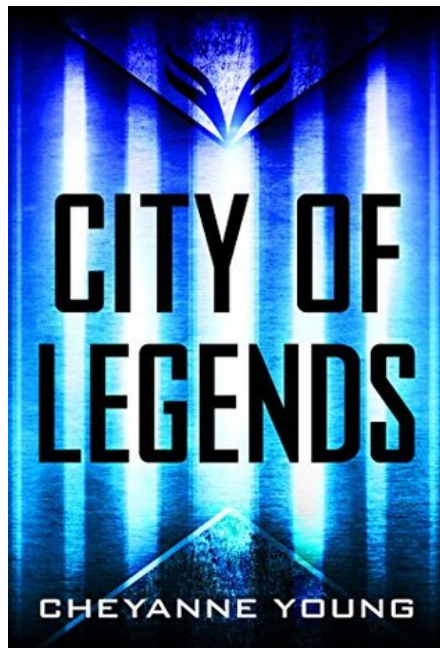




City of Legends

Cheyanne Young

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Maci Knight has grown up in the shadow of legends. Her father and her brother, Max, are Heroes, worshipped by humans and Supers alike for their strength and valor. All she's ever wanted is to follow in their footsteps, to fight villains and protect humankind. But Maci has a secret—one that could change everything.

Maci had a twin sister who died the same day they were born. In their world, one twin is always good, while the other always eventually turns evil. There's no way to tell which twin will go rogue . . . which means no one knows if Maci will suddenly become a villain.

The closer she gets to her eighteenth birthday, the more she has feelings she can't control: Violence. Rage. Revenge. Maci wants to be a Hero. But she may not have a choice . . .

The first in a trilogy, *City of Legends* introduces a new superhero mythology and an unstoppable heroine.

This is a new edition of the previously self-published novel Powered.

City of Legends Details

Date : Published February 2nd 2016 by Alloy Entertainment – Powered by Amazon (first published September 7th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Cheyanne Young

Format : Kindle Edition

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

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From Reader Review City of Legends for online ebook

Ruthsic says

Maci Knight has grown up in the shadow of legends. Her father and her brother, Max, are Heroes, worshipped by humans and Supers alike for their strength and valor. All she's ever wanted is to follow in their footsteps, to fight villains and protect humankind. But Maci has a secret—one that could change everything.

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It's sad when a book lets you down because it does not live up to its potential. Reading the blurb, I was expecting a character-centric book about what it means to be a hero, and all that. But it is basically an Incredibles-like plot, with superhumans being an evolved species that live underground and protect the world. *yawn* Being a first book, I expect a bit more about the world than just some little backstory about how they came to be. What are the goals of the Supers society, why they protect humans, do all of them feel the same instinct to be heroes, why is murder such a big no-no, why is their world so black and white? Questions, questions and more questions and our heroine asks none of them. Heck, no character in the book asks it. Made me think like its a cult of superpowered beings. The Heroes are the elite of the society, who go around saving the world in sexy suits? Umm, do they have any ambition beyond that. They don't want to live in the world they want to save?

Another aspect where the world-building collapsed on itself is the fact that it establishes early on that good Supers are good, and the bad Supers become villains. Eventually, it even links it to genes (which is a lazy trope, right alongside the scientist who can do everything trope - looking at you, Evan) and then shows that the villain was one whom they had considered a good Super all along. Also, the whole no-murder thing threw me - they can never take any life, not even of a villain, but they can subject them to a cruel and inhumane process like depowering? Even when Maci undergoes that process, she doesn't think that maybe it is not the proper way to deal with villains. Like, where's the nobility in that?

Overall, I think it suffered from a case of plot-without-cause, and was mostly action-centric, but not even that could save it from terribly written scenes, or an unsatisfactory obstacle.

Received a free galley from Alloy Entertainment, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

KayteReads says

Full review coming soon!

I received this book on Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I greatly disliked this book. The only good part was the ending. No details about the characters or world made this a very bad read.

Michelle says

My Review:

This was a re-read for me, the next book in the series was updated and she added a few new things to this book since it is now being published by Alloy Entertainment. I was planning to skim this book just so I can start reading the next one and be able to follow along just in-case I missed anything new she added, however, I found myself once again reading word for word and realizing how much I still loved this book. You can read my original review below. I really loved all the world build and I adore Maci even more. I love the idea that she could be a villain since most stories are always about Superheroes but this is a great coming of age. I still loved the idea that she could be a villain but with such a big heart. I really love this book and can not wait to read the next one.

Posted December 30, 2013

Powered by Cheyanne Young was something I had been wanting to read for quite some time. It was one of those books that you know you are going to love even before you read it. A serious must read and you know you must have it. I saw this book on a friends blog when the cover was revealed and something about the synopsis really had me going. I never read a book about a breed of superheros but this one was even better. She might be a superhero but she might be a villain.

Powered is a fantastic story about Maci Might a 16 year old girl who lives in King City a place for where super hero are born and live. It's Maci's 16th birthday the day she has been waiting for the day she is about to become a hero just like her dad and brother. She has a bit of a short fuse and she might actually act out more then she should but she is determined to pass the Hero's test and become a true hero. Unfortunately her temper gets the best of her and she messes up pretty bad on the test. Her dad who just so happens to be the President of King City talks with the council to get them to reevaluate her test and they will decide in 7 days. 7 days is a very long time for a 16-year-old super hero. Maci was born a twin but an attacked killed her mom and her twin sister. Twins born to heroes have a 50% chance that one might be evil. Most people believe she is the evil one but she is determined to prove she is the true hero. If only she can keep her temper under control. When things start to get weird in King City and the place goes on lock down it is up to Maci to help save King City and be the true hero she has always wanted to be.

I loved Maci she is such a strong character and she really grows a lot during this book. I loved the entire idea that you knew she was most likely the evil one but she had such an amazing heart you really cheered her on when things would go bad for her. I can totally relate to Maci, I have always been described in my family as the evil one (*insert crazy villain laugh here*)but I really am a nice evil person, really I am

Michelle Wrona says

1.5 star rating

sighs I've been prying and trying to stay away from writing this review because of how much I **wanted to like it**. But I just have to say that I can't and won't.

Have you ever gotten so excited for a book that you read the sample... and then disliked it? Yeah, this was me a few months back, earlier in the year. But it was only a few chapters, right? Just in time for the release of its sequel, *Overpowered* I was gearing myself to read this because I love Cheyanne's books. Surprisingly, **this was an exception** in that list, and I have to be honest here and express my feelings... and anger, maybe?

Cheyenne has developed a beautiful idea here. Superheroes? Never written about in YA—at least from what I've read before. But I was wrong.

I feel like in order to tell you my feelings, I'd have to kill you, haha. *jokes* There were many things that went downhill with this novel, and one of those major things was **the writing**. Coming from a fantastic author who's works I've read from and really enjoyed before, I expected even better. This novel was poorly edited and the writing went downhill the whole time through.

Qualities that pained me:

?• the word "Hero." **THAT IS MY #1 PROBLEM WITH THIS BOOK**. The word, "hero," was used in almost every sentence. How can someone be intrigued to a book that's sentences are not thought through? For example:

The choice he would make if he wasn't so loyal to Hero rules.

"Evan gnaws on his bottom lip. "You're a Hero now. You can't do this." "I don't care about the freaking Hero rules. This is my sister."

In the matter of six sentences, the word "hero" was used half of the time. That's horrifying, but there's even worse examples that I care not to show because of how bad it became.

?•the slow plot. Nothing was happening half of the time and the slim plot got to me, and by the end, I ended up with a terrible book-hangover that got me **not to READ ANYTHING ELSE** because this went so badly. It all messed up by the end.

?•the characters. Nova? Really? What a surprise that a character like her and with a role of hers came in. That was no plot-twist/cliffhanger whatsoever. Hmmp.

?•the ending. NOOOOPEEEEE. I didn't like it.

Things that were okay:

?•Maci. She was alright for the most part. Kick-ass and hilarious, she's probably a character that you'd want to hang out with in reality. She has powers too, but she might be evil. *screams sarcastically*

?•The beginning.

In conclusion, this book was very disappointing. I expected something fresh and exciting, but all I got (maybe it's just me) was a disappointing, boring book with uninteresting writing.

Jessica Brooks says

You guys. This book rocks. I read it in one sitting, and laughed out loud SO many times.

Cheyenne has done a great job of capturing a main character's angst without going so overboard, you want to knock her upside her head. Not to mention, this character is a female potential SUPERhero. How often do you see a YA book with that kind of plot? Hardly ever. Maci Might has the ability to be a hero, but her temperament keeps getting in the way. Which makes the story, though not all that enjoyable for Maci, highly entertaining for the reader.

The other thing that I loved was that Maci was at first fighting with being different than everyone else, but learned, as the story progressed, to embrace this individuality and own it (even though it was socially unacceptable), which is something so many young adults (and even adults) struggle to do on a daily basis.

Quote #1: *I say something lighthearted and dumb because my brain sucks. "Are you supposed to make out with someone for the first time while they're half paralyzed because you slammed them into a wall?"*

Ha ha. Oh, Maci.

POWERED is the first in a trilogy. I loved Cheyenne's MOTOCROSS ME, but this one was even more up my alley than MM was. As I was skimming reviews on Goodreads, I noticed there aren't very many complaints for POWERED (and rightly so), but the few mentioned had to do with a slower pace about halfway through the story. To which I say, the slower pace was needed, because it allowed us to get to know the characters more as they got to know each other. What happens between Evan and Maci would not have been believable had that part have been taken away. And, those slow times where they hung out and whatnot were the times I laughed the most. So while I see what some readers were saying, I appreciated the change of pace. :)

One last quote: *Oh, to be a bird and have no worries other than--Which way is south?--every time winter rolls around.*

And I agree, Maci. Orange Gatorade is WAY better than lemon lime. :D

K.F. says

Ugh, I really, REALLY REALLY wanted to like this book, but something about it set my teeth on edge.

So basically this book is about superheroes, and genetics, and all about how super heroes have this thing where they have a magnetic blood system that makes their powers grow and also if they are twins, somehow, you can be only good or evil and it's decided at birth.

So what I really, really hated about this book was the idea that all superheroes are supposed to have aryan fucking features. Literally there is one non-white person in this entire fucking book and they're treated like crap because of it, and aren't considered "hero material" because they've got Asian features which means black hair and brown eyes, as opposed to blond hair and blue eyes. And the main protagonist of this book is all like "WOE IS ME I AM TURNING INTO A BRUNETTE." And she's a brat. Like not even an

understandable, tortured childhood, lack of privilege brat. She's a class-A, I've grown up in the lap of luxury and I don't want to acknowledge that, woe is me brat.

She's like the Taylor Swift of super hero characters and my god it was painful.

The thing is, this COULD HAVE BEEN SO GOOD. I could have LOVED THIS BOOK. It had some AMAZING IDEAS but in the end I was just like "oh my god I can't believe I finished that."

Seriously I can't believe I paid for this book. Even if it was super cheap on kindle.

But I mean if you don't care about well-fleshed out characters or racism or anything, it's actually a really interesting story on genetics and nature vs. nurture. But getting past the former to get to the latter was harder than I would have liked.

Deirdre says

I'll start with sharing that my favorite thing about City of Legends is how skillfully author Cheyanne Young melded the best parts of contemporary romance with the bold parts of super hero fantasy.

The title lends an epic-ness to the world that I can confirm after reading the novel. It truly does have an expansive and complete feel that drew me in and held me fascinated with King City and the Hero world. Young painted a clear picture, which is so important to me when a book isn't rooted in our world.

Maci. Oh, Maci. She's so headstrong and strong! In some ways she reminds me of a puppy, totally oblivious to her own power, like she hasn't quite grown into it yet. Except she does know she's strong, but there's a difference. I wanted to tell her to settle down at times and listen to her father, for goodness sake, but of course then there wouldn't be a story and that's no fun. There's something to be said about breaking free, making our own mistakes, and growing from them and over the course of the story we experience that alongside our heroine.

The Super group was super cool. I'd love to hang with them for a day. I totally vibed with Crimson and Pepper. I loved the introduction of Hero suits. I got a bit carried away with thinking about what my suit would look like, you know, if I were a Hero. I really liked the slow build of romance that was genuine and sweet, despite the fact that Maci is a total butt-kicking bad a**.

The backstory of Super twins, the way Young weaves in the Super mythology, and how the plot kept twisting and turning, especially when we reached the halfway mark, was outstanding. I was surprised and guessing at what was going to happen next and that's my favorite. The stakes were high and the pace matched that intensity. Also, there was an insightful bit about chromosomes and choice and it gave me much to think about. So as to not give anything away, it reminded me of one of my favorite Dumbledore quotes...paraphrased: There comes a time when we have to choose between what is right and what is easy. That's all I'll say, but it was poignant amidst major conflict and life changing decisions.

City of Legends was fun, thrilling, and meaningful. A great first in a three part trilogy. I cant wait to read The Valiant!

For the Love of Books says

5 Super Powerful Stars

Are you ready for a book that has a whole lot of action, a little romance, and a whole lot of kick ass?!? Well this is the book for you. This is a unique story about superheros and villains. One of the things that makes it SO unique, is the fact that the main character for this superhero extravaganza is a girl. Meet Maci Might, a girl who has grown up knowing exactly what she wants to be once she turns 16, a hero. But unfortunately, Maci doesn't pass her superhero test. Here's the twist... Maci is a bit of a hot head, and that little trait tends to get her in a bit of trouble. But what's also interesting is that Maci is a twin, and in this superhero world, you usually have one good twin and one evil twin. But Maci's twin died, so no one truly knows if Maci is good or evil (though most suspect evil). Maci is determined to prove them all wrong, and will do whatever it takes to become a true hero. Throughout this story we get to watch Maci grow and mature. She learns how to control her temper a lot. This story is filled with wonderful twists and turns that will not let you put the book down until you discover what will happen next. I loved this story, characters, and the author's writing style! Can not wait for MUCH MUCH more Maci!

~Lauren~

Vibhore Seth says

Disclaimer :I received a copy of book for honest review from Net galley

Cheyenne is one helluva writer and I kind of liked that whole super heroes and villain dynamics that was like on constant repeat in Maci's head. Start of this dynamics start with this awesome quote:

Do not lose control. I promise I wouldn't. But I guess that's what happens when I rip the wooden stake out of the woman's hand and shove it into her heart.

Well ,you go girl. This book also has

- 1.Over protective brother.
 2. Badass Dad
 - 3.One of those "monologue " villains. You know like in Love for the Cold-Blooded, or The Part-Time Evil Minion's Guide to Accidentally Dating a Superhero
 - 4.Hot nerdy love interest.I ship that(I haven't figured a name yet).
- Maci's worst nightmare: she may be evil. "gasp " .Most of us at that age are evil. Embrace it baby.

Also the shocking appearance of someone at the end (view spoiler)
was easy to guess because that what's happens in these kind of storylines. But overall it was a fun read.

Marjolein says

2.5 Stars

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

(This book was previously called Powered, but I've read the new Alloy Entertainment edition which is called

City of Legends. I don't know if there are any other changes between the two editions)

City of Legends was a conflicted read for me. At the one hand, I really wanted to like this superhero novel, at the other hand, there were quite a lot of things that just didn't make sense and I couldn't overlook all of them.

Maci is on the brink of becoming a Hero, for which she has trained almost her entire life. She's a Super, which means she has an extra circulation running outside of the body (Thanks evolution!). This was caused once by some kind of radiation in a cave. You know, the kind of radiation that adds extra genes to your genome. (#PuttingTheFictionInScienceFiction) The society is quite strange as in the Heroes do Superhero stuff protecting the normal humans, who are in reality looked upon as third class civilians. I still don't know if I actually like the world this story is set in.

Although Maci already has some anger issues, she's told at the most inconvenient of times that she once had a twin. This is terrible of course, for it is know that from every Super-twins born, one will turn evil, a Villain. For Maci, it's only downhill from there.

Man, Maci was an annoying girl at times. I get that maybe she was a bit upset or confused at the things she finds out, but she takes it to a whole new level. I really hope she gets a bit more bearable in the next books, or I might be cheering for the Villains in the end.

It was a fast read and besides the forced romance thing that apparently just had to be there, it was quite enjoyable. I'm still curious to find out what happens next.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Michele Lee says

Where to start with this one. Maci Knight lives in a world where there are superheroes (they all pretty much have the same powers, speed, healing, strength, etc) and normal people. She's not just from a superhero race, she's the prized daughter of the Mayor of the Superheroes. She, like all members of her genetic race, has been training her whole life to become a hero like her older brother and her dad.

But right before she takes her final graduation tests she learns that she was born a twin (in a horribly stilted, cheesy way), and before her all twins born to the super race are killed because one always goes bad, and there is no way to tell which is which. The elders of the city are reluctant to let Maci become a hero and fail her... at which point Maci throws a fit and whines a whole lot about not getting her due.

There are some interesting ideas here. The concepts of supers and normals, and how supers are adored, but seem to look down on normals as frail and pitiful. The hero-worship culture, the normals being seen almost universally as lesser people who must be taken care of, and the tradition of killing all twins (except, of course, when the mayor had twins. Then he broke all the rules for his daughters. And this is the motivation for the bad guy.) even Maci's own subconscious programming to only accept being a hero as a valid path in her life, to view other positions in the super city itself as lesser, inferior, all could have been very very interesting subtexts.

But instead there's zero self awareness or introspection from our entitled, ill-tempered heroine. She doesn't care why losing hero status gets such a reaction from her. She doesn't wonder if her own narcissism is an issue, or even use learning that she is a twin to explore the idea of nurture over nature, or shades of gray in

heroism. No, she just throws fits, breaks things, runs away, disobeys, defends the status quo, talks about how she deserves to be a hero because she's the best, gets people killed(!)...

And in the end it's almost like Maci manages to reach through the text and convince the author to give her what she wants. The cool guy likes her, even though she completely and totally looks down on him (he's not a hero). One would think he'd get tired of hearing how being a hero is the only thing she ever wanted and she totally deserves it, when her behavior says different. And the bad guy, who is completely and totally justified in feeling ire and anger against a system (And the iconic head of that system) that slaughters twins without a thought, EXCEPT when the mayor breaks the rules for himself after he has literally demanded the death and torture of thousands of people for not fitting the super-society norms. In the end the author touches only a tiny bit on that conflict, then ham-handedly turns the villain into a cartoon, blindly cackling and being evil just because.

I almost quit reading this one a hundred pages in. The whining fit-throwing from entitled Maci toned down after a while, but the story didn't really redeem itself. If you want a Peep of a superhero story with battles, a villainous villain and a sassy hero, you might like this. If you prefer a complex meaty super tale, skip on, because this one avoids the most interesting parts of its own concept.

Diesel Reads Books says

This was not a book I could get into easily. It was a concept that I found really exciting, but the actual telling was a let down.

The writing gave off a really juvenile vibe. It gave me essence of Scott Pilgrim, overly exaggerated comic book style story telling but without meeting the mark it was reaching for.

The main character Maci, is not a bad protagonist per say, but she is unmemorable, and has very little personality that I could relate too. The entire premise of the book is whether Maci is the good or bad twin, which means her "anger issues" should have been a focus that was clear to the reader. However I found that this "anger issue" issue was only dropped off as a stopping point for the book. Until that moment it was completely irrelevant and untold in any way.. This meant that the attitude during the testing, which leads to her rejection, was extremely out of place, and frankly just made me think she was a jerk, so I had already stopped rooting for her.

Also her father explaining to her that she was a twin, was a typical YA bombshell spoke about to lightly, and not giving the dramatically entrance it deserved. It felt as if the author just wanted this discussion out of the way, and was only handling it because it progressed the story. After that my investment in the book had flat lined and I was reading as a chore rather than a labor of love.

I would not recommend this book, or would I continue on with the series.

Sabrina Olteanu says

I received this book in exchange for my honest review. Thank you Itching for Books and Cheyanne Young for giving me the opportunity to read this book and to be a part of this tour!

The author really managed to create a perfect story, with the twists written at the perfect time and characters well formed. It was exciting and fun reading this story and it kept me on edge the entire time. Even though the book it's about superheroes, the story itself it's believable, especially the interacting and the fight scenes.

The story starts with Maci Might who is turning sixteen soon. She is training to become a superhero, and when she finally turns the proper age, she is going to take her hero examination that will determine if she has hero material or not. She receives a mission, Maci feels she is more than ready, but in the mean time she finds out she didn't pass the exam, and now she has to wait for another week to find out if she would get the hero status or not. The problem is, everyone expected her to get her hero status because her father it's the president, and the cherry of everything, her brother got the exam with perfect score. It's difficult for Maci to be in this situation. But what can she do?

This is just an introduction of the book, to say so. I'm trying not to give spoilers. But the book deserves five great stars. It was good and I loved it a lot! I think Powered it's a unique story, for me at least. This book has everything in it and will keep you eager to read it. I can't wait for the second book of the series to come out. I need to know what happens next! I highly recommend this book, especially to those who loves a great YA novel!

S. Usher Evans says

This was my first super-hero book, and I loved the concept. More than the concept, I loved the nuance with a character that walks that fine line between good and evil. She'll have these thought processes that could be very easily extrapolated to great villainy, but yet she chooses to remain good. I'm definitely a fan of this series and have picked up the second book.

A.N. Willis says

I'm definitely a sucker for superheroes. (I get very grumpy every time I think about how long I'll have to wait between Avengers installments.) So I was very excited to get a review copy of Cheyanne Young's CITY OF LEGENDS, a YA action-adventure that features Maci Knight, a feisty, super-powered teen.

All Maci has ever wanted is to be a Hero, just like her dad, brother, and BFF. So when her Hero test ends disastrously and she's accused of being (yikes!) a villain, she teams up with brainiac inventor (and cutie) Evan to clear her name.

I've read several of Cheyanne's other books (MOTOCROSS ME is a fave), so I was expecting lots of great banter, a lovable if flawed heroine, and tons of cuteness. CITY OF LEGENDS paid off on all those scores—but there were also amazing fight scenes! And suspense! And cool superhero technology!

Overall I had a blast reading CITY OF LEGENDS and I'm very pumped to find out what happens next in THE VALIANT.
