



Tiger Trouble

Grant Goodman

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SECRET MISSIONS. SPIN KICKS. SINISTER GHOSTS.

Thirteen year-old Agent Darcy is one of the top students at the Bureau of Sneakery, where there are three rules every agent must follow: never make friends with an outsider, never speak of the Bureau, and never reveal your real name. Lately, Darcy has hit a rough patch: her rival, Agent Serena, keeps outdoing her. If things keep going this way, Darcy is convinced that no one will ever assign her a real mission.

Ninja Steve's city, Ninjastoria, is the home of sword fights, throwing stars, and Tae Kwon Donuts. Unlike his genius older sister, twelve year-old Steve isn't the best ninja student. He'd rather be swinging a sword instead of taking notes in class. Steve, however, is about to learn that being a true ninja means far more than being able to use a sword.

When Darcy is sent to Ninjastoria as an exchange student, it will turn both of their lives upside-down and raise all kinds of questions:

What do the mecha-moles want? Who is the man in the gray mask? What do ninjas eat for lunch? And why is there a menacing tiger on the cover of this book?

Time to read and find out!

Tiger Trouble Details

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Author : Grant Goodman

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From Reader Review Tiger Trouble for online ebook

Chris Pavesic says

Potential Spoilers

This is a terrific adventure story with a sense of whimsy and fantasy. Nominally written for kids, the humor and action are genuinely good for all ages.

The kids in the story are believable. They may go to special schools where they train to be Ninjas or Secret Agents, but they have regular life concerns.

Ninja Steve is following in his older sister's footsteps. The instructors at his school seem to compare them constantly, and Steve feels this is unfair, especially when his sister practices advanced techniques on him:

There was a burst of smoke and when it cleared, Nora was standing right in front of him with her hands on her hips. "Ha! That was a new spell I invented! How was it?" "

"Awful."

She clapped. "Yes! That is the spell of eight sneezes."

"Is it a level two spell? Or is that a level three?" Steve asked.

"Level one is illusion, level two is physical effect, and level three is harm," Nora said. "I guess it's a level two point five, maybe a three...depending on how hard the victim sneezes."

Steve nodded. That was a powerful spell to command. It was even more distracting than the other spell she had invented: the spell of three burps. At least if he was burping, Steve could fight back.

Being four years younger than Nora, he is at a real disadvantage in training and skill development: he only sees the results and feels like he will never measure up to the standard she set. And fighting back just manages to get them both grounded.

With Steve and Nora, Goodman has created a realistic pair of siblings. They know each other's weaknesses, they know how to push each other's buttons, but at the same time, they obviously care about each other. After going on a mission together, Nora and Steve share a moment most siblings would understand:

"You were tough out there," Nora said, when he got back to where she was. "You've got nothing to feel bad about."

Underneath all of the teasing, practice attacks, and spell casting, they care about each other. They are family.

Agent Darcy is an only child being educated in an all-girls school. Her parents, who worked for the Bureau of Sneakery, have disappeared. (This is actually a common occurrence for parents who work for the Bureau.) She is not competing with the record of an older sibling at the school; she is competing with herself. She feels that she has to be absolutely perfect, at all times, to honor the memory of her parents. The first time she fails at a practice mission, she feels that they will expel her immediately:

"Jeez, you look like you're burning up," Serena said. And then her eyes went wide. "Ohmigod, this is the first test you've ever failed, isn't it?"

Serena was right. "I...I..." Darcy stammered.

She felt the tears stinging the corners of her eyes. Thirteen years old and now, only now, had she failed a test.

The first academic failure of her entire life. The pile of successes, of A's and perfect papers and smiles from her teachers at the Bureau of Sneakery, those had all been wiped away. A single word obliterated every good feeling she'd ever had, replaced all of those triumphs with defeat.

The "f" word.

Fail.

Of course, one failure does not mean expulsion. It is a learning experience, just like every other test at the school. But the fact that she cries in front of Serena, who Darcy considers her number one completion at the school, makes it all the more difficult to bear.

The mission is what draws these four characters together—doing battle with mole-men, hunting the ghost tiger from the title of the novel, and learning more about the mysterious man in the grey mask. Overall, the action is fast-paced, the kids believable, and the mystery both interesting and fun to solve.

Michelle Arredondo says

A middle grade book that an adult can enjoy?? Yes please. And yes that happened. A fun book to read for review. I wanted to read it because the title seemed intriguing enough but not gonna lie I didn't think it was going to be a great read....I was expecting an hour or two a day of 'okay'. Pleasantly surprised that that was not the case. A fun and entertaining book...can't wait to add it to my "May Reviews" on my blog soon!!

Thanks as always to the wonderful peeps here at goodreads for my free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review to which I gladly and voluntarily gave.

F.J. Soto says

This is a very enjoyable read. I bought a copy for my friend's daughter and she LOVED it! There are strong, smart female characters, the book is well paced and well written, and most importantly, its FUN to read! I am an adult and I had a great time reading it, I would absolutely recommend it if you need a gift for someone in elementary - middle school. It's a fun, humorous read with lots of good takeaways for younger readers!

Cynthia says

What an imagination! Quite a fun, fantastical story for young readers. It really reminded me of the Harry Potter series, so I'd say that's quite a compliment! It has plenty of action, magic weapons, ghosts, ninjas, secret agents. I like the structure of the book, using wider spacing & shorter chapters that make it more manageable for young readers. Kind of a surprise ending, tho....!

I must disclose that I did win this book in a Goodreads First Reads Giveaway program, in return for my own fair & honest independent review.

Max Lau • Maxxesbooktopia says

1.5 stars [Review to come]

Stephanie Cover2CoverBlog says

Can we start by talking about this synopsis? This book sounded wonderful from the very start with this wonderfully funny blurb ...my favorite "and why is there a menacing tiger on the cover...?" oh my, I laughed out loud and still think this is a clever marketing scheme. Love it.

Now on to the book itself, this book was a pleasant surprise. It was super action-packed, witty, fun, and I think a middle grade reader will absolutely love it. The story is told from alternating point of views; a girl named Darcy and a boy named Steve and they come together and end up having to fight a tiger. I love Middle Grade books that alternate points of view - I think they can gain more styles of reader that way.

The book's plot was funny and had enough action to keep me reading - I sat down with it and was able to finish reading it in one sitting. The book is about 180 pages or so, so it isn't too long or too short. It had just enough mystery in the end to make me want to pick up whatever is coming next.

Overall, the story was enjoyable, the characters maybe a bit flat but I think there is a lot of room for details in coming installments. I think that middle grade readers will definitely like this one.

Elise Luquette says

Originally posted on <http://thebookforums.blogspot.com/201...>

If you can't tell by the summary this is an incredibly fun, self-aware book. Are Ninjas and secret agents silly and full of clichés? Of course. But does Grant Goodman know that and pock fun at those clichés? Heck yes! There are so many ways Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve could've gone wrong, but I'm glad to say that this is an enjoyable book from start to finish and a great one-time read.

As I said, Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve is an extremely fun book that knows it is working with material that has been hundreds of time in pop culture. This is great because Goodman uses these clichés to his advantage by playing off of them and turning them into jokes. These jokes add to the tone and help the story to work as a lighthearted adventure. From the first page, the reader know what type of story this is going to be because both Steve and Darcy's point of views are filled with jokes and lighthearted banter between characters. Then, as the plot picks up, it becomes more of an adventure novel filled with action, fun, and more jokes. The lighthearted tone continues into the more action packed areas of the novel, however some tense and surprising moments still sneak in. The ending does a great job of setting up for a sequel while still wrapping up the events of this book. I was expecting Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve to be a standalone so I was a little surprised when it set up for a sequel but it was done well.

The world in Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve was surprisingly explored throughout the novel. I wasn't expecting much world building from a 200 page novel, and while there wasn't high fantasy levels of world building, the reader definitely learned a lot about the culture of both ninjas and secret agents and how their

life works. This allows the reader to be able to accept more ridiculous and silly scenarios now that they know the rules these societies operate under.

Overall, Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve in...Tiger Trouble was a great break from all the super serious books that I've been reading lately. Its self-awareness allowed it to play with tropes of both ninjas and secret agents to turn those tropes and clichés into jokes. The humor is on point, the adventure is fun, and the world is silly but explained. Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve is a god book for kids especially in grades fourth through sixth, but can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Keep Reading...

Meagan!

Soukyan Blackwood says

The rest of this review is at Night Mode Reading : At first I wasn't sure about this book. I knew nothing about the author either. But here I am, giving it five stars for oh so many reasons! First of all, it's not gender-orientated, and that's something I miss in the book section for younger audience. Second - the fantasy is tremendous in this, I'd say it's Willy Wonka and no less. Ninja sits on the ceiling if they must, and that's a fact you learn to accept while reading. No one's there to explain you why or how, it's just a thing, no big deal! Third - both characters work marvelously together, and neither is just a supporter-character. The writing style is very smooth and easy to take in. The comic-book/cartoon action is so clear that I can't even understand how the author managed it. And so on, and on, and on. Here's my five stars. Please write the second one sooner, I want to read it too!

Cheyanne says

Jokes. Wit. Easy flow of story. Fast paced plot. All things you need if you want to capture the imagination of the younger generations.

That's what Grant Goodman delivers with his MG novel Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve in Tiger Trouble, a very promising first installment in this series.

Goodman has a great, engaging style of writing that suggests that he's been writing for years, a style that also suggests that he knows his target audience well. The whole story flows nicely, getting straight down to business from the word go and never letting up. This makes it an easy and even quick read.

The jokes may be cheesy, but they will certainly appeal to that younger audience. It's the wit though that shines through the most, specifically with Goodman's place names, most notably stores like "Wall of Mart". Way to dodge that copyright bullet.

Add to that some very likeable characters, a mix of elements including the supernatural and some very interesting concepts, and a whole bunch of crazy goings-on and this is a MG story full of twists to remember. Ninjas. Agents. Tigers. All that crazy was right there in the title really.

Kirsten says

I love these books! They're so much fun, in a great imaginative world. While they may be listed as meant for

young readers, I am a huge fan at 28 years old. There are moments that make me laugh out loud, which as we all know isn't easily done in a novel. This is going to be a great series of books, and I can't wait for the next installments!!

Carrie says

I won this book from Goodreads Giveaways. Thank you!

My 8 year old son is DEVOURING this book. We'll definitely be looking forward to the next book in the series!

Gayle says

An action packed story filled with rules, good guys, bad guys, learning the ropes, team work, and also learning to trust the people you didn't think you could. I enjoyed this book and I'm looking forward to reading the next book. I got this for free in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Susan Krich says

This is a Goodreads book.

I really enjoyed reading this book.

I can see how young readers would be caught up in the action.

The vocabulary is such that young readers will have no trouble following all parts of the adventure no matter how fantastic it seems.

A vivid imagination lets you visualize exactly what Darcy and Steve are seeing and feeling.

My grandson will love this book and keep it for his future children.

I hope there are more Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve books.

Today We Did says

Today We Did

Ninja Steve lives in Ninjastoria, where everyone wears masks and ghosts are real. He is an average student that keeps getting compared to his genius older sister. Apart from his swordsmanship, he really isn't living up to her standards! In another land, Agent Darcy is a student at the Bureau of Sneakery, where she is one of the top students. When Agent Darcy and her rival, Agent Serena, are sent on a student exchange to Ninjastoria, they have to work together to complete their mission. They pull Ninja Steve and his best friend, Samurai Sam, into their game, getting them all into serious trouble. Will they be able to make things right?

A book that combines ninjas and spies, of course my expectations were high, and I have not been disappointed! Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve in Tiger Trouble is funny, action packed and engaging. The story was easy to read, flowing nicely between the two perspectives of Agent Darcy and Ninja Steve. I read the

whole book in one day, as I couldn't sleep without knowing what happened, so I got up and finished reading it! The action sequences were exciting, and I enjoyed learning about the world that has been created for the story. The Maze of Mirrors sounds horrible, but I wouldn't mind a Field of Tall Purple Grass (as long as there are no snakes of course). I also enjoyed the puns throughout the story, gave me plenty of giggles.

I really liked Ninja Steve and Agent Darcy. Even though they are still young, Darcy and Steve are able to show maturity and dedication in their professions when required. They are kind, loyal and willing to help others. At first, I didn't like Ninja Nora or Agent Serena much, but they grew on me through the story. Serena and Nora are quite similar, both are very clever and good at their jobs, but with that comes a lot of arrogance. Serena taunts Darcy and Nora is rather mean to Steve at times, but when trouble arrives, both girls show fierce loyalty towards their companions.

This book is suitable for middle primary school to lower high school students. I believe it is only the first in an upcoming series following Ninja Steve's and Agent Darcy's adventures. I am looking forward to another trip to Ninjastoria soon!

*I received this book from the author, who asked me for an honest review of this book. I did not receive any other remuneration, and the review is composed entirely of my own opinions.

Bridgett Brown says

I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

I have a 8 year old, and she loved this book. A book that combines ninjas and spies, I was excited. Ninja Steve's family is comprised of Ninjas! They walk on the ceiling, flip and spin through the air at will, wear black all of the time. And the agents, they are as strict and agent centered as is to be expected. Told from alternating point of views. A girl named Darcy and a boy named Steve and they come together and end up having to fight a tiger.
