

Jim says

This reads like a parade of stereotypes. It screams “I am white, and anyone non-white I introduce will, in some way, be a stereotype.” It took me a while to figure it out. I had heard some negative stuff about this book, but figured I should read for myself - especially since it was a book of the month in my book club. And I didn’t see anything really objectionable in the first 1/3 of the book - which is free on Amazon. So I found a Special Edition of the book for 99¢ on Amazon (the regular Edition was \$7.99 - go figure), so I bought it to finish it.

But that’s when I started getting this creepy feeling on the back of my neck. So far, nearly all the supervillains seemed to be (A) gang members and (B) rappers. It took me a while to make that connection - is it because it was subtle? (Supervillains don’t play a big part in this beginning of the book.) Or is it because I’m obtuse?

But I kept reading, enjoying the story so far (though there seemed to be little diversity). Overall, the writing was decent, and It was an interesting superhero story.

But the next supervillains we find out about are Mexican drug lords who live near the most dangerous border in the world. (The world?)

And it seems like the white supervillains aren’t really villains. They’re actually the good guys or have temporary insanity. All of the real bad supervillains seem to be people of color. And nearly all the POC are supervillains. Except for a couple. Like one dude who’s an islander - he’s “exotic”. That’s some white person shit right there. (Oops. Maybe I shouldn’t read have read this the same time as I’m listening to The Hate U Give on audio. Is it weird that there’s a character named Seven in both books?) Maui is “a dark-skinned, hawk-featured man with short black hair and swirling tattoos covering the right side of his face. The patterns of his layered green and black spandex bodysuit echoed his tattoos, and he wore a hook-shaped bone carving at his throat under his open collar.” Chakra is “...dressed like a vaguely Hindu tribal dancer in a midriff-baring red vest and skirt loaded down with lots of gold jewelry.” Even the good POC are stereotypes.

And then in the climax, we find out who the *real* bad guys are. Muslim, Chinese, and Mexican terrorists. Because, obviously.

At least the (apparently white) guy who wanted a fascist police state was the Big Bad. And not a hero.

And, wow. Apparently in this special edition, the author changed some of the most racist language. For example, this phrase I found in multiple reviews no longer exists: “I can’t tell the difference between a Palestinian and a Persian, let alone a Syrian and an Egyptian, but I know jihadists when I see them.” The only thing close to it now is: “They didn’t wear uniforms, but I knew Caliphate jihadists when I saw them.”

I mean, when your book still has race issues after you take out the most racist stuff, ugh.

Also - there’s some weird stuff going on with the words. There are lots of places that ‘black’ is used as bad or evil. This is the English language, and I know that this already exists, but it’s interesting that it seems so prevalent. “black hats”, “black magic”, “Blackout” is a supervillain. Ok; to be fair, “Blackstone” is a hero, and Rook is a black superhero. And black is often used as just a color throughout the book. And the only

other place in the book that I can find that black is used as an adjective is “black box agency”. This doesn’t seem quite as negative, but the organization described thus is run by someone described as “The Root of All Evil”. Maybe this is all just coincidence, to give the benefit of the doubt. And before you scream I’m making all this up - I didn’t think about it at all until I read the Afterword. Here the author describes why he felt he had to add the epilogue. It was so the book wouldn’t be so negative. But the actual words he used were, “The story still ended so **black** ...” I don’t think I would have noticed this with all the stuff I’ve already written above.

And I didn’t care for the relationship in the book. I know guys are fond of the older male mentor getting it on with the teenage girl, but it’s just wrong. Like a professor doing it with a freshman. I don’t care if she is legal. And it makes it worse that he’s a man-slut.

She even realizes this: “All right, nine years wasn’t *that* big a difference, and he was brave, sweet . . . and a divorced workaholic who threw his room key to the slut of the week!” And hello? “And at the moment, he was my teacher and mentor, and didn’t that just set off all sorts of alarm bells.”

And I don’t know. They kiss. And there’s a picture of it. And in light of all the racism, it just felt like two Aryan lovebirds.

There’s something skeevey about seeing the older superhero dudes all wanting the young hot 18-yr-old. (Atlas is 27 and her mentor. I couldn’t tell how old Seven was, but he was an older, mentor-type character, too; it was icky that he was all disappointed that he didn’t get “lucky” with her (his superhero power was luck). It was yuckier when we find out she was in love with Atlas ever since she was 10. He would have been 19.

And then they go from liking each other to saying I love you to going away to a cabin together? And suddenly agreeing to get married? (Of course she has to run to Forever 21 and Victoria Secret first.) A man definitely wrote this. And when they get to the cabin, he dresses like a cowboy. The non-cowboy superhero actually dresses like a cowboy. Definitely a white dude fantasy.

Of course, he tries to get around the skeeviness by waiting until the wedding night to have sex. Nice save.

This is why I need to look for more diversity in my authors.

For the most part, the writing was pretty good. It’s too bad the book was ruined by all that other stuff.

Though, (with regards to the writing) I was really confused about Astra’s relationships with her friends before she became a hero. When we find out that they discover that their friend is actually Astra the superhero, it’s such an offhanded comment, you don’t even realize it happened. And then, since they’re barely mentioned for the next 15 chapters you forget that her friends are in on the secret.

And, he uses the word “squire” in a very odd and obscure way. It’s a verb, used when a man escorts a woman. “...Atlas asked Seven if he could *squire* me around.” I’ve never heard the word used that way before, and had to look it up. Weird. Seems like an archaic sexist kind of term.

Anyway, as you can tell, this book was sort of a miss for me.

Nina says

I had high hopes for this book. The premise of a young girl whose path takes a drastic detour right at a critical point in her life was something that I could identify with. And Mr Harmon's prose is both entertaining and relatable.

However, the moment it became all about the romantic subplot that I couldn't stand. Having spent the first 150 pages or so identifying strongly with the young protagonist, I was completely thrown when she and Atlas were suddenly engaged! I followed their flirtation well enough, but the trip to Colorado and the subsequent proposal seemed forced. Still, I know that I grew up in a different environment where, unlike Astra, physical intimacy is more of a prerequisite for marriage than a reward for the patient.

On top of that, the adult playboy-wonder falling in love with his new sidekick and becoming celibate for her made me a bit queasy. Her love alone is enough to change his behavior? I don't think so.

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 3.5 of 5

In a world where superheroes have agents and become celebrities just for having powers, it's not unusual for a child to grow up wanting to be a superhero. That's how Hope grew up, and when she was entering her freshman year in college her powers appeared. Now she's invited to join The Sentinels - a Chicago-based superhero team - as Astra (her superhero name). But does she really want to be a superhero, with all the dangers inherent in such a life, and living in the fear of having her real identity revealed? She agrees to being a side-kick for a little while, to try to understand what the life will be like, but the villain from her first superhero encounter is seeking her out.

This book is part of my "super-hero" fiction collection that I seemed to collect all at once a little while back. And with almost 500 books in Kindle queue, mostly ARCs, it just got pushed to the back for a bit because I'm often leery about self-, or small-press publications. I needn't have worried though, as this is a nicely written, strong work.

It seems fairly clear to me that this book is targeted at the YA market. The protagonist, Astra, is a teenager. She is filled with questions, longing, and the requisite pathos. These are traits common in YA books as they speak to the mood and angst so many young adults are feeling. But what I appreciate so much about this book is the positive turn(s) Astra takes and the goals that are heroes aspire to. These are heroes, after all. Super heroes.

The story moves along nicely and there's really much, much more here than simple villain-fighting or world-saving. There is a story about people, who happen to have powers, and people stories tend to be more interesting, in my book.

This is definitely worth reading, and I see that there's a follow-up book, which I look forward to reading as well.

Looking for a good book? Wearing the Cape is a strong YA story by Marion G. Harmon, using super heroes and super powers as a backdrop to tell a story about human desire.

Siobhan says

There is a fine line that writers of Superhero stories must walk, between having characters and plot elements which are real enough to relate to and be interesting and having ones that are too jaded, powerful or bizarre to be worth following.

"Wearing the Cape" stands firmly on the good side. Fantastic enough without giving us so many details of the whys that one loses interest.

=Harmon does a great job with Hope's voice- she is likable, bright, and quietly vulnerable in a few ways that I didn't expect. She is not perfect and has many failings that other teens (and adults- let's be honest!), can relate to. She, like all of the characters, comes across as a fairly well-rounded person that you come to care about over the course of the book.

=The powers are well done- most of your standard superhero types are in here and so are a few you might not have seen before.

=The plot itself is also interesting, and the pacing of the story moves fast enough that I was in the final chapters before I knew it. There are a few times when it veers a bit, but I don't think it ever was too strange or made the story too uneven.

I'm really looking forward to starting the sequel, and I will certainly be keeping an eye out for anything else by Mr Harmon.

Robert says

I was able to borrow this book on Lendle, and was very happy that I did.

Phenomenally interesting storyline, and characters that one can really care about. Hope is just your normal, average almost-college student when the Teatime Anarchist's plots transform her into an honest-to-goodness superhero. Of course, she's not the only one; she's immediately invited to join the Sentinels, and even gets to train under the most well-known hero, Atlas.

The author does a great job of showing the trials and frustrations of trying to cope with sudden superpowers, sudden fame, and sudden enemies. Not to mention that she's now an invited guest to her mother's Christmas Ball.

I especially enjoyed the complete lack of swearing and explicit sexuality. Major kudos to Hope for her moral code.

Powerschnute says

Superhelden gibt es ja viele und jeder hat seine eigene Geschichte. In "Karriere: Superheldin" folgen wir der achtzehnjährigen Hope, die bei einem Anschlag ihre Superkräfte entdeckt und danach als Superhelden-Sidekick ihre Ausbildung als Vollzeit-Superheldin beginnt. Frau Schnute liest ja eher selten Bücher mit jugendlichen Hauptfiguren, aber bei diesem Buch hat sich das "Ich mach mal eine Ausnahme, weil es

irgendwie cool klingt" ehrlich gelohnt. Frau Schnute wurde nicht enttäuscht.

Hope ist eine äußerst erfrischende Hauptfigur. Mit 18 ist sie kein typischer Teenager mehr aber eigentlich auch noch nicht wirklich erwachsen. Noch dazu kommt sie aus einer intakten Familie mit sich-immer-noch liebenden Eltern und einem intakten sozialen Netz. Spätestens dann, als ich erwartete, dass ihre Jugend mich endlich nerven würde, wurde ich immer wieder positiv überrascht. Sie erinnert mich von der Persönlichkeit in vielerlei Hinsicht an mich selbst und das habe ich bisher noch in keinem Jugendbuch erlebt, dass ich mich mit der jugendlichen, weiblichen Hauptfigur identifizieren kann. Schon allein dafür hätte das Buch 5 Sterne verdient. Wenn man mal die Superhelden-Elemente beiseite lässt, ist Hope echt eine coole Socke. Sie weiß wer sie ist. Sie hat im Leben schon einiges durch (Krebs, Tod der besten Freundin) und auch sonst hat sie einen recht nüchternen Kopf, und einen äußerst trockenen Humor. Es ist wahrhaftig erfrischend für mich als Leserin, die mehr als doppelt so alt ist wie Hope.

Hope lässt sich nicht einfach von Instinkten und ihrem Bauchgefühl leiten. Ganz im Gegenteil, sie verlässt sich auf ihren Kopf und darauf, dass ihre Eltern schon wussten, was sie bei ihrer Erziehung richtig gemacht haben. Eigentlich kann ich gar nicht aufhören zu schwärmen. Man trifft sowas einfach viel zu selten. Und selbst als die Liebe Einzug hält in der Geschichte und aus Hopes Schwärmerei mehr wird, bleibt sie besonnen und mutiert nicht zum gefühlsgesteuerten, unterwürfigen Weiblein. Einfach ganz große Klasse.

Natürlich muss es auch etwas Kritik geben und die richte ich gegen die USA-Zentriertheit des Romans. Überhaupt waren da einige Aspekte drin, die mich haben grübeln lassen. Schönheit fand eigentlich nur Erwähnung, wenn die oder der erwähnte blond gelockt und blauäugig war. In Rezensionen konnte ich lesen, dass Mr. Harmon das wohl in den weiteren Bänden verbessert hat, also bleibt das erstmal abzuwarten. Aber hey, die Amis haben eine Indianerin als Präsidentin (Hut ab!) die noch dazu ebenfalls Superkräfte hat (ehrlich mal, wie geil ist das denn?)

Die Bandbreite der Superhelden und Superschurken ist äußerst groß, die beschriebenen Superkräfte äußerst beeindruckend. Besonders gefallen hat mir, dass jedes Kapitel mit Zitaten eingeleitet wurde, die Einblick in die Hintergrundgeschichte der Welt geben.

Harmon schafft damit eine Welt voller Wunder und Schrecken mit einer großen Auswahl an Figuren und Charakteren. Band 2 werde ich definitiv lesen und ich weiß noch nicht, ob ich hier auch bis zur deutschen Übersetzung warte oder mir schon die englische Originalversion besorge. Es ist einfach eine tolle Welt, die er da geschaffen hat (Ja, Marion G. Harmon ist männlich, lasst Euch nicht von dem Vornamen täuschen).

Ein tolles Superheldenbuch und der einzige Punkt, den ich abziehen muss ist wirklich der, dass mich dieses "USA über alles" arg gestört hat. Ansonsten bin ich super gespannt auf den nächsten Teil und freue mich riesig darüber, dass ich dieses Buch lesen durfte.

Paula says

I am pleasantly surprised at the depth to this series. I was expecting a light and fluffy story and got an excellent story with great world building. I've zipped thru the others and now am on the 4th in the series. Well worth the read. ps the h is a 19yr old but there are very few YA moments.

The newest in the series is out and I wanted to reread the rest of the series again.

Meg says

Writing is solid, if a little clinical, but the symbolism and message are a touch heavy handed. Not so shoved down your throat that I had to give up, but a little heavier than I prefer.

More than anything else, the romance in this novel bugged me and was what broke my enjoyment of the book. An unrealistic teen fantasy, it was too perfect and utterly boring. Also slightly creepy, a 27 year old and an 18 year old. Not to say that age gap can't work, but not at eighteen when the main character clearly does not know what she wants to do with her life.

Still, a well built world and I liked the Teatime Anarchist. He was worth reading this book for.

Noran Miss Pumkin says

Set in Chicago--superheroes exist to help and harm. They make up state militias and special police tactical units. The military has their own squads. Each major city has their own team-to handle major crises. Chicago is the hub of the superhero world. A giddy 18 year old girl, driving into the city, falls victim to a political assassination. Trapped in her crushed car, she transforms

That is where I will leave you. I got this free from kindle yesterday. I could not stop reading it. I felt it was a mash up of several TV shows/comic series. It did well. The pace of the storyline was nice, and the characters were ones you could relate to with ease. I know Chicago, and most the locations/streets were correct. I like that fact checking, in such a book. Try it, you will like it!
