

The Case of the Toxic Mutants

Ursula Vernon

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Danny Dragonbreath may not be as book smart as his nerdy best friend, Wendell. He prefers napping to school work. But if you need someone to investigate a really weird mystery involving mutants, toxic sludge, and giant missing dentures? Detective Dragonbreath will boldly go where no detective has gone before!

The Case of the Toxic Mutants Details

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From Reader Review The Case of the Toxic Mutants for online ebook

Naomi Ruth says

I actually own this one (I just got it today and totally hugged it to myself grinning all the while).

Yet another adventure with Danny Dragonbreath. It did not disappoint. I just love these. They tell similar types of stories without being fill-in-the-blank stories. There is a character arch that Danny is progressing through.

Also, I love the little ways the author teaches new words or new things about animals, and things like that.

I just really enjoy these books. I want to own them all and sleep with them on my head, and carry them around with me on long journeys.

Kathleen says

I'm listening to Kevin and Ursula Eat Cheap while winding down for bed, so it seems like an excellent time to talk about the Dragonbreath books that I haven't reviewed!

Brief overview: Dragonbreath is a series of books, part graphic novel and part junior semieducational fiction, that follows a young dragon named Danny Dragonbreath through the trials and vicissitudes of his life, most of which are caused by him. His best friend Wendell, a brainy iguana who Does Not Want To Be Here, always gets dragged into his schemes, and they are occasionally accompanied by Suki, a salamander from Japan, and Christiana, a crested lizard who's just generally awesome. Other frequent characters include Danny's not-a-morning-person mother, his great-grandfather Dragonbreath who lives in mythic Japan and cheats at Trivial Pursuit, the local bully Big Eddy and his minions, and Danny's cousin Spencer.

Dragonbreath #9, The Case of the Toxic Mutants, introduces Danny's grandfather on his father's side, Grandfather Turlingsward. And you wondered why Danny's father took his mother's name. Anyway, his grandfather is elderly and cranky and hates all his neighbors in the retirement village where he lives, and he's convinced that the lady across the street has stolen his dentures. Since his dentures are somewhat larger than she is and she's missing her stone lawn goose, the kids (Danny, Wendell dragged along as per usual, and Christiana for some reason) don't believe it. They believe it even less when Danny spies a large pack rat hanging around in the tall grass outside his grandfather's house. Hilarity ensues. This one doesn't contain anything weirder than vaguely-drawn sewage, and if you've read the were-wiener book you'll be fine.

Jen says

I finished this in fantastic time and started giggling. My two-year-old came over, grabbed it, and insisted that I start reading. He sat calmly and let me read the first chapter without ever trying to rush me through the pages, close the book, or take the book away. This is a level of chapter book involvement that his four-year-old sister has yet to manage.

After I finished the chapter I told him it was time for bed. I thought he was going to try to take the book with him. There's something about a little dude being immediately obsessed with a snarky dragon that makes me a very, very proud momma.

Becky B says

Danny's paternal grandfather is demanding a visit. Danny would rather go to the dentist. Grandfather Turlingsward is not exactly the friendliest or kindest reptile on the planet, not even close. But Danny does his familial duty and goes to visit, dragging Wendell and Christiana along for support. Grandfather is all riled up because his dentures are missing. He's sure his neighbor at the retirement village took them. But the nice lady next door is also missing her dentures...and her cement goose. And then Wendell loses his new retainer and fears his life will be over when his Mom finds out. Danny, Wendell, and Christiana need to catch the thief before Wendell dies and Grandfather Turlingsward gets himself kicked out of the retirement home.

This one was a winner! My favorite Danny Dragonbreath in several books. It had several laugh out loud moments and a nice little mystery. I enjoyed watching the trio of friends solve the case in their own unique way and also give Danny some bonding time with his curmudgeony grandpa. Quite fun.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content or decency issues. Threats of toxic sludge touches and pointy sticks, but no violence.

Dolores says

I've been reading this series for a while, and it hasn't lost any steam. It is still laugh-out loud funny and soooo much kid appeal. What I like best is that the humor is pretty smart--all dry wit and snark, so it expands the younger reader's horizons a bit. In this entry we get to meet another relative of Danny's--his grandfather who is the textbook definition of curmudgeon. Someone has stolen his dentures (he suspects his neighbor) and Danny is pressed into service. So Danny sets out to find the culprit with his friends and the reader gets to tag along for the fun.

Mary Catelli says

Danny's mother sends him off to see his grandfather (on the other side of the family). Wendell and Christiana tag along, and they find some thief has stolen his dentures. Investigating the crime brings them through considering taming butterflies, an old hospital, cookies, Danny's ability to appraise treasure, pawprints that are the right shape and wrong size, and more.

Ashley Nelson says

Danny Dragonbreath is back for another adventure! Along with Wendell and Christiana, Danny heads to Shady Acres Reptile Home to check in on his Grandfather Turlingsward. Apparently Grandfather's dentures are missing, and he's acting crankier than usual, accusing the neighbor of stealing and generally causing

trouble. If he gets thrown out of the Home, he'll come live at Danny's house and have to share his bedroom. That enough is motivation for Danny to solve the mystery as quickly as possible. Full of the trademark dry humor and wit that has characterized this series, this story is another winner. Favorite part - cranky Grandfather calls the kids whippersnappers and tells them to "get off his lawn".

Jasmine says

Fresh off of a trip to Fae, we deal with denture-stealing mutant SPOILERS.

I just love these books. I've been mainlining them as an alternative to facebook at end of day. They take just about the same effort, but with much more humour, less agonizing political discussions, and about the same level of science.

Wait no, Christina the Junior Skeptic is part of these books. More science than facebook.

John says

Another worthy entry in a great series--this one featuring a colony of oversized pack rats living in a cavern threatened by a flood of toxic sludge from an abandoned hospital, and a search for the oversized dentures of Danny Dragonbreath's gigantic senior citizen grandpa.

Any book that contains a reference to "dog vomit slime mold"--a real thing! (*Fuligo septica*)--is already halfway to being a classic.

Sharon says

My two favorite moments in this one: the discussion of how big rats get and how the alligators that work in the sewers of NY are always complaining about them, and the moment when they're discussing the fate of whoever steps into the toxic sludge and Christiana says, "and by 'we' I mean Danny, of course," to which Danny replies, "Obviously," because we all know where we stand here.

I love Ursula Vernon. I'm so glad I have a kid to read these to, because I would never have discovered them otherwise.

Kest Schwartzman says

Danny is still Danny, but I do think he's progressing a little bit through these books and is slightly less awful to his friends.

Dolly says

Part-graphic novel, part chapter book, this is an entertaining and somewhat educational story about an adolescent anthropomorphic dragon, his iguana pal, and a girl lizard. It's the ninth book in the Dragonbreath series by Ursula Vernon.

This was a fun story featuring Danny, Wendell, and Christiana. They are challenged to solve the mystery of the whereabouts of missing things from around Danny's grandfather's neighborhood. The trio has an adventure that takes them to the abandoned site of an old hospital. While there are humorous parts throughout, this story seems to have less silly humor and more drama than some of the earlier tales. The tale offers a cautionary message about the improper disposal of toxic waste and the damaging effects on the environment.

We borrowed this book from our local library. The story is a quick read and the graphic novel-like scenes are woven throughout the story in a seamless way. This would be a great book for an older child who likes graphic novels, but not chapter books, since you get a little bit of both here.

Our girls adored this book and read it independently, arguing over who would get to read it first. It's a fast read and our oldest kept telling me about the different parts that she liked the best as I read it. I especially like that advanced vocabulary words are sprinkled throughout the tale, providing a little challenge without being too frustrating for younger readers. Overall, it's another fun book in the series and we really hope the author writes more - our girls love these books!

interesting quote:

[Danny:] *"Boy, people in the olden days sure liked their arsenic poison..."*

[Wendell:] *"Well, they didn't have cable."* (p. 96)

Loralee says

I just finished this. I'm an adult, and I know the target audience is kids, but hey. Like the other books in the Dragonbreath series, it was great! Danny and his pals, Christiana and Wendel are always going off on all sorts of adventures. Danny's attitude of 'let's plow forward into the unknown and see what happens!' is tempered by Wendel's logic, and Christiana's scientific facts. Even though they all seem completely different, the three friends manage to work together, and deal with whatever crazy thing falls in their path. I highly recommend the whole Dragonbreath series, and I look forward to the tenth book!

Dawn Siemer says

The Danny Dragonbreath series is my 6 year old daughter's favorite book series. My husband loves them so

much that he can't wait to read them to my daughter--he has to finish it the night we get it. (This is not a problem--it only takes about an hour.)

These are great books for boys ages 8-10 to read by themselves. There are a lot of great comic-style illustrations in every book, there's humor, action, and gross stuff. The chapters are short, which I think is good for kids too. There's some cognitive dissonance for my daughter because she loves the main character, but he doesn't like girls, especially in the early books.

The Case of the Toxic Mutants has some detective work, and introduces Danny's paternal grandfather. With a name like "The Case of the Toxic Mutants", I expected gross toxic mutants--perhaps like the sentient potato salad from earlier in the series. Nope, they're cute little mutants. I was a little disappointed by that, but my daughter was pleased.

That's all I can complain about. The plot was good, with all the characters participating in the solution. I enjoyed it, my husband enjoyed it, and my daughter enjoyed it.

We were all disappointed not to see an ad for the next book at the end. I hope that doesn't mean this will be the last book!

Deborah Schultz says

This is a very cute book. I laughed my way through it in spite of it being a children's book. Danny the dragon is a stereotypical boy, loving mythical monsters, gross slimy things, adventure, etc. His interactions with his mother, grandfather, and new friends are hilarious. His grandfather uses words like lollygag and whippersnapper. Danny's friend references Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail. I enjoyed the interspersed illustrations for the conversations, imaginings, and visual effects. I got caught up in the story very quickly and had a hard time putting it down.
