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Hero



Synopsis

The last thing in the world Thom Creed wants is to add to his father's pain, so he keeps secrets. Like that he has special powers. And that he's been asked to join the League the very organization of superheroes that spurned his dad. But the most painful secret of all is one Thom can barely face himself: he's gay. But becoming a member of the League opens up a new world to Thom. There, he connects with a misfit group of aspiring heroes, including Scarlett, who can control fire but not her anger; Typhoid Larry, who can make anyone sick with his touch; and Ruth, a wise old broad who can see the future. Like Thom, these heroes have things to hide; but they will have to learn to trust one another when they uncover a deadly conspiracy within the League. To survive, Thom will face challenges he never imagined. To find happiness, he'll have to come to terms with his father's past and discover the kind of hero he really wants to be.

Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; Reprint edition (May 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423101960

ISBN-13: 978-1423101963

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #144,184 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #152 in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #396 in Â Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

Customer Reviews

Good genre fiction is able to transcend its genre and help its readers resolve real life conflicts. I think of Star Wars telling the story of how a group of self-involved young adults finds a sense of purpose in the world at large and fights to save the Empire all against the backdrop of star fighters and space stations. Buffy the Vampire Slayer which carefully employs the horror and fantasy genre to weave a coming of age story to which any teenage girl could relate, complete with the fated Romeo and Juliet romance between a vampire slayer and a vampire. And now, we have Perry Moore's Hero, a story which juxtaposes our modern world with a world of superheroes with

superpowers - a world where, much like our world, young gay men must surmount seemingly impenetrable obstacles to find peace within themselves. Hero tells the story of Thom Creed, son of a mother who has done a family vanishing act, and a valor-and-superhero-stripped father who is credited as the disgrace of the superhero Justice League. Thom is an average teen: he plays for his basketball team, has a crush on a local celebrity, does household chores, and has a hard time talking to his father. Although we know from the beginning that Thom is gay, it is never a driving force of the novel - a mistake so many glbt (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) genre writers fall into. Like anyone else, being gay is not the center of Thom's universe, but rather, it is merely an event mixed in with so many other events in Thom's ever-changing, ever-eventful life. It is for this reason that I could not put this book down for a minute - this book is real. Developing superpowers for Thom is a familial taboo, so when Thom realizes he does have a power, he is afraid to tell his father.

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