



The Adventures of Blue Avenger

Norma Howe

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On his sixteenth birthday, David Schumacher changes his name to Blue Avenger. . .

And things start to happen. Within twenty-four hours, David becomes a national hero, starts dating an extraordinary girl named Omaha Nebraska Brown, and bakes an imperfect pie. And that's not all. A tiny sow bug is injured by a lawn mower, some killer bees make their home at San Pablo High School, and there is some activity in the earth's crust.

The connection?

No one knows for certain.

At first, it seems that David's own free will is guiding his momentous decision. But maybe it's something else. Maybe it's the inevitable result of everything that has ever happened to him since his miraculous birth.

To find out more about life and death, romance, gun control, lemon meringue pie, and world peace, you'll have to read this book. The decision is yours.

Or is it?

The Adventures of Blue Avenger Details

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Author : Norma Howe

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John says

Read this book when I was in sixth grade and loved it. Recently re read it about 16 years later, and I like it a bit less, but it's still interesting. The philosophy parts about whether humans have free will or not, an always an interesting debate, are well discussed, and the teenage relationships parts are well written. However, some of the ideas are sort of naive in my opinion, (mostly the gun control and bullet issue) Granted it was written for a much younger audience, but it is still a fun read. I enjoy how the character decides to make a change in his life and sticks to it. The writing style is interesting as well. The convergence of events and ideas within the book are fun to read about as well. Overall, worth the read.

Rebecca says

David Schumacher has always been interested in the question of free will. One day he decides--or does he?--to change his name to Blue Avenger, the name of the superhero he created as a kid, after his father died. When David becomes Blue Avenger, his life changes. He has more confidence, speaks out, and acts for the greater good, from saving the school principal from a swarm of bees to creating the perfect, weepless lemon meringue pie. Most of all, he helps newcomer Omaha Nebraska Brown, who is desperate to believe that free will does not exist, so her brother--in jail for murder--will not be guilty of his crime.

This quirky, mostly lighthearted book is written in the style of Kate DiCamillo or Alexander McCall Smith; the slightly old-fashioned, charmingly formal style that interrupts the text to ponder on the issues under consideration, or to fill in details about all the things that affect what happens in our lives, from cracks in the earth to injured sowbugs. This does contain mature topics. It starts with a reflection on the amount of spermatozoa in a single emission, includes some cursing (though mostly of the cartoon *#%! variety), and an episode about condoms, so it's definitely a YA book. The style will not appeal to everyone, but for kids in search of something light but with weighty questions to consider, this is the book.

Willie Maes says

Norma Howe's "The Adventures of Blue Avenger" fascinated me with its comical yet pleasing action book that allowed me to enjoy this book. A huge reason I decided to read this particular book is that I'm a huge fan of superheroes and when i found this book it was an instant read.

This book main character, David Schumacher ,is a character that I can believe is real. This book does a great job of portraying him as an adventurous kid just trying to make a difference. You can tell while you're reading this book you can tell the theme of the book is don't ever let anyone tell you what you can't do and just do it. David decided on his sixteenth birthday to become a hero, Blue Avenger, he didn't care what people thought he just did it and finds ways to overcome obstacles throughout the book because he won't give up. This book takes place in the Blue Avengers high school as he resolves issues that also go on

throughout his school. In the book, “The Adventures of Blue Avenger”, it tells a story of what David accomplishes many things that people thought to be impossible such as solving gun violence through an exceptionally poor take on “guns don’t kill people”. What makes the Blue Avenger so special is he always knows the right thing to do and he can even fix problems that even intelligent people can’t solve.

To me this is one of the best books I've read, most likely because it has to do with a superhero but regardless it's still a good read. I would recommend to read this book if you're a person that likes to read about hero adventures or even just a person who overcomes things that people thought impossible. If I had to rate this book i would give it a 4.5 out of 5 star book. If you do read this book I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Julie says

Boy loses father. Boy changes name to Blue Avenger, his own created comic book character. Boy tries to be hero whenever possible. Boy meets girl. Girl has past. Boy earns her trust and likes her anyway. I wanted to like "Blue Avenger," especially since it takes on one of my favorite themes and discussions--fate versus free will--but ultimately, the writing style left it all too superficial for my taste. The writing style is breezy and amusing, which makes it a fun and fast read, but upon finishing the book, I didn't care all that much about any of the characters even though I liked them enough.

Steven says

Simply put, the Adventures of Blue Avenger relates the story of a teenager who wakes up one morning and decides to change his name from the mundane to the adventurous, "Blue Avenger," of course, being his name of choice. What follows are his adventures as he finds the confidence he previously lacked. Throughout the narrative, the author explores existentialism and free will by lining up extraordinary coincidences and guiding them through their outcomes. A lot of it feels similar to Douglas Adams' narration in the Hitchhiker series, but Howe lacks Adams' skill and the held in check by keeping the whole affair on earth and somewhat realistic. After a while, it feels overblown and wordy.

Where Howe does shine is in understanding her characters and teenagers specifically. These are characters that you would expect to meet in your neighborhood. They're neither outstandingly heroic (except in small ways) nor are they terribly annoying. They are human and deal with emotions and challenges in the way teenagers do, often making the same mistakes that your neighborhood teens do. Unfortunately, that isn't enough to carry the book, Howe relies on intruding on the narrative on too many occasions.

Ryk Stanton says

This book is mostly notable for its authorial voice, which is somewhat unique, especially for YA fiction. This is the story of a teenager who changes his name to Blue Avenger and somehow becomes a force for goodness without actually being a superhero. The voice, however, is told as if the narrator were telling the story of a superhero in a pulp-era voice narrative. You know the voice that you hear at the end of the old

Batman TV series, the one that advised you to turn in to the same bat-time, same bat-channel? Yeah. it's like that, but the whole way through. I didn't dislike it, but I didn't like it either. It made the real conversations between characters seem less genuine, and I like character interaction.

What I did like, though, was the undercurrent of philosophy that ran through the book: the old free will versus destiny argument. I like it when a fairly shallow book has deeper talking points.

So, not a bad book but not a great one either ... worth the read, though.

Adam says

Howe introduces several subplots that slowly work themselves together and finally mesh in the very end. The main character, David (The Blue Avenger) and Omaha Brown are introduced in the outset of the novel with, at times light hearted, but powerfully sorrowful start. The plot slowly turns as David takes on a new identity and sets out to accomplish his life goals. Howe does a masterful job of not only mixing sorrow/sweet with enough action to keep even a tough guy :) like me reading, but does a witty job of setting out the ongoing philosophical question of free will vs. determinism and fate.

The plot reads a lot like the uber-popular Sachar's Holes in its construction, but digs a little deeper and in fewer pages. Great balance between being character driven and plot driven, as only a book about the question of free-will could be. It never preaches, doesn't take sides, and the ending will have you adding the second book in this series to your to-read shelf! This is an absolute must read... assuming there is a choice and not fate that selects your next book.

Hannah Givens says

Andromeda Stories is a three-volume manga by the author of To Terra..., Vol. 1. It's basically To Terra only good, and 300 pages shorter.

Where To Terra was a sci-fi story with fantasy workings, this is a fantasy story with sci-fi workings. The setting is the planet? star system? Andromeda, where they have dragon cavalry (awesome!) and a high-fantasy social structure, but advanced technology everywhere you might imagine magic. And where you might have an evil demon army, you have an evil army of mind-controlling machines taking over the planet. The technology parts are really what make the fantasy interesting; they make a very standard fantasy story go in cool new directions.

The characters are fantastic, especially where manga is concerned. Each one has a believable mixture of good and bad qualities unique to them, and they just seem to have a lot more THOUGHTS than other characters. They have reasons for the things they do and they really believe in those reasons.

The ending was one of those Twilight Zone endings... A foreseeable twist, but in a good way. Sad, faintly frightening, kind of cool, and interesting, but kind of off on a tangent where I would've put a more traditional ending.

On the whole it's a quick story with interesting ideas and pretty pictures, which sounds to me like good

manga!

Mowai says

Ok, so i liked this book so much, i gave it away and I bought another copy. I have not done that before. But this is a great read for teens and up. About a quirky kid and how he deals with the various things that are tossed at him. Example: His relationship with his younger bro, his mom, completion, school, social status quo, and even sex. So it's a G rated book but one that deals with issues that I thought everyone goes through. Highly enjoyed it and I still remember it as one of the most enjoyable reads I ever had. it's a short book, so recommend for a short plane or train ride. GO BLUE.

Stam Mustapha says

Macammanya manusia yang kononnya indie tak suka buku ini?

I mean, seorang remaja lelaki yang tiba-tiba menyatakan hasrat kepada ibunya untuk menukar nama kepada Blue Avenger, dan selepas berjaya menukar nama secara rasmi, personaliti dan dirinya terus berubah seolah mendapat keyakinan baru,

dan goes around memakai serban,

how freaking cool is that?!

Selepas itu berjaya mendekati perempuan yang sudah lama diminati disekolah, seorang gadis yang essentrik, dengan nama Omaha Nebraska Brown, yang rindukan abangnya di penjara.

Dan seorang pakcik yang slacker tapi cool gila, yang menghadiahkan sebuah van camper buruk kepadanya,

dan ada roadtrip dan adventure dan filosofi free will, roadtrip untuk majlis perkahwinan abang Omaha didalam penjara

kebetulan dan subplot yang bijak, cukup rasa emosi, sedih, gembira, big hearted good will dan melankolik. Walaupun ini adalah sebuah novel kategori bacaan remaja,

Tetapi adalah hampir sama melahirkan perasaan seperti ketika menonton filem indie yang ditulis oleh Wes Anderson kind of shit.

Ini lah contoh yang sepatutnya fiksyen indie di malaysia tulis!

Jae says

nearly horrid.

May says

Fast read. Tries to deal with a good subject but the tone and the way its written just makes it hard to come across. Its an alright book

Trey Kennedy says

This was a fun and quirky book about a boy who decides to change his name and the bravery and heroism that follows. It also has interesting thoughts on gun control.

Carly says

This is the weirdest book ever. The writing is intriguing and unique, but not necessarily great. The characters are odd, and the book is aimless. It's a book that you finish and then your first thought is, "where's the rest?"

WEIRD WEIRD WEIRD.

Also, a little too much questioning of free will and philosophy talk for my tastes.

Rachael says

What? No one else has read this book? But... it is so awesome!
