



The Maleficent Seven: From the World of Skulduggery Pleasant

Derek Landy

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A brilliant, hilarious one-off novella in the Skulduggery Pleasant universe, from number-one-bestselling author Derek Landy

This time, the bad guys take the stage.

Tanith Low, now possessed by a remnant, recruits a gang of villains – many of whom will be familiar from previous Skulduggery adventures – in order to track down and steal the four God-Killer level weapons that could hurt Darquesse when she eventually emerges. Also on the trail of the weapons is a secret group of Sanctuary sorcerers, and doing his best to keep up and keep Tanith alive is one Mister Ghastly Bespoke.

When the villains around her are lying and scheming and plotting, Tanith needs to stay two steps ahead of her teammates and her enemies. After all, she's got her own double-crosses to plan – and she's a villain herself...

The Maleficent Seven: From the World of Skulduggery Pleasant Details

Date : Published March 28th 2013 by HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

ISBN : 9780007512393

Author : Derek Landy

Format : ebook 288 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Urban Fantasy, Fiction



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From Reader Review The Maleficent Seven: From the World of Skulduggery Pleasant for online ebook

Kristy ? The Reader Dragon says

Holy shitballs, was that a 3-star rating I just gave to a *Skulduggery* book? YOU BET YOUR SWEET ASS IT WAS!

Settle down and let me explain. I love this series. I *adore* it. I've had so much fun re-reading it, but honestly I think I burnt myself out a bit from reading through the series back-to-back.

I started my re-read of *The Maleficent Seven* a month ago. A WHOLE MONTH! This book is by no means a long book. In fact, it's the smallest in the series (if you don't include *The End of the World*, that is). And only partway through, I fell into a massive slump. Yep. I'm pretty sure this is the first book I've finished in over a month. I'm sure you all know what happens when you fall into a slump partway through a book, right? *You lose interest.*

I guess it didn't help that whilst this is set in the world of *Skulduggery Pleasant*, this by no means a tale involving the skeleton detective. I love Tanith, but I just can't connect to this story like I do with all of the other books.

Throughout my re-reading, I've been enjoying getting to parts and being all like, "omg yessssss I remember this!!!" and looking forward to other bits and pieces I remember happening. Tbh, I didn't remember anything about this book at all. It almost felt like reading it for the first time, but not necessarily in a good way.

I think if I hadn't fallen into a slump whilst reading this, I would've given it a solid 4 or maybe even 4.5 rating, but instead it's just gonna sit at a 3.5.

Jessica says

Derek has a gift at making us love his villains and he proves it with dedicating a whole book to them! I loved having a whole 285 pages dedicated to Tanith, Sanguine and all the other villains that have flown under the radar throughout the series.

We also get introduced to some more of the good guys including Saracen Rue and the Monster Hunters themselves, Donegan Bane & Gracious O'Callahan who I love to death a make me laugh so much.

The action was great and as always every single character had an amazing and different personality which added to the story and the dynamics of each group.

No matter how many times I read this book I will always find myself loving it and never getting sick of it!

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Ivz Andonova says

Darcy (Daydreamingofbookdragons) says

Jasmine says

Miss Abernathy says

Tanith siempre ha sido uno de mis personajes favoritos de Detective Esqueleto, hasta que el vestigio se metió dentro de su cuerpo, me seguía gustando pero manteniendo las distancias. Por lo que quería leer este libro desde hace tiempo aunque no tenía muchas esperanzas de conseguirlo.

Antes de comenzar la lectura pensaba que sería un libro sin demasiada profundidad, siguiendo una misma línea a la hora de narrar la historia.

Sí pero no.

Me he llevado la grata sorpresa de que algunos capítulos te cuenta cómo empezó Tanith a luchar y por qué. Esos capítulos han sido de lo que más me ha gustado del libro. Además de que ya de por sí el libro te revela algunos detalles sobre personajes de la saga. En la últimas páginas ocurren varios acontecimientos que hace que todo lo que ha ocurrido quede patas arribas, así que otro punto para Landy.

Toa Tautakitaki says

1. Why did I decide to read this book?

I heard about the skulduggery series but I never really paid much attention to it until I stumbled upon it in the library. The cover seemed so fascinating and the summary at the back was so interesting especially how it said, "it's a good day to be a bad guy."

2. Why I didn't like it:

I wouldn't say that I didn't like it, but I also feel like there were some things that tipped me off this book than things that were good about it. I couldn't keep up with all the characters and the plot only got interesting in the middle of the book when real action started happening. (My opinion) Also, there was a lot more blood and gore than I expected. I'm not the biggest fan when it comes to these kinds of scenes in books. And, the author described it TOO well. OK, maybe that was a good thing. Other than that it was a decent book to read.

3. Something new I learned from this book:

Although this was a fiction book, I learnt that parents in their society leave their children behind so that they can be trained. But only if the child/children have powers.

4. A character that was interesting to me in this book and why:

I liked the main character Tanith Low because although an evil entity has grown in her, the author portrays her as a good character. It's like a bipolar, evil superhero. She leads the team and is very wise when making decisions. She's a character I can look up to. In the book, there would be chapters where it's just a childhood memory of her in training. You can see how it connects back to her in the present because her personality traits now are the effects of those events back then. She's strong, charming and can talk her way out of things. She represents girl power and is not afraid to man up to a challenge.

daisy says

Didn't enjoy this as much as I thought I was going to tbh. Wasn't bad exactly, but wasn't particularly good either - just okay.

Becky says

It's here!!! It's finally here, another book from the masterful Derek Landy. I got this as an Easter present today and got stuck right in. Of course I finished it in a mere few hours. Derek Landy is one of those authors who I will drop EVERYTHING for! My reading pile may be 200 or so books long, but his books will jump to the top everytime. They are just kick butt awesome.

This book is a spin off novella, told a couple of months after the events in Kingdom of the Wicked, but this time the story is told from Tanith's side of things and she's a bad guy now.

At 280 pages this is quite short but still packed with so much awesomeness. I always loved Tanith - she's one of my favourite characters, I still wish she would come back to the good side, but I will admit she makes quite a cool villain. This book also reveals some of her past which I found fascinating and it was good to see that history.

Tanith is trying to track down, steal and destroy four weapons that can kill with a single nick, they are called 'God Killer's' as nothing can stop them, she recruits a band of villains to help her, some are known favourites from earlier books such as Billy-Ray, Springheeled Jack and Dusk, whilst others are new additions. all with very different talents, and some more disgusting than others.

I got so excited whilst reading this as one of the new characters has the same surname as me, I am being delusional and telling myself that Derek Landy did that deliberately, just for me. The character is male and I am of course female, but Derek can't be too obvious can he? :P I know it's a tribute to one of his most dedicated fans!!! :D

There is a distinct lack of Skulduggery and Valkyrie in this book, but in a strange way it works, Tanith is such a strong character that she commands the page and captures the story.

I don't want to write too much about it as I don't want to give away any spoilers, just know that this book is just as incredible as all the others and yes I did laugh out loud in many places.

Lu says

300 pages of pure awesomeness ♥ An entire book about my two most favourite characters (Sanguine and Vex), it was just like a dream ♥

And then this, "*Tanith shrugged. "I liked Harry Potter." "This ain't about Harry Potter!" "You liked Harry Potter as well." "They're good books," he snapped.*"

I've always loved him, now I love him even more.

Ela says

Me when I started this: **sigh* Not really in the mood for Derek Landy right now, but since it's here...*

Me about half an hour later: *DAMN! I remember why I love you now Derek!*

It's been about a year since I've read a book by Landy and I'd slightly forgotten just how funny and outrageous his stories are. This is one of the best spin offs I've read, Landy's minor characters are interesting enough to easily run their own show with no help from the protagonists (Skulduggery and Valkyrie) and have enough depth to provide an engaging storyline.

Do I have any criticisms... The only thing I would say is that the Skulduggery series possibly does work better with Valkyrie as the main character; simply because she's a teenager. Given that this is a kids book and the main character is a sociopath who's dating a psychopath, I did feel there were a couple of moments which felt a little...forced, as Landy struggled to keep everything PG (or 12 maybe)

However, to Landy's credit, he did manage to do so. Successfully creating yet another ridiculously fierce, wild, complex female lead in Tanith Low. He has managed to stay very true to Tanith's original character while also taking into account the remnant and making her scarily psychotic. So congratulations Derek Landy, this novel is officially a triumph! (As far as I'm concerned anyway)

(Also, this was without a doubt one of my favourite covers, front and back. If you haven't seen the back already, just wait till you do, its awesome.)

And now some spoiler comments...(view spoiler)

Booknut says

Oh, Tanith!! All I wanted to whilst reading this book was reach through the pages and wrap her in a big, big hug. But the only person that got to do that was Sanguine...and that just depressed me. The sooner they find a way to rid Tanith of the Remnant, the better! And the ending is a great lead on to the next Skulduggery book :)

Pre-reading review:

The COVER!!

Kribu says

ETA: Re-read; review below unchanged.

I admit: I expected this book to be fluffy fun, but considering that it's essentially a side story in the

Skulduggery Pleasant universe, focusing entirely on secondary characters and not even featuring either Skulduggery or Valkyrie, my expectations were, well, somewhat limited.

Oh boy. Was I wrong.

Right now - admittedly, I'm still on that high from finishing it - I'd rank it as one of the very best of the entire SP series. It's shorter than the main series novels, yes, but being still novel-length, it fit in more than enough - plot, some *excellent* character stuff, back stories for several characters, lots of action and even a fair bit of romance (hey, it even has a love triangle of sorts - and anyone who knows me even a bit knows what I think about love triangles in general, but this being Derek, it was awesome, as usual).

The feels. Ye gads, the feels this book gave me. I officially managed to fall in love with Springheeled Jack. I loved the banter, both among the good guys and the bad guys. I enjoyed the action. I ... there are twists, towards the end, that I did not see coming. I came pretty damn close to tears at one of them.

I think this is as close as I can get to a "review" without getting into spoiler territory, and I just don't want to do that right now. But... yeah. Awesome.

I'm terrified of Last Stand of Dead Men, now. Not that I wasn't before, but... yeah.

Ash says

Actual rate 3.5 stars

When I first saw in HarperCollins website that there will be a novella all about Miss Tanith Low I got SOO SOO SOO excited!! Like come on!! A whole book about evil bad ass possessed Tanith!!!

After waiting for cover and release and the back cover (I KNOW IT'S AMAZING!!), and the book's arrival, I got it and..... I just didn't read it. Couple of days later read 30 pages and I could not believe the disappointment I got from this book. Any Skulduggery Pleasant reader knows that there are couple of villain chapters along the book. Yes they can sometimes be interesting, sometimes boring to a bearable level, but after all they are just couple of chapters. But in this novella it was the WHOLE BOOK! So I decided that I'm not ready to start such book.

After I finished my final exams I was about early 100s throughout this book and decided just to get it over with. Page after page you get used to the CONDITION of the book and it took me less than 2 days to finish the other 180 pages. The story got more interesting but there were many characters who just entered the picture to make a plot, and when I say many I mean around 9 or more so that was a bit hard to follow. Anyway the book had plenty of funny stuff. maybe more than any book in the original series (compared to the amount of pages).

The end, got to say that the best thing about this book was its last couple of chapters. Really enjoyed it. Bottom line. Recommended to any Skulduggery Pleasant fan but you can expect some disappointments while reading this book. After all it's just an additional book to the series. So no need to be mad.

Space Cadet says

TBH, at first gave it 3 stars.

Then I remembered that Tanith was in it.

:)

TANITH IS AWESOME!

Georgina Howlett says

That... That was the most terrifying and heartbreaking book I've ever read. Ever.

xmekalux says

Es war eine echt nette Geschichte, aber mehr auch nicht.

Ich hatte mich wirklich darauf gefreut, mehr über Tanith zu erfahren. Die Kapitel aus ihrer Vergangenheit waren auch wirklich interessant. Die Kapitel rund um die Hauptstory waren aber eher belanglos. Dafür aber im typischen Derek Landy Stil ;)

Und das Ende macht einen ja doch etwas Hoffnung ^^

Jerfus says

The Skulduggery pleasant series has been spread way too thin and it hasn't been more evident than in this book. The story itself isn't even that interesting, the best part is the backstory about Tanith Low and, again, it's not even that good. But then come the real flaws:

1. It's the same humour. I mean, sure, it's the highlight of the series but supposedly different characters use the exactly same kind of jokes.
 2. There is absolutely no character development. One single trait is what defines a character... sort of. Sabine? One magical ability which hadn't been described before and a dubiously moral attitude and you have a character, she's just an example, not an exception.
 3. (view spoiler)
 4. (view spoiler)
 5. (view spoiler)
 6. (view spoiler)
-

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

2.5

Based on the mostly 4 & 5 star ratings and gushing reviews, I'm definitely in the minority on this one, but I just had a hard time getting into it.

Maybe part of it was disappointed expectations. When I first heard about this book I was all geared up to

love it. I mean, I like Tanith and I always like when the villains - even villains you're hoping will end back up on the good side - get a bit more depth to their characters.

And we did learn more about Tanith, specifically her upbringing and being trained as an assassin and then giving that up to become a mercenary, of sorts, and then a bounty hunter. Basically, Tanith before we ever meet her in Skulduggery.

And those bits were interesting and, honestly, if that was the whole of the story I probably would've rated this higher.

But those bits were just interludes in the story of the Maleficent Seven - a group that Tanith puts together in order to track down 4 weapons - God-killers - because she's seen a vision of Darquesse and she, or the Remnant within her, wants to help bring about that destruction.

Against them is a team of seven of the good guys, lead by Dexter Vex, who are also after the weapons, but to secure their use against Darquesse.

And so, basically, we get a lot of scheming, fighting, chasing from both sides - rinse, wash, repeat.

The good guys were hard to root for because they basically seemed kind of inept. Valkyrie and Skulduggery aren't in the book at all, mentioned only in passing, and I almost feel like they couldn't be in the book because we couldn't have a story in which our two main heroes would be quite as blundering as our good guys were.

In some ways, it was like a typical story of this kind where the bad guys are pretty inept, but at least you want them to sort of be inept because you want the good guys to win. But, in this story, you'd almost have to root for Tanith and Co. because, well, they are the protagonists, in a way... but I kept wanting them to fail.

There are some stories written from the villains perspective that makes them more sympathetic, or likable, or where you get into their heads and at least sort of understand where they're coming from. But Remnant Tanith is just a psychopath and so is Billy-Ray. I kinda liked some of the rest of the villain group - it was cool to see Spring-Heeled Jack and Black Annis again, for instance, but they never seemed to be used to their full capacity and then, well...

That was one thing. On at least two occasions Tanith went into retrieve the weapon herself and I kept thinking - why did we even both putting together a team? They were all involved in the last encounter, for the most part, so there is that.

But, anyway... kind of a lackluster story in which I kept hoping the main characters would fail and/or that the 'good guys' would be more competent and at least put up a bit of a fight.

I did like the background on Tanith, and I liked the ending, and the rest was "ok".
