



## Nightmare Escape

*Greg Grunberg , Lucas Turnbloom (Illustrator) , Guy Major (Colorist)*

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Ben has a problem. When he sleeps he dreams, and when he dreams, they're all nightmares! But he can also jump into other people's dreams. So when his friends start falling victim to an evil dream-monster that prevents them from waking, Ben knows he has to help them. Easier said than done when dreams can shift and the monster knows his way around the ever-changing landscape of the mind! With help from a talking rabbit-companion who has a mysterious past, Ben might just be able to defeat the monster and save his friends . . . if he can figure out how to use the power within him against his enemies.

## Nightmare Escape Details

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Author : Greg Grunberg , Lucas Turnbloom (Illustrator) , Guy Major (Colorist)

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## From Reader Review Nightmare Escape for online ebook

### Dolly says

This is the first book in the Dream Jumper series by Greg Grunberg.

I loved that J.J. Abrams wrote the forward of this story and I anticipated that it would be a strange and wild tale.

Having undergone numerous sleep studies myself, I could sympathize with Ben's trepidation about having to get covered in sensors and being monitored all night. It's no fun, and washing out the goop they put on your skin and in your hair is the absolute worst!

Overall, it's a dramatic tale and a fun, fast read. I really enjoyed reading it and look forward to reading Curse of the Harvester next.

interesting quote:

*"What's with this random energy blast thing I can do now? What am I, a Tesla coil?"* (p. 93)

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### Rey Salgado says

\*Warning spoiler alerts\*

this book was about a kid named Ben that had lots of sleeping problems but not going to sleep it was his dreams he can go into anyone dreams and he has some power he had that he can save people in other peoples dreams/ nightmare and save them but every time he woke up he felt tired so his mom says that his sleeping problems reminds her of his dad and things were the same with him till he passed away, i notice this part that it seems like a mystery... Bens mom takes him to a special doctor and he lays down and falls asleep and something in his dream happens and shuts off the power and the machines and so nothing worked cause it was a power he had so they couldn't fix it so Ben said that he was going to use it to jump into dreams and help people so that's why it's called dream jumper and he helps his friends because they had some night terrors that were bad so it was up to him to save them.

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### Ms. Yingling says

Library copy

Ben can travel into other people's dreams and help them. When his crush goes into a coma, he travels into her dreams and realizes she is trapped there, along with some other people. With the help of a white rabbit and a magic stone necklace, he manages to save the day and also meets his grandfather. There is still the mystery of what has happened to his father to be solved, setting up the series.

I'm not a fan of graphic novels, but then I am not a visual person. I like to read words, and preferably ones in 14-16 point font. I don't understand why my struggling readers are drawn to them, since the print is often so small, and it's hard for ME to integrate the text with the pictures to get the whole story. Also, I can't stand the smell of these, and it never seems to dissipate.

That said, this had some good points. The text was clearer and easier to read, and the pictures were simpler as well. The story is easy enough to follow, although not fabulous. Much of the book was spent just setting up the series. Still, for my struggling readers, this is a step up from some the prefab graphic titles, but not as good as Hilo or Sunny Side Up.

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### **Lena says**

This was not one of my favorite graphics, unfortunately. The art is pretty stellar, though, so it gets a higher rating than the story itself. It had all the components that usually draw me in--a kid from a single-parent home, some magic, great illustrations. But for some reason I just didn't connect with the character or find him particularly sympathetic.

The story won't stick with me forever, like some of my favorite graphics like Amulet or Zita the Spacegirl. I probably won't continue this series, but if you're into graphics, it's worth checking off your list.

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### **Annette says**

**NIGHTMARE ESCAPE** by Greg Grunberg and Lucas Turnbloom is the first book in the exciting new Dream Jumper graphic novel for middle grades.

Like all kids, Ben has nightmares. What makes Ben unique is that his nightmares are real and he's able to jump into the dreams of others. When his girlfriend is caught in an endless nightmare, Ben must defeat the nightmare monster with a little help from a talking rabbit. The book's conclusion is satisfying, but leaves many questions unanswered and ready for the next book in this engaging series.

Librarian will find this graphic novel series popular among children who enjoy fantasy and adventure. The book's high-quality, full-color illustration will add to the appeal. Build a library display featuring GRAPHIX titles to feature this new addition to the this popular collection. Or ,create a "nightmare" display featuring books connected to dreams and nightmares.

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### **Yessenia o. says**

(Dream Jumper#1) Nightmare Escape by Greg Grunberg is a nice book. i really loved the art on the book. well, this story is about this guy who has trouble sleeping but it was because he is a dream jumper in the story he tries to save the people in a sleeping comma. they are in a comma because the have been captured by a nightmare lord thing. and they will awaken if they get free in their dream. and it is his job to free them.

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### **Scott Robins says**

Thin, cliche plot, a lack of distinct characterization and artwork that doesn't quite fit with the tone of the book and the subject matter. It's a bit of a mishmash that doesn't quite come together. Unfortunately this a miss for me. Read from an ARC with unfinished artwork.

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### **Suleiman heyidar says**

really good wonder if the other books would be better

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### **Reading is my Escape says**

Old concept made new again...

In Dream Jumper: Nightmare Escape Ben learns that he has a gift. He can jump into the dream world and see other people's dreams. When Kaylee (his not girlfriend), falls into sub-rem sleep and can't wake up, Ben decides he must find a way to save her. While asleep, Ben meets Lewis, a mysterious rabbit who helps him fight evil forces in the dream world.

There are currently two books in the Dream Jumper series. The idea for this series came from a dream that author (and actor) Greg Grunberg's son had. The drawings are bright and cinematic feeling. They match perfectly with the story's sense of adventure and mystery.

I really enjoyed this one. The concept reminds me of the Freddy Kruger movies, but this is much tamer - meant for the younger set. Ben is a great character and I really like him. I will try to read the second book too. I also think I will suggest we add this to our elementary school library.

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### **Eujay D says**

This book was good and it was weird

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### **Karissa says**

My son actually requested this from the library and I decided to read it before we returned it. This was a surprisingly well done middle grade fantasy graphic novel that I enjoyed a lot.

I liked the main character Ben and how he helps other kids with their nightmares. His mom is concerned because of how tired he always is and rightfully so.

This is an interesting storyline in itself, but the storyline gets infinitely more complex when Ben finds out that some of the kids he's been helping actually have some sort of sleeping sickness that won't allow them to wake up.

The illustration is colorful and fun and I enjoyed it a lot. The illustration is also easy to follow. I enjoyed the characters and both their family ties and friendships with each other. The story is intriguing and interesting.

My 10 year old son absolutely loved this book as well and him and I are both dying to read the next installment in the series!

Overall a very well done middle grade fantasy graphic novel. This book has great characters, a great story, and wonderful illustration. I can't wait to see where the story goes from here! I would definitely recommend to those who like middle grade graphic novels and fantasy adventures.

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### **Lola says**

This book is very... random.

I don't remember the last time I gave a one-star-rating to a graphic novel. For 99% percent of the time, they're such short/fast reads that even if they're not amazing exactly, they're not long to read, and so, not synonym of nightmare.

But I'm struggling to find anything redeemable about this.

I didn't like the graphics, and that's super important seeing that this is a GRAPHIC novel. Not my style at all. The backgrounds are very bleak, as in there isn't much else drawn except for the characters.

And those colors. Digital ones. I'd choose watercolours anytime, if they all looked like the ones in this book.

I usually don't mind being thrown directly into the action upon starting a book, but it's such a cliché for stories to start with nightmares. Such a cliché. (And I've got to admit that the idea of dream jumpers isn't anything new either.)

What I find so random about this, because I have no idea where it comes from is, 1) the magic, 2) the creatures, 3) the villain, 4) the dream jumping, 5) the psychotic doctors (falls under creatures, I guess) 6) the creatures, the creatures, the creatures, the creatures. Oh and the animal-morphing.

They didn't make any sense! Normally a world has a type – animals, fantastical creatures, weird humanoids, supernatural beings etc. but there was every weird thing you could possibly imagine in this!

SO RANDOM.

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### **Colona Public Library says**

I first picked this book up because it was written by Greg Grunberg. This graphic novel is about a boy who was wild dreams that included his school friends. He must rescue them from their nightmares. When his mother takes him to a sleep clinic to see why he is having all these nightmares, the adventure begins. The graphics are well done and I can't wait to read the next book.

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### **Christine Fitzgerald says**

This is the first book in the series. It reminded me of the Amulet series, boy with a gift he doesn't know about, yada, yada.

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### **Barbara says**

Ben Maxwell spends many nights in a restless fashion, stuck in a series of nightmares. When he awakens, he recognizes some of the characters and features of his dreaming. Oddly, his classmate Kaylee disappears into a dream state one afternoon instead of showing up for their tutoring session. Since Ben's mother has been worried about her son, he volunteers for a sleep study and ends up going into a sub-rem state during which he is able to move into the dreams of others. He finds help from some unlikely sources, one of whom gives him a somni stone that has certain powers and is the goal of the evil Erebus. Readers will be able to use the hints on the final pages to guess what may lie ahead for Ben and the identity of Erebus. While I liked this well enough, I didn't find it nearly as compelling as other graphic novel series such as Amulet to which it's been compared. I will reserve judgment to change my review depending on the next installments. Still, it has appeal for late intermediate and early middle grade readers.

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