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Daniel X: Watch The Skies



Synopsis

Daniel X thought he'd seen it all in his dangerous days of hunting outlaws-but there's no business like show business, and Number Five on his list of deadly targets is the most appalling criminal yet. An intergalactic reality television producer, he's orchestrated-literally-the extermination of millions, with a soundtrack and laugh track to accompany it. The evil entertainer's catching it all on film, and he's looking for a big-ticket draw. Who better to star than the Alien Hunter himself? Daniel finds himself cast in the lead role of a terrifying season premiere... of the gravest show on Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I came to "Daniel X: Watch The Skies" a relative novice to the genre, or perhaps I should say genres as the story seems to be firmly in the realm of fantasy even as it employs the stuff of science fiction and super heroes. Having never read a James Patterson story before coming to Daniel X, I was more than a bit curious to open the cover of his latest effort in collaboration with Rust, especially since this book, although entertaining enough for a middle aged individual such as myself, is geared to a younger audience, which leads me to the first thing I would like to say about the book. In the world of Daniel X, anything is possible, anything. So, for example, the fine imaginations of the writers give Daniel an index finger which functions as a gun barrel capable of shooting anything from a spit-wad to, well, anything. The finger is the least of it. Friends, family, an elephant, vehicles, bacon, all sorts of good stuff, so Daniel wills it, so it is done. Cool. And therein lies one of the nice things about this book, since anything is possible, the story can and does

function on more than one level. Something for everybody then, and the story is, in some ways, the least of it, at least for older readers. I was more taken with the writing than I was the story, which, predictable though it was, nevertheless was entertaining. The writing however, was, at times, very clever and very funny. The lists Daniel's imaginary mother creates to excuse his absence from school are but one example of how this story and the writing work on different levels for different readers. So, while having great fun with language, not only do the lists make us laugh, but they give us reason to pause and consider. Clearly, the authors have some feelings about the state of public education these days in these Uniteds: "...Stick this in your fascist helmet: We've looked over the terms of the No Child Left Behind Act and determined that if your school is doing the driving, we're okay with Daniel being left behind." Or, on the lighter side under yet dark clouds: "He's seeing Dr. Yvonne Yurmunni for interstellar impecuniosity," while "Dr. I. M. Trubbell is assessing the state of his bureaucratic mumbo jumbo allergy." Amusing, timely stuff written well. I like the idea too, that the authors, through Daniel and his friends, flat out tell younger readers of this book, that reading and the search for knowledge are important, and so is effort. Friendship and the notion of caring for other living things, pets as well as people, are important too. These are fine ideas, and good then that they are expressed so bluntly in this book, even as older readers such as myself can taste the sting of rebuke for a world, at this point in time, which is, in no small part, of our own malodorous making. Daniel X will give young readers thrills and chills even as it fills them with wonder. Older teenagers will begin to read between the lines and find some of the rich humor that runs throughout the story, even as they discover that Daniel speaks loudest for them, and never more loudly than when he is gently mocking the senior partners. As for older readers, well, I guess we're dancing just as fast as we can.

It sucked me in the pages with just the first chapter. Very fun, though it's sort of predictable at parts. The action is more spread throughout, Daniel is becoming more one-of-a-kind, since he was a lot like Percy Jackson in the first one. As I said, predictable, but intriguing. It's not a book I would buy, but a book I would borrow from the library again and again. I would give the first book a 6.7/10, but this an 8.5/10.

great series for boys. I purchased all the books for my 11 year old that is reluctant to read. He is getting through them all this summer (parents with reluctant readers you know the joy). Would recommend.

Daniel X is a teen-age alien hunter with some special powers of his own. He rides a motorbike and can do wheelies on his front tire. He has four imaginary friends, but unlike most kids, he can materialize them and they often help him out when he needs help, or just keep him company when he needs company. The town of Holliswood is being taken over by aliens - from outer-space. These particular aliens are able to manipulate the radio waves, and t.v. stations to control humans. They also like to eat humans, after they make them dance around, filming them for entertainment. The head alien is a director. Even though there are some horrific things that happen to humans, the way it's written it's not very graphic or gross. Most teens have watched plenty of movies and shows that contain much worse than is shown in this book. Daniel X needs to find a way to stop the aliens from taking over the town, and eventually the whole world for the purpose of filming, eating and using the world and it's inhabitants as entertainment for the rest of the universe. But the alien in charge of this epic project, (alien no. 5) seems to always be one step ahead of Daniel X, and in fact is planning to use Daniel in the finale of the series that he's filming. Daniel X meets a young girl and her strange parents. He has quite a challenge solving this crisis, things go wrong but he perseveres. I found the narrative of this book interesting, and the dialogue between characters was pretty good. There's some snarky dialogue between aliens and Daniel X, and intelligent dialogue between Daniel X and his friends/family. Though gross things are happening, there isn't over the top descriptions, but there is enough to keep a teen or tween interested in the story. Daniel X also is not a do it yourself type of hero, he takes advice and help from his friends...although they are a product of his imagination. Maybe because it's written from the pov of a teenage boy, one who has been hunting aliens, but there doesn't seem to be much to his personality - there's a little history we learn as we read, and little things he quips. He seems to care about animals and humans. It's just not very in depth - the presenting of his personality. This was a cute, light/horror sci-fi book. The only thing that kind of got to me, was more the set up of the book. There are 91 chapters in this 251 page book. How can that be, do you wonder? most of these chapters are two pages long. As in half of one page (the beginning of the chapter) and half or a little over half of the second page (that would be the ending of this epic chapter). So really, I believe this book could have been condensed into 125 pages (approximately). I don't know if the authors meant for the book to be set up this way as a dramatic way of separating scenes, or if this was done to "flesh out" the book. There were quite a few of the 2-page chapters that could have been combined. A few of the chapters were really a continuation of the previous chapter. That's my only complaint of the book, and it's not anything to do with content or writing talent. Overall this is an entertaining book, a light read even with the horror aspects.

I love James Patterson and every book of his that I've ever read. He is an author that is impossible to put down. I purchased these books for my sons and plan on reading them for myself because I love to read. I was hoping his children books would be just as good as the adult books. I recommend anything written by him!! Fantastic author!!

Daniel X returns to take on an alien who wants to create the most popular reality show in the galaxy - and in the process, slaughter as many humans as possible (or, in the case of the women, get them to have his offspring - it's not what you think; he does it by passing out free cans of caviar ...). Daniel, and his friends and family (who are all dead, but who he can create from his imagination whenever he wants) must do whatever is necessary to save the small town of Holliswood, where the alien director has decided he will start filming his new reality series. Again, a fast, fun read with a hero that will appeal to Young Adult men. This book has a different co-author and you can tell - it has a different feel to it. However, it is still one I'd recommend for anyone who enjoys a fun, light science fiction read.

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