



# The Feros

*Wesley King*

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*After using your newfound super powers to defeat the most evil villains on the planet, what could you possibly do for an encore?*

After defeating their villain mentors, the Vindico, James, Hayden, Sam, Emily and Lana are finally ready to join the League of Heroes. But as their induction into the League draws near, they are framed by a group of rogue Heroes and given life sentences on the Perch. Thunderbolt, the League's leader, is the only one who can clear their names, but he is missing. To make matters worse, the Vindico are mysteriously let out of prison and a group of strange Shadow people start trailing the teens' every move. Unsure of who to trust or where to go, the teens put their new skills to the test once more as they fight to save themselves—and their families—from an unknown foe. But how will they defeat an enemy they can not see?

*School Library Journal* called Wesley King "an author to watch," and now he follows up his darkly funny super hero debut, *The Vindico*, with this high-octane sequel, delivering even more humor and super-powered action.

## The Feros Details

Date : Published June 27th 2013 by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780399256554

Author : Wesley King

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

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## From Reader Review The Feros for online ebook

### M.T. DeSantis says

3.5 stars. I saw the big reveal coming, but the characters are great. Also, I love anything superheroes and would gladly read more books in this series.

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### Hunter Stickler says

Just finished it and it was great, really good book

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### Hannah Cobb says

Teenage super villains-turned-heroes James, Hayden, Lana, Emily, and Sam return in the sequel to *The Vindico*. The supervillains have all been locked up, and in just two months the teenagers will be allowed to join the League of Heroes. What could possibly go wrong before then? Everything, naturally. A new, shadowy group of villains seems to be hunting the teens; the League of Heroes has split in two; and once again each of the teens must decide what to do with the powers that were forced on them. This is a good middle school boy book, especially with all the superhero movies coming out lately.

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### Eye of Sauron says

*After using your newfound super powers to defeat the most evil villains on the planet, what could you possibly do for an encore?*

Good question. Of course, let's just let them back out! With more bad guys!

I enjoyed *The Vindico*. It had just the right amount of humor and fun to entertain me. But *The Feros* did not; essentially, all the parts of the first book that bothered me were magnified, with some extra sprinkling of **sadly inadequate plot**.

The character voice that redeemed the first book is almost gone in the sequel: Emily just sounds like everyone else, everyone else sounds exactly like everyone else except Hayden, who just got more annoying. Seriously, I hate him now. Lana is stupid. Well, obviously, but for that reason in particular. The humor that existed in the first novel either decreased in quality or lost its effect. I don't think I even smiled.

Word choice is disappointingly bland. The *Vindico* appear to only be able to refer to the teens as "kids" or "protégés," and the term "idiot" gets thrown around a lot, especially coming from the mouths of serious grown-up leaders. I use the term "grown-up" because it seems to be how the narrator views everyone over the age of sixteen, as every adult appears to have the same personality. And terrible names.

Grammatical mistakes (especially omitted commas) pepper the dialogue, and the adult characters (Thunderbolt, Blue, the Flame) seem to exist only to **infodump** and **sigh**.

EVERYONE SIGHS SO OFTEN.

*"James sighed and glanced at his friends Dennis and Pete for support."*

*"Lana sighed."*

*"Lana sighed."*

*"Emily just sighed and pulled him up again."*

*"She sighed, playing with one of the petals of a flower..."*

*"Emily sighed and shook her head."*

*"She walked into the kitchen and sighed."*

*"Sighing, Lana led them down..."*

*"...and she sighed inwardly as she joined the crowd."*

*"He sighed."*

*"James sighed deeply."*

*"He sighed."*

*"He sighed."*

*"He sighed."*

*"Blue sighed."*

*"Hayden sighed."*

*"Sighing, she went to try and wake up Blue."*

*"Finally, Hayden sighed deeply."*

*"She sighed."*

*"He dropped onto one of the couches, sighed, and planted his feet on a glass coffee table."*

*"He sighed."*

*"Sighing, Hayden traipsed out of the bathroom..."*

*"James sighed, and after a moment..."*

*"Hayden sighed."*

*"The Flame sighed."*

*"The Flame sighed deeply."*

*"He sighed again."*

*"...he asked, sighing."*

*"Everyone in the room stood up, except Hayden, who just sighed."*

*"Hayden sighed again and tiredly..."*

*"She sighed."*

*"'No, we can't,' he sighed..."*

*"The Torturer sighed."*

*"Hayden sighed."*

*"Then he sighed."*

*"James sighed."*

I loved the first one, but I'm sorry, the sequel just can't match it. Now that it appears that the once-endearing puerility of the first novel might not be intentional, as I had assumed, I should probably restrain myself from editing my review...

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## Kaitlyn says

### 3 Stars

I didn't love this book as much as the last. I didn't really understand who the villain was and what exactly their goal was, so that was an issue for me. I also hated the whole James/Lana/Hayden love triangle. I don't mind a love triangle if it is written well (Stefan/Elena/Damon for example (Delena though)) but this was not written well. Clearly James and Lana would never happen like don't even try to fool me.

Overall, not a terrible book but the first book was better. It was kind of forgettable where as the first book will stick in my mind for longer.

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## usagi ?? says

So, I kind of wrestled with this one, guys. I'd been looking forward to "Feros" ever since I heard "Vindico" was getting a second book, but it feels like this book has a bit of middle book syndrome going on. Or so it felt to me. I feel like this one could have been a lot stronger, but King chose avenues where that just didn't happen. But that's okay, as this is a really solid sequel to the first book (and my standards can be ridiculous sometimes), and that certainly doesn't disappoint. If you liked "Vindico", definitely checkout life after with our heroes in "The Feros".

The biggest weakness in this book: even though we have a few different kinds of tension, the overall amount of tension in this book compared to book one has a huge dropoff to where it should be for a book two in a series. While I was quite pleased with the inter-group tension between all of our heroes (and within the League itself), I felt that the greater overall antagonist-driven tension could have been amped up a LOT more. As in, someone getting killed. That might have made the situation feel a lot more scary, and a lot more real. What did make me crack up was the fact that Thunderbolt can't seem to stay unkidnapped by someone for long, which is absolutely hilarious. But overall, I wish there'd been more outside tension, though the inside tension was good.

We do have the kids banding together, wanting to distinguish themselves from the League (and the Vindico), and there's a lot of in-fighting with crushes and who's dating whom, so there are some very typical contemporary YA elements to this book to balance out the supernatural. It really brought home the sense that these kids are trying to lead normal lives (just for two more months, until they can join the League - at least before everything goes totally fubar), be normal teens, and try to ignore what has happened to them at the hands of the Vindico for the last few months. That was really refreshing - you don't get many YA books that once kids are told they have powers, you see them struggle to keep things under wraps and really want that old, normal life back again.

However, another issue I had: we still don't get to see as much of the kids' powers as I would have liked. There was also the writing style to contend with - this still felt like a middle grade book, even though I know it's a YA book. Or it's supposed to be a YA book. I guess it's good in the sense that King has made his style accessible to older MG and young YA readers, but generally, I was hoping for a little upgrade in terms of storytelling that would really give this book a YA-feel to things. It also still feels like King can't quite decide if this is YA or MG - kind of an improvement compared to book one in the style department - but at the same time, I'm not sure if that's him, or that's the editor, or if it's both. Or neither. When you look at writing styles that conflict that way, it's hard to pinpoint where the problem may lie. It could be that the fact that this book

is both plot and character-driven, but the balance between the two is off. Sometimes it's one more than the other, and that can make for a kind of confusing style within a story. If anything, for me it was a bit frustrating because I wanted King to pick one, or at least balance those two styles of writing.

In terms of outside antagonistic threats, I did love the idea of these phantom ghosts snatching away members of the League and the newly-formed Feros (our heroes' new team), quite literally from under their noses. I wish that tension had been amped up, as I said before, more than it was, but what we got was very satisfactory, enough to keep us on our toes. However, the problem of telling versus showing still remained within the writing, and while King has improved quite a bit in that department from book one, it still feels like he's telling us a lot rather than showing. But when he does show things, the sensory language is pretty awesome. I just want more of that in book three - if we're getting one. I loved all of the visuals we got, especially when the kids were showing off their powers (Hayden was the best in this area - can I have him? Please?), or using them against this phantom threat.

Overall? While it's still lacking in areas, this is still a very solid followup to book one, and should be given a read. "The Feros" is out now from Penguin in North America, so be sure to check it out when you get the chance!

(posted to goodreads, shelfari, and birthofanewwitch.wordpress.com)

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### **Lynn says**

The Feros is the sequel to The Vindico. The five teens who were abducted and coerced into becoming villains, now have their chance to be heroes. What elevates this book above others about teen superhero teams is that this one causes the teens to not only solve the mystery and beat the opposition, but also to find out about what is important in life and who they really are. There is a depth here along with the action that makes this a very good book.

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### **Talia says**

Probably more of a 4-4.5, but I'm feeling generous. :)

When trying to sum up why I love this book (and its predecessor, The Vindico), I finally came to an apt comparison: superhero movies. When they're done well, I love love LOVE superhero movies. "The Amazing Spider-Man," the "Iron Man" trilogy, "The Avengers..." (okay, DC, I loved Nolan's Batman movies too, but those aren't quite the same). And superhero movies like these are great because they have great characters, a nice blend of action and development, and quite a bit of humor. That's what reading these books is like. Nothing deep or literary or life-changing, but a hilarious fun ride nonetheless.

The Feros wasn't *quite* as good as The Vindico (by tiny margins) but it was definitely more relaxing. No more Hayden getting the snot beaten out of him with tree branches and Emily getting her heart broken. In the end, though, I'm not sure if that's a good thing or not because one of the strengths of The Vindico was how much empathy I had for the characters. That's still there, and I still love them, though, so it was a minor detail. I do wonder where the series will go from here.

These books would very easily make movies. Take note, Hollywood.

I need to buy my friend some chocolate or something for showing them to me. Definitely recommended, especially if you dig superheroes.

PS: Sometime I need to go through this book and write down every line Hayden said that made me crack up. I love him with all my fangirl soul.

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### **JoAnne Richards says**

Loved it. Love the action. Love the characters. Want more!

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### **Sherlock Fergus says**

I loved the vindico and I'm so excited to read this! It comes out in June but I get to read it next week! Yay can't wait!

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### **Connor Wiekeraad says**

BANG! BANG! The sound of a metal door being knocked down filled the hallway as James busted in a door to one of the league's bases. The team flooded in then went to the computer. Emily hacked into it, then some robots rushed in and started shooting the team so Hayden put up an invisible shield to block the shots of the robots.

The characters in this book have great abilities. Hayden can move things with his mind, Lana has super agility, Sam can read people's minds and force them to do things, James is just basically a mini tank, and Emily is best of all because she holds the team together....just kidding she has a visor that can show thermal and night vision and heat signatures. Hayden went down to the shore of the lake and told a man sitting in a shed that he needed some canoes and the man got the canoes off the rack and then he went back to his shed, James lifted one canoe over his shoulder and carried it easily to the shore. While Hayden lifted the other canoes into the water with his mind. Moments later they saw a dark figure in the trees staring at them, Hayden used his mind to push the canoes to shore at that point Lana was already running after him she jumped over fallen trees and around tree stumps.

Throughout the story the characters prove that they can do great things.

The characters are running from the recently escaped vindico. The dark figure set the vindico free so they couple wipe the league, the feros, and themselves out. Then one of the characters were captured by the dark figures leader wanting to give her powers but she would never trade her friends for powers so she waited in the cell, until the dark figure brought her and himself to where the vindico had captured the families of the feros and were holding them hostage. Then the feros found the location of the vindico and their families and they started fighting the vindico and then one of the vindico members died in the fight and they all fell apart. The topic of this book is five teens have to fight with their mentors to survive. As this book proves these characters can do amazing things mentally and physically. The characters powers allow them to survive the fights of their mentors. All the people who like action based books should read this.

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## **Darth J says**

This sequel to *The Vindico* has an unusual name: *The Feros*.

*Ferris Bueller reference. Just roll with it. ?Bow bow, chick chicka?*

The five protégés are living normal lives and counting down the days until they can join the League. We are informed that it's been months since they've all seen each other and for some reason they plan a reunion/slumber party, which gets crashed by the Flame.

The rest escape, except for Emily who doesn't actually have powers per se as much as she has an understanding of weapons and technology. She has an important arc in this novel as she is imprisoned and questions her worth within the group, and is tempted with being granted powers by the villain (who has an easy enough to guess backstory if you read the first book closely).

I can't say this enough about the author, but after reading the first book and now the sequel, I can say that he really writes his characters realistically. This is a superhero story that is grounded in reality; it's neither campy or too dark, but the stakes are higher as characters are often put in peril and actually do die. I'm surprised there isn't a fandom for these books already, to be honest.

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## **Racquel says**

This book is better than the *Vindico*! It was amazing. If you are asking how I read it, Wesley King gave it to the librarians at The Festival of Trees (a reading program) and he signed it. My mom is a librarian, so she got to read it. But I took it and devoured it. It was an amazing book. Can't wait for the next one.

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## **Xing Zhi says**

Aaah~ there are so few YA books that deal with superheroes without treating them like overly broody OP beings that I really really want to add this into GRLs. Too bad it's too old. Plus has a minor flag that got my book tossed out of GRLs before.

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## **Michael says**

When I finished reading *The Vindico* by Wesley King, I was so happy to find out that there was a sequel. This book was really good. I just didn't want to stop reading it. There are parts where you can get confused,



but it all comes together. This book was really good, definitely a favorite.

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