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Gretchen Kelley

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Sixth grade would be a lot easier if your fantasies came true . . . or would it?

Middle school may be tough, but Charlie Burger has a plan for how he'll get through it: mind his own business and stay out of the limelight. But the sixth grade has other plans for Charlie. His best friend Franki starts acting weird--since when does she like to dance?--and everyone from his mom to his soccer coach is on his case all the time. Worst of all? The school bully, Boomer Bodbreath, seems to think Charlie has a bull's-eye on his back.

When Charlie's eccentric science teacher hands out writing journals instead of beakers and goggles, Charlie is convinced his year can't be saved. That is, until he starts writing stories about Dude Explodius, an awesome, studly superhero--and those stories start coming true.

Can a kid who's used to the sidelines suddenly take a shot at saving the world?

Superheroes Don't Eat Veggie Burgers Details

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From Reader Review Superheroes Don't Eat Veggie Burgers for online ebook

Susan Dunn says

Meh - it took me a long time to finish this one b/c I kept going on to other books that I liked better. Charlie is dealing with a bully at school, weird looks from his best (girl) friend, and annoying sisters at home. Basically, life stinks. Then his new science teacher gives the class journals to write in. Charlie creates a super hero who deals with the things in his life that are troubling or annoying, and strangely enough, the things that he writes kind of begin to come true. Not as good as it sounds....

Barbara says

Like so many middle graders looking for a way to avoid trouble during those particular years, sixth grader Charlie Burger thinks he might have a foolproof plan. He'll just stay out of the way of any bullies and fly way beneath the radar so that no one will notice him. But unfortunately, bullies aren't that easy to thwart, and he gets in trouble simply for eating a sandwich that's different from the norm. When his very odd science teacher encourages him to write in his journal, Charlie is doubtful that writing will have any use at all in protecting him. But to his surprise, his writings about Dude Explodius, his imaginary superhero alter ego, start coming true, and life becomes a little bit more bearable. As his written words silence his pesky little sister, his bitter and verbally abusive coach, and his nemesis Boomer Bodbreath, though, Charlie begins wondering just how far he should go with his writings and imaginary adventures. In this, her very first book, the author takes readers back to middle school with well-written scenes of humiliation as well as those changing emotions between boys and girls, and has created a likeable character in Charlie. Middle grade readers will also love his best friend, Franki, who is dealing with a tough home life and a stepfather who is out of control while somehow managing to have the courage to face off the bullies at Gatehouse Middle School. While there is quite a lot going on in this humorous book, which interchanges the main storyline with Charlie's journal writings, and musings about his own grandfather, much of it will appeal to readers who see themselves in Charlie or Franki and recognize that friendship is its own reward. While there are hints of romance in the future, I prefer to let the relationship play out as loyal friends who have each other's back.

Ms. Yingling says

Just didn't work for me. The premise was good, but some things were too stereotypical, like the bullying.

Darcia Scates says

I liked this book. The author pulls you in right away. There is no down time, or boring time. From start to finish you will be pleased. Great job Gretchen Kelley. I will read her next one.

Debbie Tanner says

This is a middle grade to middle school kind of book. Charlie is in 6th grade and trying to figure out how to navigate the new social scene. His basic strategy is to stay out of sight, but when the big bully notices him, he has to figure out how to make a change. I kept thinking that he was really going to take a stand but it turns out that he writes a fantasy fiction story with a super hero that saves the day and then things that he writes, happen to the people around him. I was telling my students about and they were interested but it wasn't really my favorite.

Zachary Price says

I liked this book, some parts were way more exciting than the others but there was always something going on. I liked that there were many things involved with the story like soccer, and not just one problem. Like I said, some parts got super boring but in all, this was a good book.

Anne says

Everyone knows middle school can be tough, so Charlie Burger devises a plan to deal with it: be as invisible as possible. However, some bullies make this impossible plus the fact that his dad runs a well-known veggie burger restaurant and take-out business. (Burger's burgers, anyone?) Charlie's science teacher gives everyone a journal and when Charlie starts writing in it, seems things to happen in conjunction with what he writes.

This is a debut novel. I picked it up because I thought it would be funny. I did not find it funny. I think younger readers (4th-6th grade) will enjoy it, but it is too young for the middle school students that I work with.

Amy says

It was a solid middle-grade read. Funny, entertaining and lots of plot twists. I enjoyed it, but didn't really attach to the characters in book. Charlie Burger, a very strange and silly last name, there were some character development going on, but the voice was a tad bit young for me, if I read it when I was younger, then I might be impressed. and also this bully issue is getting out of hand, aigooo, too bad!! There's one more thing I like about this book is the parent's involvement and their career. It was nice to see how parents grow and their relationship with their children. So 3.5 stars!

Cara says

This fantasy has a very realistic bent to it in terms of family dynamics, friendships, and the realities of middle school. The text is very readable and relatable for readers, which will engage them in the story. Nakedness is employed in two key scenes to add humor, such as when Charlie is pantsed and when the school bully ends up naked at the dance due to Charlie's strange powers; this is uncommon for a middle

grade novel. Readers will more than likely sympathize with Charlie and his friends, while feeling glad that the bullies are reformed in the end. Recommend this book to readers in grades 4-6, especially boys, who are looking for a novel about kids like them, with a superpower twist.

Brenda says

This might appeal to younger readers, but I don't think it's the kind that will crossover to adult appeal. There's just not enough to it.

I kept waiting for the story to take off, but it never really got going. I also could never really connect with any of the characters. There are just so many other complex, wonderful middle grade books that I just can't recommend this one.

Annette Vellenga says

My son (age 10) thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Charlie is a regular kid who has just started middle school along with his best friend Frankie. His sister Stella warns him that grade six will change both him and Frankie but he just doesn't see it.

Enter Mr. P and the notebook assignment.

Confusion, change, what to do, what to do ??? Gramma Pickle tells him his grandpa had a journal too...and how important it was to him.

I don't want to give away too much of the story, but it was a captivating book. I didn't expect the ending.... it was a definite cause for conversation between the lad and myself as he worked to understand this difficult topic. Dealing with bullies of all different sorts can be a very hard one to figure out.... and Charlie discovers a braveness that he didn't really have...and that was TOTALLY cool to see.

For me as a mom seeing the wheels turning in my boy's head was wonderful.

Gerard Villegas says

Hmm, looking at this ARC that I read, I had to think about whether or not I enjoyed reading Superheroes Don't Eat Veggie Burgers. I have to say that I liked it. Did I love it? No and here's why. I found the premise a little bit cliché and predictable. Here we have a superhero themed book and, coming from someone who loves comic books, I had high expectations for this. I mean the idea of a superhero possibly coming to life could've worked in terms of the fantasy genre or even, in this case, magical realism which I'm sure the author intended to do with all the metaphors neatly displayed in the book. I tried to find it and it just didn't work for me. Somehow it got lost in translation somewhere.

Then there is the Death Note reference. For those that are not unfamiliar with this particular Japanese manga/anime. Death Note is about a young man who writes a name in a some magical book that predicts when that particular individual will die. Naturally, it comes true. I know this a bit of a stretch but the idea of

some powerful book that makes events happen we've seen in various media forms such as the film Adaptation and the cartoon The Pagemaster. Sadly, it's already been done.

Next, you have the theme of the bully and the main character, Charlie, symbolizing the hero and saving everyone. He tries to stop his school bully and there is the matter of saving his best friend from her bullying father. All right. Too many elements. Too many plotlines veering off course. I'm not really quit sure what direction the story is heading.

Overall, Superheroes Don't Eat Veggie Burgers is an okay book for me. I think if it was fine tuned a little, then it would definitely really work with the overall themed of an anti-bullying campaign.

It's more of a one-time read.

Teresa Edmunds says

Charlie is starting 6th grade and middle school. He has his best friend, Franki, to help him adjust. She's not afraid of anything. Charlie tries to at least survive. At the center of the story there is a science notebook that might or might not be magic. When Charlie writes in it, he writes as if he's a superhero saving the day. Things may or may not be happening because of what Charlie writes. I really don't know how to write this review because the story is all over the place. There is the typical middle school bullies. Lots of mean and embarrassing things occur. There are first loves and crushes, even an accidental kiss. The story is odd, and confusing, and forced. I've taught 6th grade and I think Kelley should have made the characters a year older. Yes, there is a difference in just a year. But then again, that wouldn't have really fixed the story, so never mind.

Kendra Thiel says

Gretchen Kelley tells a charming tale of a middle school outcast turned hero after his science teacher convinces him that he has power and magic within him. I really enjoyed this and tweens will get a kick out of the kid-turned-superhero aspect.

Tracy Holland says

Story about friendships, bullies and difficult, life changing decisions, actions and consequences. A good read for reluctant readers.
