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#10169590 in Books 2016-10-11 2016-10-11Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, UnabridgedOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.75 x .50 x 5.25l, Running time: 12 HoursBinding: MP3 CD | File size: 19.Mb

Jennifer Finney Boylan : Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Impressively solid YABy Christine F. StewartYou can compare Falcon Quinn to Harry Potter, and you will. But it's not a knockoff. Boylan's off-kilter writing style and her eye for amusing and engaging characters brought me into the story from the very first line. The pacing of the story was a little jumpy early on, but the book quickly settles into a smooth flow and the pages sail by. Falcon as a character is not unusual, which is the point. He feels like the decent-hearted struggling kid you probably knew in school, or possibly WERE in school. What's enjoyable about him is that right from the outset, he's TRYING to do right. His mistakes are as interesting as his successes, and he reaches only normal teenage levels of emo rather than bipolar bogglement. His friends Max, Megan, Pearl, Johnny and the rest are great fun in their own right. The dialog is the kind I can hardly resist reading out loud, both because it's well-written and funny, but also because I can hear each character's voice so clearly in my own head. The plot is entertaining as well. It rolls along, rarely in a straight line, but always going somewhere new and...well, FUN! Though you can probably deduce where the story will wind up, this is a book about the trip and not the finish line. And the trip is worth taking. Finally, the theme. I liked that it's more questions than answers. While it's clear Boylan has ideas about what the answers are, she does less pushing than some inferior YA authors do. What makes someone a monster? What is acceptance worth? Ultimately, how much do I have to make way for the world and how much must the world make way for me? A bad author tells. A good one asks. The story does cover the age-old YA theme of finding out what makes you special and worthy, but to say that's a Harry Potter trope does disservice to the MANY books on this theme that have come before and after. Narnia, anyone?Similarly, the setting ("special" children learning to manage their powers) is also very well-traveled ground. Diana Wynne-Jones, Tamora Pierce, Andre Norton and many others have written on it, and that's just off the top of my head and not mentioning the X-Men. Certain ideas are WORTH revisiting. Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror is a quick, enjoyable read with memorable characters and dialog. I'm not typically a series-reader, but I'm very much hoping for a sequel.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Of A GenreBy Paula KeiserJennifer Finney Boylan began by appearing to have borrowed from the Hobbit-Harry Potter-Maximum Ride genre, in that it involves a society that exists only in imagination. In fact, it begins very much like Harry Potter, with children who are somehow "different" being transported by a magic bus to a school for such unusual people and going through a similar sorting process to discover the exact nature of their "difference." Then it goes in another direction. Each main character, along with their schoolmates, begin to morph, physically, into the type of "monster" they have been diagnosed to be, and now they must discover how to fit into the world as entirely different creatures from those they have known, and into a society

that routinely rejects anyone who doesn't conform to arbitrary norms. I have begun reading many books and then putting them down after a few chapters, never to cross my eyes again. Others languish on my end table, being read whenever I had nothing else to do. Not so with Falcon Quinn and The Dark Mirror. I began reading on Friday evening, and by Saturday afternoon I had finished all 486 pages. I'm looking forward to the sequel.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. FunBy CustomerMy 8 year old and I enjoyed reading this together. Adventure, learning about friendships and loyalty. Really opened up coverstations about choosing to do the right thing and what is important in a friend.

Thirteen-year-old Falcon Quinn and his neighbors, Max and Megan, board bus number 13 for school on an ordinary day in Cold River, Maine. Only the bus doesnrsquo;t take its ordinary route, and Falcon and his friends soon find themselves in an extraordinary place mdash; on Shadow Island, at the Academy for Monsters. With a student body stranger than the cast of any monster movie Falcon has ever seen, the academy is home to creatures and oddities of all kinds. In the academyrsquo;s atmosphere, Falconrsquo;s friends begin to unleash and enjoy their monster natures, from flying with Pearl, La Chupakabra, to decaying with the ldquo;Zombie Snap.rdquo; Falcon has always felt different, with his one bright blue eye and one shadow-black eye, but is he really a monster? Will he discover the other thing that makes him different when he finds himself in the Black Mirror? And when he learns that the schoolrsquo;s mission is to teach students to hide their aberrant natures, Falcon and his friends need to find a way to fight back for their monster selves.Bestselling author Jennifer Finney Boylan introduces Falcon, Max, Megan, and their band of monster friends in this first installment of a hair-raising and sidesplitting adventure of monstrous proportions.ldquo;A nightmare and a fairy tale all rolled into one, falcon quinn is an action-packed adventure full of slimy, terrifying, heart-wrenching, and hilarious moments. Mostly, though, itrsquo;s about letting your monster off leash and learning to trust it, fur, fangs, slime, and all.rdquo;mdash;Cecily von Ziegesar bestselling author of the Gossip Girl series

From School Library JournalGrade 5ndash;8mdash;At first glance, this book set at The Academy for Monsters appears to be a perfect selection for readers suffering from Hogwarts withdrawal. After all, it is about misfits who learn they are monsters and travel to a boarding school where they can be with others of their kind. Only, in this story, the Academy's a place where monsters must learn to quell their fiendish natures so they can exist in normal society without being chased by angry mobs with torches and pitchforks. And whereas Rowling's bespectacled hero found a place where he belonged, Falcon Quinn feels just as out of place at the Academy as he did in the real world. No one can pinpoint his monster-identity, and many feel that he's an imposter. A few loyal friends surround Falcon, and, ultimately, his relationships with them help him discover his true identity. This story gets a little busy in the end, and the monsters are mostly caricatures rather than well-developed individuals. But despite these flaws, this is an entertaining read. With vampires, ghouls, Sasquatches, Frankenstein, a spunky goatsucker, and one unhappy enchanted slug, this story offers a humorous look at the hidden lives of monsters. Reluctant readers may be discouraged by the length of the book, but if they can get past that hurdle, there's enough page-turning action to keep them hooked. And there's a twist that will leave kids anxiously awaiting the next installment in this series.mdash;Heather M. Campbell, formerly at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistThis first book of a new series opens with an attention-grabbing scene: 13-year-old Falcon Quinn and his classmates Megan and Max head to school, as usual, but their bus hurtles past all the regular stops and disgorges its passengers in front of a strange castle. There, the three learn that they are actually monsters and are part of the incoming class at the Academy of Monsters. Megan and Max are quickly labeled (an ldquo; elementalrdquo; and a Sasquatch), but Falconrsquo; s identity remains a mystery. Schoolwork quickly begins to teach the youngsters to resist their monster natures in order to evade the Guardians, a monster-hunting group. Then Falcon overhears his teachers discussing a harmful plot, and the kids flee, only to fall into more danger, forcing Falcon to make a terrible decision. The story is excessively long, and the message about embracing individuality and difference is heavy-handed. Still, persistent readers will be rewarded with the secret of Falconrsquo; sidentity and the lure of dangers to come in the next installment. Grades 5-8. --Lynn RutanAbout the AuthorFRED BERMAN is an award-winning audiobook performer. His voice can also be heard on hundreds of commercials and video games. As an actor, he has worked extensively in television, film, and theatres around the country. He lives in New York City with his wife and two children.

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