



Young Sentinels

Marion G. Harmon

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The reward for a job well done is another job.

After the Sentinels' takedown of the second incarnation of Villains Inc., things are relatively quiet in the great metropolis of Chicago. Astra, aka Hope Corrigan, is able to breathe a little, to hang out with her friends, and even to attend classes (where her professors are starting to think she is a myth). But Blackstone is loading more training and responsibilities on her, and converging events threaten the compromises she has made to balance her superhero career and student life and to protect her family and friends.

Worse, a new supervillain has come to town, and it will take all of Chicago's capes to defeat the threat of the Green Man — if he can be defeated at all. When a new supervillain group begins targeting anti-superhuman groups, it becomes apparent that even the Sentinels are going to need help.

Because one thing is certain: Chicago is going to have a very bad day.

Young Sentinels Details

Date : Published August 25th 2013 by CreateSpace

ISBN : 9781492280781

Author : Marion G. Harmon

Format : Paperback 314 pages

Genre : Comics, Superheroes, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Young Sentinels for online ebook

John says

Another fantastic read. Harmon delivers exactly what I want in this series. I appreciate the characters and continue to be amused by them and concerned for their lives. It speaks well to his prose that he can spin stories that draw me in so completely.

Ronny says

Pretty good sequel, adds several new characters making up the new YS team, with 1 exception they seem likeable to some degree or another. Too sick to think of anything else.

Henry Lazarus says

There are bigger villains waiting, including one who can amp up powers or temporarily take them away. The Green man, who works for him for instance can cause huge forests to grow, threatening the Chicago Airports. Astra picks and is put in charge of a group of Young Sentinels (paper from Amazon) Then reporters out her and she can't hide as Hope anymore. Then her powers are taken, she is kidnapped. When rescued she only has her team to help save the city as the rest of the Sentinels are putting down a prison break. I love the series and eagerly await more tales. review printed by the Philadelphia Weekly Press

David says

More super hero goodness, just what I wanted!

This one did have a couple little things that did annoy me:

1. I wasn't in love with the addition of multiple perspectives. The first two books were just Astra, this one added in several others - and in particular, Megaton and Grendel just weren't especially distinct from each other in tone and voice.
2. Narrative was a teeny bit bumpy - the aborted romance with Seven in particular was kind of...odd. I suppose you could argue that she is still a teenage girl and this just reflects that.

Other than that, it was more of the superhero fun that we got in the first two books. I love this series, such a great overall optimistic tone, feels like the superhero cartoons I grew up watching. Very relaxing and pleasant to read.

C.T. Phipps says

The fourth book in the Wearing the Cape series, Young Sentinels continues the adventures of Astra the world's most powerful nineteen-year-old. When last we left our heroine, she was stepping into the role of being the world's most powerful hero, period. This book examines the fact she's still a very young woman, barely an adult, and how other superhuman teenagers are reacting to their powers.

The continued development of Astra is handled throughout the book, including a shocking twist where she's forced to confront a situation where her powers are useless. I was disappointed with the developments regarding her relationship with the superhero Seven, hoping it would develop into something more. Most of what I liked in this book is her relationship with Shelly, the superheroine Galatea.

Young Sentinels introduces a number of new characters to the mythos as well, my favorites of which being Megaton and Ozma. Megaton is a typical teenaged boy, contrasting strongly against Astra and possibly her future love interest. Ozma is another fictional character come to life, this one being the titular Empress of Oz.

As a fan of the Oz books when I was a child and teenager, it was nice to have someone remember the Empress existed. The Ozma of Young Sentinels is a significantly darker character than the one from the books. Ozma merrily turns anyone who offends her into a hat for a short while and is believed to conquer Kansas in the future. As a result, everyone is treating her like a ticking time bomb--a quality she handles with royal aplomb.

The book introduces a number of new villains to the series as well, including the Green Man (possessing powers similar to the Floronic Man x10) and a group called the Wreckers. We also get a new mastermind to replace the Teatime Anarchist. I won't spoil the new villain's identity but I was underwhelmed--I wanted more insight into their motivations as well as plans.

If there's a flaw with the books, I'd have to say we don't get as much insight into the "regular world" which was the big appeal of the previous volumes. What separates the series from a comic book is the insight into the lives of the characters. This book is mostly action sequences and battles between heroes versus villains.

In conclusion, Young Sentinels is a good read and enjoyable but not amazing. It's mostly set-up for future volumes and fight scenes. Sadly, by being more like a comic book, the novel cripples its ability to live up to the full-potential of its medium as previous works did. Despite this, it's really fun to read. Fans of the series should pick it up for this reason alone.

8/10

K.F. says

What shall I do with my life now that I have finished the last current book in the series?

I DO NOT KNOW.

This is all I could have asked for. We finally got more with the Young Sentinels. We finally got a glimpse into the less fortunate side of breakthroughs (and yay for acknowledging one's privilege, Astra!)

We finally got Jackie back, which was lovely. And Acacia. I really want to see the further adventures of those two.

I am very glad that the whole romance thing didn't pan out between Astra and Seven because that would have been...off. Honestly I hope that Seven turns out to be secretly gay and is just "lucky" enough not to have been outed yet against his will.

I do like Astra and Grendel, though. He seems like a sweet kid. I wonder what his race is, though? The Infamous Dreads would probably look terrible unless they were dark. I wish we could more physical description of him when he's not morphed out! Unless he IS morphed out all the time?

OK, so I would say: read this book if you're curious about more in this series and don't mind being left a little hanging. There's room for more books but it's still a satisfying end--no cliffhangers, no real unfinished business (but room for finishing more). It's like a coffee that's got room for cream--it's fine on its own, but its flavor could be expanded.

PS: unlike some people in the reviews, I actually LOVED the switch in point of views. Astra was getting tiring, because I feel like she doesn't see the whole picture. POVs I would love in the future: Shelley, Ozma, and Blackstone

WHY IS THERE NOT MORE IN THIS SERIES, THO.

Harold Reavley says

I've been really enjoying this series, but this book wasn't as good as the others. I'm not a big fan of point of view change in the middle of a series. I think it's done to show the change from being Astra book to being a Young Sentinels book. I'm also not a big fan of Ozma, but to each their own. Still worth reading and I will keep reading the series.

Gail says

Getting good

So much more character development through this series. I'll forgive the "romance" of book one if we can grow up more than a year in the next books.

Deanna Stanley says

While not great, this was a good, enjoyable sequel to Wearing the Cape and Young Sentinels. Rather than expand on plot points or anything else, I'm just going to tell you what worked, and what didn't.

Things I liked -

- More Astra! While not a lot of character development, we did see some of her old conflicts get resolved.

- FABULOUS new super villain/multi-book plot. I was very disappointed that the Teatime Anarchist died so quickly - I thought he had a lot of potential. It's nice to see another baddy showing up with just as much, if not more potential. And this one didn't die! I really look forward to what they'll be doing next.
- Some insight into the behind the scenes experience of a conflict. Normally we've seen Astra take on the bad guys and stomp on them, this time we got to see the directing that goes on behind her orders.

Things I didn't like -

- Alternate POVs. Actually, I like the concept of additional POVs, but I didn't feel there was that much difference between the voices. I occasionally had to go back and see who's POV I was reading.
 - No real off-time. Usually there's some off the clock action happening, whether a party Hope's mom is giving, or just hanging out at the Fortress. This time, everything pretty much happened at the Dome. It felt rather insular. One of the things that makes Hope different is all her ties to the community OUTSIDE the Dome.
 - Price. I happily snatched up the prior two books when they were under \$5. This book I borrowed. Sorry, but I don't like spending that much.
-

Larry says

While I think this one has to be rated slightly lower than the previous two novels in the series, it is still an amazing read and a great continuation of the series. In this novel, as demonstrated by the title, Astra gets her own team of young super heroes, in the tradition of young justice and teen titans. The new cast of characters are great and will make amazing story material in time to come. While I love all the characters and can't wait to find out more about them, it is quickly becoming a fairly megalithic cast of characters, which makes it harder for individual characters to shine. Still, the plot is great, and it keeps the reader desperately turning the page, wondering what will happen next.

Matthew Quiett says

In the newest book in Marion G. Harmon's "Wearing the Cape" series, we get to see the world explored a little more – through revelations during an attack of someone called "Green Man" and the ensuing chaos that comes from it. We meet new, young capes who form a team under Astra, the Young Sentinels. And we learn just enough in this novel to make the anticipation of the next book grow to super proportions.

Marion's handling of "normal life" in a super hero world is part of what keeps drawing me back to his novels – that and the good writing, the interesting characters and the hectic action. Marion shows us that life isn't normal in a world with super heroes and that things can get scary and down right apocalyptic very quickly. The story opens up with an attack in Chicago by Green Man, who basically causes rapid and violent plant growth. This leads to a breakthrough, as a high school is caught in the path of the charging plant growth and a student explodes onto the scene.

You can read the rest of my review at [Nerd's Domain](#)

Denae Christine says

I didn't like the extra povs, or the way Hope has a crush on the ugly monster dude (just because he has a deep voice!). I still think there are too many characters and names. I did finally figure out who that Quin girl was, though (Harlequin).

The powers got too outlandish. I like super powers because they have limits and drawbacks. Start giving people magic wands and letting them do anything, and your characters cannot be cool any more. They might do neat things, but I'll never believe they were clever. I'll never believe they were ever in danger. Every new magical ability feels like Deus ex machina.

So, this last one wasn't nearly as good. :/

Niall Teasdale says

A bunch of new, teenage heroes are introduced in this book and the author apparently discovered the issue with first-person narrative. His solution is to switch viewpoints at every opportunity. I found that irritating to begin with, but it grew on me. My only complaint by the end was that the differentiation between internal voices was kind of shallow. If the characters didn't have different powers and got their names at the top of their PoV sections, I'd have trouble figuring out who was speaking.

Clearly a set-up for "things to come," this is still an enjoyable book with another fast-paced, non-stop-action plotline.

Mary Catelli says

Another Wearing the Cape one. An Astra one again, although this one is multi-POV. Spoilers for earlier ones.

It opens with attacking trees. Hope is on patrol when she sees them go wild, calls for help, and goes in on the rescue and try to stop the growth. And at a nearby school, an accident while they were evacuating leads to an explosive breakthrough -- fortunately late enough that Hope can save him from falling to his death.

And in the aftermath, it turns out that the Sentinels decided they need a new team. They don't want to just beef up theirs for PR reasons, so they don't look like an army. So -- the Young Sentinels, with Hope/Astra leading them. Hope picks out three more besides herself, the new breakthrough, Mal/Megaton, and the two already connected with the team, Jamal/Crash and Galatea. All three of whom come from the nearby school for breakouts, and all three of whom, in the Teatime Anarchist's records of the no-longer-future, turned bad in one way or another; she hopes to avert that. Tsuris, with wind powers. Grendel who can shift, and get speed or strength or toughness depending on how he does it. And Ozma. The books, she observes, aren't quite accurate.

The story involves someone Astra met before going bad; more attacks by trees; a villain organization that no longer cares whether it's secret; Hope's family and a secret becoming public; deliberate attempts to provoke Mal; new costumes; the three choices making a dramatic entrance from their airplane; Ozma's finding a Wishing Pill; Grendel's dead family; and more.

David Reed says

I get why Marion needed multiple POVs for this one, but. . .not my favorite style. Even though every POV was 1st person, Marion did a good job at making every head-hop unique and distinctive.

Although, I thoroughly enjoyed the book, there were a couple of dramatic moments that got glossed over with some possibilities that deserved more attention. No spoilers here. =) But I'm looking at you, *Wishing Pill*, because you swallowed two of them in a less than satisfying way.

Marion is getting better at raising the stakes, but I'm concerned about the whimsical and unbalanced nature of the "new" heroes he chooses to imagine. I'm starting to have trouble keeping track of everyone in the universe as it is, and I just re-read the first two novels and two novellas.

I'm still along for the ride, though. Looking forward to the next book!
