



Empyrean Illusions, Jake Bonsignore, Jake Bonsignore, 2013, 0989231828, 9780989231824, . Fourteen-year-old Breena Taljain's dreary existence in the slums of Purgaire comes to a sudden end when a chance encounter with a criminal mastermind known as the Patriarch goes horribly wrong. His assault on her for refusing to pay for her mother's addiction leaves her comatose and teetering on the edge of life and death. Galbrecht Atalir is a washed-up doctor struggling to overcome his inner demons through alcohol and aggression. He never quite recovered from the unsolved murder of his family seven years prior. When he discovers Breena as his newest patient, he knows at once that the Patriarch is the one who eluded him for almost a decade. The medicine Galbrecht gives Breena draws her into a heavenly paradise. When it ebbs away, though, the recurring trauma plunges her into treacherous hinterlands. There, Breena must learn to find power in courage, hope, and love to overcome fiends of hatred bent on permanently ending her existence. With justice burning in his heart, Galbrecht begins a race against time to seek out the Patriarch in the underworld before Breena loses her struggle against the ever-darkening terrors of her mind.....

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Fourteen-year-old Breena Taljain's dreary existence in the slums of Purgaire comes to a sudden end when a chance encounter with a criminal mastermind known as the Patriarch goes horribly wrong. His assault on her for refusing to pay for her mother's addiction leaves her comatose and teetering on the edge of life and death.

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Jake's story is full of colorful descriptions of the characters and the fictitious locations where they dwell on. It's fast paced and intriguing, and the reader wants to turn the pages and find out more about the fate of beautiful teenager Breena, the main character. From the first chapter, you're already hooked! The story is written with passion and superb imagination, it's a great book for young adults and especially those who enjoy a nice fantasy plot. Well done!

There is always something to be said about an author who can build a fantasy world in his mind and transform it into a visual masterpiece in the readers mind. Jack Bonsignore did just that. I am a lover and a true appreciator of WORLD BUILDING and of CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. Most of my reviews focus on my appreciation of the authors abilities to weave those two techniques together systematically to make a wonderful debut novel to a series. Jake was spot on! I am impressed! And it says a lot since...more There is always something to be said about an author who can build a fantasy world in his mind and transform it into a visual masterpiece in the readers mind. Jack Bonsignore did just that. I am a lover and a true appreciator of WORLD BUILDING and of CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. Most of my reviews focus on my appreciation of the authors abilities to weave those two techniques together systematically to make a wonderful debut novel to

a series. Jake was spot on! I am impressed! And it says a lot since I often have a "First Date Syndrome" with any new series. I often begrudge the first book in the series. Getting to know the main character, their flow, how they process their emotions and how he/she moves through the chapter.

Breena, although only 14, was a brave girl with such strong emotions that you felt them as if they were your own. You lived in the disparity of Purgaire. You grow to hate the Patriarch for his selfishness and obvious disregard for human life. His existence is the cause of the disparity and fear in Purgaire. Then there is Galbrecht Atalir whose own life is set deep in the death of his family but is overcome with a strong desire to help Breena. The characters are strong well developed and work together.

The pace of the book is fast. I bite my nails, sat straight up in the edge of my bed, was grumpy for a few days because Breena was calling me back. I love Fantasy. I love being entrapped in a world that doesn't exist and feeling the pain the main character felt. I felt it like I was there. She and I was one. Even though it was a dark fantasy, it was breathtaking AND I will read it again. It will be downloaded to my iPad and iPhone for easy retrieval and read whenever I want to visit Breena's mind and pull the strength she held inside.

But in my case the read was EPIC with all the "you must die-vengeance, love and mystery" it made want to cry my EYEBALLS out when I found out about what kind of life Breena lived, like all things in life we start out like little tree seeds but once we have matured to our full we are massive, strong and undefeated. So JAKE my man you just know how to keep your audience captivated at all turns in the book.

And oh dear the main man who I have a crush on gahhh life Galbrecht hahaha I wish him and his heart to be a peace for the better of everyone and especially himself still he can be a dick lol sorry for the french. Jake you just ROCK my world with the book! so "fabfreakingtastic" dudes and dudettes get the book read it and you will know for your self.

So I will preface this review by saying that I found this author through an online author group and we really connected, so of course I wanted to read what he was writing. I normally don't read fantasy books (I usually cannot follow the story or plots) so I was secretly hesitant about picking up this book.

This book was amazing! The characters, although hard to pronounce, were actually really easy to connect with. I was able to get into an easy reading flow with them and truly understand their emotions and struggles. I wanted so badly to hurt Breena's parents for being deadbeats and absent. I was angry for her and I suffered for her. As a reader that is something that I want to do. I want to connect with my characters and feel their emotions, so I was pleasantly surprised that I was able to in this fantasy book!

Similarly, I love the descriptions that Jake provides for the reader. I can see the caustic smoke wafting through her flaring nostrils and other extremely vivid details that bring this world to life for my mind to explore. Lastly, the actual writing style is phenomenal. This isn't amateur writing. This is someone who really knows the grammar and stylistic ways of writing. This book is worth the money you'll spend on it.

Now, I am not one to give my reviews "Fluff" So believe me when I say this book is EPIC! I could not stop reading it. It was the type of book that drew you in and had you fighting for the characters with every new page. A MUST READ for anyone really. It has all the great elements to draw any person in: Love, Vengeance, Drama, Mystery, Adventure, I really could just go on and on about it but regardless you need to read it.

We start by meeting Breena. She has lived such a hard and horrible life, it just breaks your heart. I fell in love with her personality from the start. She just grabs your attention and you know she may be small and hurt, but she is a little survivor. She will rise above all this and as a reader we will be

there to urge her on. We follow her through teetering on death and the many obstacles her comatose life throws at her. Slowly we get to see her change into a wonderful strong person. I really can't justify calling her a "girl" as at her young 14 she has been through hell. Her age may be young, but this girl is an old soul.

You fight each battle with these characters. While we are battling in another realm with Breena, in the present life we are hunting down her attacker with Galbrecht. He is on a mission and I hope to all heck he finds his peace for himself and all others hurt by this man. Every little bit of his adventure into the depths of scum I was holding my breath a little more. I want SO BAD for him to give what is deserved and to save Breena, but alas I cannot tell you much more as it could ruin the book and I REALLY don't want to do that :)

This book is great. I mean really just a fantastic read (Think I have said that a few times now) I was instantly pulled into the story from the first page and couldn't put it down. With the chapters switching realms and character POV it is always kept interesting. The book also rotates into parts 1-3 which gives you an idea of where it is going. I really enjoyed the plot of this book as well. It was new and attention grabbing. Jake really works his own magic with this story. Its almost like watching a movie. Though I think it should be a Tv show, as a 2 hour movie could in NO WAY to is justice. Well, even a TV show wouldn't but it would be closer. Scratch that, I like the show I have going in my head just fine :)

I fell in love with this book and could not put this down from the very first page and experiencing the turmoil and pure emotions that Breena experienced with having a mother who was a drug addict, along with her pain, anger, and loss. Then the nightmare of Galbrecht Altair's loss of his family was truly a nightmare that no one should ever have...more This is the first time I have ever read the Fantasy genre and I have to tell you I love it after I was asked to read this amazing book by Jake Bonsignore.

I would recommend this book to anyone who would love fantasy novels. Jake is an amazing up in coming author that writes with some imagination that draws people in and becomes a part of the story in unimaginable ways. I am so looking forward to reading more of Jake's writing as well as more of this series.

It's been awhile since I read a YA fantasy novel like this. The worlds that Jake Bonsignore have created are truly original. He can write from one extreme i.e. the downtrodden land of Purgaire to the next, i.e. the magical world of Araboth without skipping a beat. I thank him for providing me a copy in return for an honest review.

Reading this book was like watching a movie. The effects were not lost because the imagery is presented to you in a way that gives you guidance on what is being seen by the characters but also allows the reader to expand on that with their imaginative creativity. There are not many books like this. Even though you were flipped from one POV to another, it didn't feel strained and the stories flowed seamlessly.

The raw emotions throughout this book pulled me through the ringer. The hell that Breena lived with due to her mother's drug habit was described in such a way that I could feel her personal struggles, her pain, her loss, her anger, etc. The loss of Galbrecht Altair's family was a nightmare nobody should ever have to endure. The evil monster that had changed both of their lives forevermore was portrayed in such a way that I felt a darkness envelope me as I read about him. The internal and external battles that were fought had me from start to finish.

I recommend this book to anyone you likes a good fantasy novel with bits of every type of emotion under the sun wrapped into it. Plus there is mystery, suspense, revenge, hope and renewal that packages this book into a fantastic read. The cover drew me to the book, the writing sucked me right into it and I look forward to the next book in the series and any other writings of Jake Bonsignore.(less)

Jake Bonsignore paints a colorful world full of magical creatures, hateful people, helpful heroes, and hope. Breena lead a dreadful life of poverty. Her mother was a drug addict and at fourteen years old she was the one that had to work to bring home enough money to not completely starve to death. Money she had to hide or her mother would find it and buy more Nepenthe. Her bad luck seems to continue and the Patriarch catches up with her. He is the one that sells the drugs around town. And he wan...more Jake Bonsignore paints a colorful world full of magical creatures, hateful people, helpful heroes, and hope. Breena lead a dreadful life of poverty. Her mother was a drug addict and at fourteen years old she was the one that had to work to bring home enough money to not completely starve to death. Money she had to hide or her mother would find it and buy more Nepenthe. Her bad luck seems to continue and the Patriarch catches up with her. He is the one that sells the drugs around town. And he wants Breena to pay up for her mother's addiction. In the end she can't run fast enough and ends up being beaten within an inch of her life.

Galbrecht is one of the doctors that watches over her. She's in a coma in the hospital, but somehow she wakes up in Araboth. This is where the book makes you think. I'm not sure if everything that happens to her in this other world is just a dream or if it is an actual place. Is it just a drug induced stupor as she trudges through this coma. Or has her soul perhaps been transported to a whole different world? And Galbrecht has some debts to settle with the Patriarch as well. He wants to get even for the things that the Patriarch has done to his family. He goes off on a journey of his own to track him down and he wants to put an end to all of this before someone else like Breena gets hurt.

Just as well, Breena has embarked on a magical journey in this new world. One that takes her through beautiful sights, breathtaking views, and into bleak existences all for the sake of a war and stopping those on the side of darkness. In order to find out if Galbrecht or Breena are victorious in their quests you need to grab this book and read it! I give this book 5 stars!(less)

Empyrean Illusions follows the story of two individuals. Breena Taljain and Galbrecht Atalir. (The amount of times I wanted to pronounce this ALTAIR was uncanny). Breena is a fourteen year old who lives and works in...more This book definitely blew me out of the water. I was not expecting what I read based on just the cover. AND IT IS A PRETTY COVER! But thereâ€™s really just so much more happening in this book than what the cover or the summary of the book tells you. I was completely and utterly undone.

Empyrean Illusions follows the story of two individuals. Breena Taljain and Galbrecht Atalir. (The amount of times I wanted to pronounce this ALTAIR was uncanny). Breena is a fourteen year old who lives and works in the slums of the city of Purgaire. Galbrecht Atalir is a doctor who works in the same city, and is often reveered as a drunk. After Breena crosses paths with a dangerous criminal called The Patriarch, she is found bloody within an inch of her life. Galbrecht has been searching for his familyâ€™s murderer for the last seven years of his life, and when he stumbles upon Breena, who bears a heavy resemblance to one of his daughters, he becomes more determined than ever to save her, and to bring this criminal, who he thinks might be related to his familyâ€™s murderer, to justice.

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