



# The Villain's Sidekick

*Stephen T. Brophy*

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## **The Villain's Sidekick** Stephen T. Brophy

When professional henchman Duke "HandCannon" LaRue runs afoul of the city's protector, Nightguard, and his spritely sidekick Twiliter, during a routine smash and grab job, everything he thinks he knows about villainy, heroism, and making a fast buck is about to get turned on its steel-plated head. The job goes south in a hurry, and his supervillainous employer, Dr. Eye, is none-too-thrilled about it. But those complications are nothing compared to an unexpected custody visit from his six-year-old daughter, the kind of kid who thinks her deadbeat dad hung the moon, not tried to blow it up.

## **The Villain's Sidekick Details**

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Author : Stephen T. Brophy

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# **From Reader Review The Villain's Sidekick for online ebook**

## **Alan says**

I have really enjoyed reading all three books by this author, having won them in a recent Goodreads First Reads giveaway. Very different to my usual genre and made quite a change. These books will remain on my book shelf for my son-in-law to enjoy.

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## **Joshua Hair says**

Mr. Brophy, I congratulate you on a job well done. While far too short, Villian's Sidekick is still a very fun read. As others have mentioned, it's told from the point of view of HandCannon a.k.a. Duke, an amputee war veteran who turned to a life of crime after his disfigured face and body held him back in the real world. Other than the fact that he's a supervillian (or sidekick to one, anyhow) Duke is a normal guy with an ex-wife, a crappy apartment, bills piling up, and anger management classes to keep up with despite his busy schedule. He's far from perfect, flawed in much more than figure and morality, and has a long way to go to be considered an "okay" guy. Mr. Brophy did a fantastic job of forming Duke into a fully-fledged, realistic person regardless of his cybernetic body. Kudos, Mr. Brophy. I look forward to your further work.

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## **Shane says**

Do you like graphic novels, crime fiction, suspense, dark comedy, pulp, characters with depth and/or just clever writing? Then, this is the book for you. It's hard to put down. The story is gripping, the characters are strong and the dialogue is whipsmart.

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## **Ernesto I. Ramirez says**

An interesting take on superheroes from the perspective of a villian's henchman. Hand Cannon is a peculiar villian, one that does the job because he feel there is no place for him in the real world and somehow expenses must be paid.

And after a butched job, it falls on him to not only fix the problem and to solve a mystery that curiously will redefine his life, while trying to keep what little he loves in one piece.

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## **Madame says**

**Never thought I be cheering for a villain's sidekick. First time for everything.**

This was a truly enjoyable narrative! It takes the time for the reader to walk in the bad guy sidekick's shoes for once. You understand that they have the capacity to love, mature and grow like anyone else. Even while equipped with deadly prosthesis, metal jaws and other cyborg gadgets. There is a redemptive moment that

plays out and makes room for HandCannon, his quirky friend as well as his fractured but loveable family.

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### **K.F. says**

The only thing I disliked about this book is that it was so short!

But definitely, if you're a fan of superhero comic books, have feelings for villains, and enjoy badassery performed by bionic men and their adorable 6 year old daughters, this is the book for you.

Well-written, clever, fast-paced, and self-aware. All one can hope for, really.

It was like a particularly delicious piece of candy! Gone too soon...

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### **Matt Lewis says**

Superhero movies have become ubiquitous in pop culture, so it's only natural that superhero parodies would be rising along with them. One look at the book cover and short description and you think "Oh great, another Venture brothers rip-off". While it does have that influence, the author creates dialogue and action that make the characters unique. The characters are as bizarre as they are flawed, as human as they are super, and they become very relatable even after a few short pages. This is a book for fans of comic aesthetic but not comic dialogue; there is an obvious wisdom at work behind the events of the story, and it's pulled off beautifully. It nails the perfect balance of self-parody, dry humor and heartfelt-ness in a perfect little package.

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### **Andrew Rose says**

#### **I'd read a sequel**

A villain turning over a new leaf? Not really. A guy's got to eat. But when his daughter comes to visit on a rare visit and he's stuck trying to make up for a partner who betrayed him he might just have to try things a different way. Fans of the Thunderbolts or Magneto will enjoy this short but well-crafted tale.

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### **Jonathan Brazee says**

When I was first introduced to this book, I thought it might fall alongside books such as "Grunts," by Mary Gentile, books that show a story from the "other side." Sidekicks of villains rarely have a place in the sun and usually end up in dire straits as the good guys triumph. When I started reading, though, I saw a lot more of Terry Pratchett in it, but if this book is any indication, Stephen Brophy can give the esteemed Mr. Pratchett a run for his money.

This book is taut, well-edited, and well-crafted. Characterization is detailed without being tedious, and the storyline quickly draws the reader in. There is a good deal of literary tension that qualifies this book as a

page-turner. On top of that, it is darn funny. The humor, though, does not get in the way of the plot, as it does in so many other books, but rather supports it. While it echoes Pratchett to an extent in the feel of the humor, where Pratchett elicits his humor in action and general observations, Brophy's humor centers on the personal thoughts and attributes of the protagonist. To me, that brings a deeper relevancy to the humor. I could identify with it.

Duke "HandCannon" LaRue is a bad guy, have no doubt about that. He is an ex-con, a crook, a killer (although he's killed fewer times than someone might suspect.) He isn't concerned about what his boss, Dr. Eye, might do with an item he's sent to retrieve. On the other hand, he dotes on his diabetic cat, Miss Lady, and loves his six-year-old daughter. He has the same problems as so many of us have—an ex-spouse, paying for a mortgage for a house in which he no longer lives, a job that interferes with his domestic life. He may be a baddie, but we can relate to him. I think that is a key to the book, and when Handcannon says he's a bad dad for something he's about to do, we've all been in that type of situation.

This is a funny book, but it is not just a platform for one-liners. There was nary a weak spot, and I enjoyed every page. This is one of the very best books I've read this year, and I give it my highest recommendation.

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### **Paolo Aceves says**

Most people want to see themselves as the hero of the story, the person whose struggles and suffering move the plot forward and hopes for one day all the hard work and sacrifice will pay off. Not Duke/*HandCannon*; knowing fully well he is a villain; not only that, he is the sidekick playing second fiddle to *Heatwave* and under the payroll of *The Eye*, he has become a criminal with prosthetic "arms" whose been in and out of prison trying to make a living. We meet him while he's battling *Night Guard*, a Batman like vigilante who protects the city with a sidekick of his own *Twiliter*.

After a rough beating he goes home to his cat and a surprise call from his six year old daughter Cornelia. What happens next is a great story where the lines of good and evil become blurred as *HandCannon* must make sense of the events happening around him while reconnecting with his estranged daughter. Filled with great action, smart sense of humor and high stakes, the only argument one can have against *The Villain's Sidekick* is how short this novella is.

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### **Rachel Noel says**

I absolutely adore this book. It has a little bit of everything! Action, humor, romance and even horror!

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### **Eric says**

Those court-order anger management classes and the twice-daily NA meetings are really paying off. Looks like Houston's got itself a brand new superhero.

Full review here: <http://superheronovels.com/2014/04/26...>

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### **Michael Flanagan says**

As a former comic book geek I loved this book. The author puts a human face to the faceless goons always getting smashed by the good guys. This is no mean feat since this particular goon is huge with a Gatling gun for an arm and a metal jaw. As novella's go this one is up there with some of the best as it packs a lot of plot in only 77 pages.

The author does a great job bringing the excitement of comics onto the pages of a novella. The characters are vibrant and the plot ticks along at a furious pace.

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### **Donny says**

I would rate this 3.5 if possible. It was a quick read with enough world-building to make me interested in what is next.

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### **Nan Silvernail says**

A wonderful sneak-peek into what it takes to be an evil henchman. I just don't want to say anything more because I'd hate to spoil the least little morsel of this fun feast. It does contain some mature language, or I'd feel freer about recommending it to just about everyone. A damned fine job from Stephen T. Brophy. Looking forward to finding more gems from this author.

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