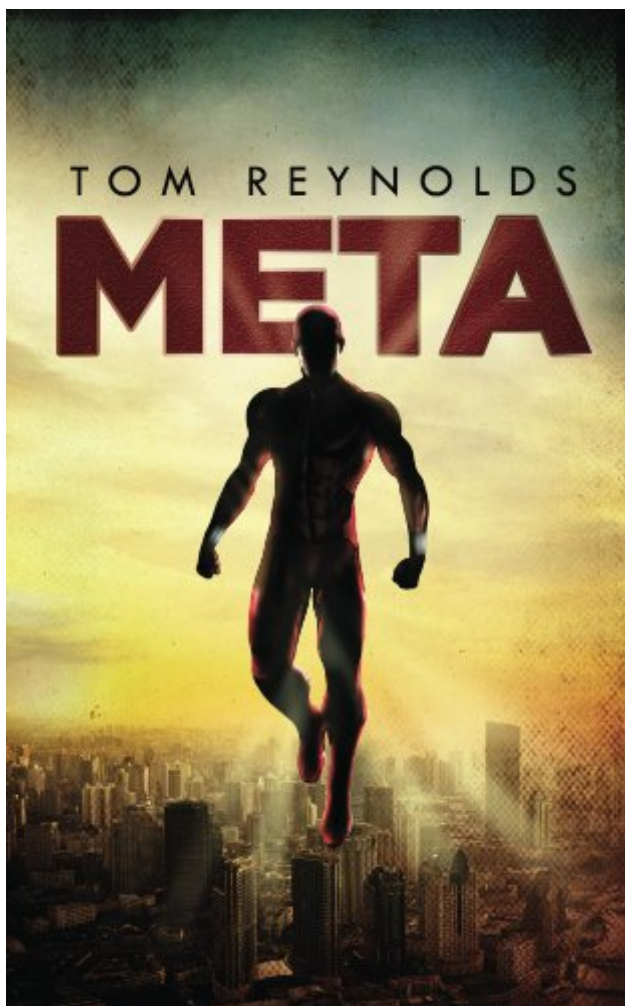


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Meta (The Meta Superhero Novel Series Book 1)



Synopsis

"A hard genre to pull off successfully, but Reynolds succeeds in giving the two-dimensional heroes of comics a more three-dimensional existence in prose." - The Guardian
"Meta was all the fun I expected. I will certainly be picking up the second in this series." - Boing Boing
It's been ten years since Connor Connolly lost his parents in *The Battle*; a fight between The Governor and Jones, two of the world's strongest metas. Before *The Battle* the world had been full of metas, super-powered humans whose amazing abilities came from mysterious wristbands. Since that day one has never been seen again. Now 16 years old, Connor lives in Bay View City with his older brother Derrick, a meta-obsessed blogger, where he's just trying to keep his head down long enough to survive high school. All of that changes the night he attempts to save a girl's life and wakes up to find the first new pair of metabands anyone has seen wrapped around his wrists. Connor soon finds an unlikely ally in Midnight, a masked vigilante who helps him learn how to harness his new abilities, while also trying to balance his summer job at the lake. As a meta, Connor becomes known as Omni, potentially the most powerful meta the world has ever seen, but it isn't long before he finds out he's no longer alone...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book but I didn't love it. I'll admit I picked the book up on a whim as I was in the mood for something light and fun after a very intense read. This definitely filled the bill. It's pacing is good, it's concept is fun. It's a decent read. It's well edited. It doesn't read like a first effort which is a huge plus, so good job there. It is, however, a short novella - 2600 locations which seems to contradict the page size. On the downside, the characters are a bit formulaic and not well fleshed out. There's the misfit teen who's suddenly a superhero, his friend who pops up occasionally, the out-of-his-league love interest who kinda likes him, the parental figure in the form of his brother and the mysterious teacher who helps him learn about his new powers. None of these characters step outside their designated roles or really have fully developed back stories. They're all fairly two-dimensional. I like the wristbands as a plot device giving people their superpowers and I like that they don't come with instructions or any information on where they came from. The story itself, the battle, Connor learning to use his powers and the anecdotes from others learning to use their wristbands were good and I enjoyed them but they could also have stood up to more detail. But, I still enjoyed it for all that I wanted more. I would say this book is geared towards younger teens even though there is no age listing with the book and even with the high body count in the book. It just reads like something 12yo me would have really enjoyed. This feels like the beginning of a series. I'm curious. I may read the next one when it's available. This one was good enough as a brain sorbet that another could be welcome.

It's a good premise - normal humans in an ordinary world transformed into super men and women by alien technology. Imagine the possibilities. In fact, you'll have to imagine them, because the book will leave you wanting for almost everything. Honestly, I bet your imagination will do more work supporting the story than the author did. The characters are as shallow as sitcom sidekicks, the explanations and descriptions hopelessly terse and unsatisfying. It reads more like a screenplay with vague direction acting like weak, spindly threads connecting quick, philistine action scenes. I had high hopes for this book and was, sadly, let down.

Just...Meh.... Nothing great, nothing horrible. (Really deserves a 2 1/2 stars). The 'Super Hero

Genre' is becoming generic...and this book is the 'girl alone discovers she has magic power and there is an evil wizard out to get her....good vs evil ensues, etc....of fantasy version of 'super hero genre'. All the stock elements are there. Teenage guy discovers he has (of course mysterious) powers? check Mysterious death of parents/angst? check mysterious super bad guy? check mysterious 'other' good guys'? check crush on cute girl who has no idea he exists? check previous history rich/back story (but no big flashbacks thank goodness)? check moral ambiguity/should I/can I/will I kill? check thinly drawn best friend? check ending out of left field? check "BUT WAIT! in the NEXT issue/edition there will be MORE..."! check Of the DC/Marvel school, this feels more like Charleton Comics (ie, 2nd tier). The brother character had possibilities- but he seemed such a blatant 'information source for the reader' is all. A VERY obvious ploy. Ditto the girlfriend vs the female hero.... gee, WHO will our main character pick? Sure I read it, will I buy the 2nd/3rd edition? no. It just felt forced, and at times abbreviated. Certainly captured the boredom of the job tho- I was completely bored during those segments. The write/dialogue just felt...weak. There was no sizzle or spark. I was glad when it ended just to get the (obvious) climax out of the way- the ending felt rather forced- another chapter or two maybe? Any one got any other suggestions? This seems to be a growing genre.

I can see why people are excited about this book. It has some fun elements to it. That said, I can't recommend it as it currently stands. I really want to be able to sit down with the author over a beer and hear him tell this story because I think it would be better than what's here on the page. I thought the introduction of super powers via mysterious external device was fun. And that was about it. Half the story seems to be missing. Connor acquires superpowers through vague circumstances, gets in two altercations, and then we're told he's one of the most powerful supers in the world? What? When? How? I must have missed the part where that was shown because he seemed like a run of the mill super in this universe up until the revelation via apropos dialogue. The story putters along without a sense of urgency. While I've watched enough soap operas to understand why Connor decides he needs to take down the bad guy, I feel like that's a gap I had to fill in for myself because the writing didn't support it. (That sounds like I'm whining about having to do work while reading. A fair point, though I would argue that this isn't Tolstoy. If I have to do that kind of lifting in an escapist read, then that's a point against it.) The ending was a nice twist, and made the whole story seem like an overly long prologue for something more interesting. So, I'll keep an eye out for Reynolds in the future, but I'll make use of the book sample before making a purchase decision.

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