



Ferals

Jacob Grey

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A sinister threat. A city in danger. A boy with the power to command the crows. *Ferals* is the first book in a dark, action-packed trilogy that's part *The Graveyard Book*, part Batman, and all high-octane adventure.

Blackstone was once a thriving metropolis. But that was before the Dark Summer—a wave of violence and crime that swept through the city eight years ago, orchestrated by the fearsome Spinning Man. Now the Spinning Man is on the move again, and a boy named Caw is about to be caught in his web.

Caw has never questioned his ability to communicate with crows. But as the threat of a new Dark Summer looms, Caw discovers the underground world of Blackstone's ferals—those with the power to speak to and control animals. Caw is one of them. And to save his city, he must quickly master abilities he never knew he had . . . and prepare to defeat a darkness he never could have imagined.

Ferals Details

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Author : Jacob Grey

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From Reader Review Ferals for online ebook

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Crow Talker (Ferals #1), Jacob Grey

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Nima Kohandani says

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Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

Creo que esperaba un poco más de este libro y de ahí que lo califique con tres estrellas. Ferals cuenta la historia de Caw, un chico que fue abandonado por sus padres cuando tenía cinco años -ahora tiene trece- y que, desde entonces, ha vivido en una especie de nido en lo alto de un árbol en el parque. Caw vive en Blackstone, una ciudad que antaño fue resplandeciente, pero que después del Verano Oscuro cayó en una de sus peores épocas.

Pronto nos enteramos de que este chico tiene la habilidad de hablar con los cuervos, especialmente con tres que han sido sus amigos desde que puede recordarlo: Grum, Screech y Milky. Y las cosas empezarán a ponerse interesantes cuando Caw ve que sus sueños, que siempre han sido los mismos, empiezan a variar ligeramente y empiezan a mostrar a un hombre con un tatuaje de araña. Estos cambios serán los detonantes que conducirán a Caw a salir de su nido, a hablar con más gente, a descubrir que es un feral -es decir una persona que puede hablar con un tipo de animal- y a enterarse de que hay más personas con estas habilidades... y que todos están en peligro.

En fin, me pareció que la premisa del libro prometía bastante, pero creo que se quedó corto. No hay mucha acción aunque sí que hay misterios que se van resolviendo poco a poco. Y también hay giros de trama que no

te esperas, identidades secretas, alianzas que se recuperan y enemigos que no pensabas que eran enemigos. Ferals tiene personajes muy interesantes como la feral zorro y el feral lobo, que espero se desarrollen más en los siguientes dos libros de la trilogía.

De Caw qué puedo decir... bueno, es un protagonista que está entendiendo apenas que, efectivamente, él es el protagonista. Está descubriendo sus habilidades y aceptando el hecho de que, así sea un chico de trece años, aparentemente será la pieza clave cuando de derrotar al enemigo se trate. Por otra parte está Lydia, una chica, digamos, normal que se hace amiga de Caw y lo va a empezar a acompañar en sus aventuras y misiones para recolectar información. Y claro, por esto mismo, se ve arrastrada en medio de la acción. Lydia es un muy buen personaje que creo será vital en el segundo libro de la trilogía, confíen en mí :)

Faye, la Patata says

You know what's really hard? **It is to read a book from a certain demographic that gave you a migraine, just right after you read another book from the same category that made you fly the heavens because of absolute ecstasy.** There is always that voice in your head comparing the two, asking why is it like this when the other one did it better? More often than not, your mind fools itself to think that the book is actually worse than it is. I know I have to take that into account, but I can't deny that my feelings right now are leaning towards a particular end of the stick... the one where a raging She-Hulk is preparing to throw a couple of knuckle sandwiches.

With that said, please, please, ***please take my review with a grain of salt.*** All words from here henceforth are of my own subjective opinion only, with a little bias along the way because I recently read *Omega City* by Diana Peterfreund which was *awesome as hell* and it's just hard for any book under the same category to live up to it.

So, *Ferals*. **The moment I learned it had a boy with the power to command black birds of death and destruc --- I mean, crows --- I was so excited.** I've always been a lover of animals, and having the ability to ask them to do your bidding, having them as an extension of you... come on, that just spells AWESOME with a capital and exploding "A". And while crows are creepy as hell (I always imagine them to be evilly chuckling when they put their dark gaze upon you), they are interesting birds, involved in a number of mythologies across several cultures and civilizations.

That's why it really killed me that I found myself not enjoying it. **There were times my eyes glazed over, and times I was looking forward to the next page because it meant it was one page less to the end, which I started viewing as the light at the end of the tunnel.** I desperately wanted to like this. I willed every fiber of my mortal body to like it. For the love of fucking crows, damnit! Alas, the more I tried, the more frustrated I got, and it was like awakening to a new spring when I finally finished it.

Trust me, I was really guilty.

...

Okay, maybe not.

I simply just couldn't get into the writing. It was all full of active sentences one after another, producing a very monotonous tone that provided no atmosphere, no emotions, no... spark or whatever... that would make me want to sympathize with the main character. Caw woke up dreaming. Caw is dreaming. Caw gripped the parapet. Then proceed a **wall of text** detailing every minute detail of what

his body is doing. Honestly, after a while, the book started looking like a compilation of "How Many Verbs Can You Put in a Page?"

Do you see what I'm getting at?

It was so *telling than showing*. **What he's doing, what the others are doing, what he's supposedly feeling without any other exposition. Succeeding scenes happen without any build-up, without any good transition, which honestly left me bored and detached.** In an effort to make the reading experience even slightly interesting, I tried reading aloud with a rather dramatic voice, but even my voice couldn't escape the dull feeling this book was giving. I know that this is considered Middle Grade, that its market are kids, but you know a book is good when even adults enjoy it. And besides, *Harry Potter* started as an MG and the first book was just so good. There's *Omega City*, and *A Monster Calls*, and *A School for Good and Evil* - all MG but written so cleverly, so emotionally, so *good*, that you know even *Ferals* could have been written better.

Because of the writing and the lack of build-up, some scenes started becoming so contrived to me.

When we get to know the origins of Caw's power and how he's so special, I couldn't help but roll my eyes. It's a cliché, yes, but clichés can be memorable if written right. There was this scene where a veteran Feral is talking about how transforming into your animal is close to impossible, that not even he, who has trained and trained for years and has more experience than our special hero, can do it, but in a span of a page, our Caw, who just recently woke to the potential of his abilities, who had no meritable training or whatsoever, he can suddenly do it? **BESTING THE ONE WHO TRIED FOR SO LONG AND EVEN FOUGHT IN A GODDAMN WAR?!** I just couldn't buy it! It was such a painful moment for me that I started muttering obscenities under me breath, while clutching the blankets to restrain myself from leaving my E-Reader and walking out of my own bloodydamn room.

All in all, the writing made everything suffer. The atmosphere was nonexistent, the hero was as dull as cardboard, and many of the scenes felt really contrived. I wish I could like it, but the only redeeming factor it had for me was that it had animals. And animals are pretty much "love" in a nutshell. **However, as I disclaimed earlier, my thoughts here are also influenced by the fact I read a far superior book not long ago, and it's simply hard not to compare the two.** If the blurb interests you, please don't hesitate to try it out, for yourself or for your kids. Maybe it could teach them young ones that crows aren't really all *that* bad!

L?ga Spro?e says

?sti ruden?ga gr?mata. Dažbr?d pat creepy momenti un n?ves gad?jumi. Noteikti attaisnoja manas cer?bas, kuras uzš?v?s debes?s kopš pirmo reizi ieraudz?ju "Ferals" tulkojuma izzi?ojumu. Š?iet, ka es katru reizi p?rv?ršos par 12 gad?gu puisēli un no tiesas izbaudu š?s b?rnu piedz?vojumu un fant?zijas gr?matas.

<https://vilkamidzenis.wordpress.com/2...>

C.G. Drews says

This book is decidedly FERAL. Oh, HA AH AH HAHAAHAA. You knew I was going to say that, right?! RIGHT? The title kind of called for it. But do not fear, fair readers! I shall also say something, you know, *useful* about this book. But, to sum it up in a gulp: **It was a magical, animal adventure that required a little bit of suspending logic.** I'm an adult reader, so I'm not going to be uber harsh on it. I love me some delicious middle-grade books. (Huge fan of Lemony Snicket, right here. Yup. Even know. AGE DOES NOT

MATTER TO ME.) So **if I was 12 this would've been an excellent book.** Right now? And compared to other stellar MG's...it's a bit mediocre.

My main issue was the characters. Like they're *cool*, but they don't have that pizzazz I really love when reading MG books. They're not funny or particularly smart and they don't have much depth of character, which saddens me.

It's mainly focused **Caw, who is an orphan and kinda stinky.** He's feral. Like he's a feral kid *before* he learns that being "A Feral" is also the ability to talk to animals. He can talk to crows. He lives in a tree. He eats out of bins. He never bathes. His parents died tragically when he was 5 and he doesn't even know his name. You know the drill. Does any of that sound DIFFERENT to you? No? Okay, good, not just me. See, I was just hoping for...something a little different about Caw. But he's just a stinky 12-year-old with a heart of gold.

Lydia was far more interesting. She's a local cop's kid, and totally in-your-face "HELLO LET ME BE YOUR BEST FRIEND." Even though her parents sanitise their hands just looking at Caw. But I don't really *know* Lydia. Like did she have any other friends before Caw? She didn't seem to, and only indicated her dog was her friend. Yet she seems a happy/friendly kid. So what's up here? OH I KNOW. The only interesting kids are homeless stinky ones who live in the local park. *nods*

But, ya know: MAGIC. Magic rocks peoples. And who doesn't like a story about a kid who can talk to crows?! There's tentative delicious mentions of shapeshifting...a skill that's been lost amongst Ferals. So I was uber interested to see if that'd come out. Basically a "Feral" is someone who can talk to a specific animal. So Caw was a Crow Feral. He meets Crumb, who's a Pigeon Feral (super tough, there) and Pip who is a Mouse Feral (the names give nothing away, I know). And Mamba was an evil snake feral. And, heck, don't ask me to remember the others, but just assume that their names relate to the animals. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT. **I thought Caw was very winning and cute, and I loved his and Lydia's friendship and fighting evil.** There's also a fair lot of death too! It's not graphic/gruesome, and definitely just *said* instead of gone into details...but, little-12-year-old-me would've been delighted.

But about that suspending disbelief? Well, I know this doesn't matter to kids, buuuuut....seriously, how did no one pick up the 12-year-old scrawny kid in the park?! How did Caw survive? How did he not *freeze* or *starve*. Why the heck did he forget his name?! He was 5 years old for goodness sakes. My niece knows her name and she's 2. Particularly if one yells "E.B.. DO YOU WANT A DONUT?" and then there's no mistaking how well she knows her name. And also there's this part where Caw goes to Lydia's for dinner and gets the Parental Inquisition from her folks. Firstly, he claims to be 16. And they're like, "Oh, okay, it's totally fine for a 16-year-old to be clearly homeless." When, um, no, you need to be 18 to live alone. And also since when can a 12 year old pull off being 16?! And THEN, why the heck would these parents be okay with their 12-year-old daughter hanging around with a 16 year old!! SO MANY FLAWS I CANNOT RIGHT NOW.

But, ya know, look past that. Don't analyse. Don't be picky like me. Just enjoy the story. (Shut up, Cait. Stop being a logical Vulcan for once.)

Totally enjoyable, but probably more so for younger readers. It hasn't got that timeless agelessness that some MG books can hold onto. But a winning cast and an interesting plot line with lots of action and crows and feathers and...unwashed little boys.

protective over Caw. As the story unfolds, readers will be treated to Caw training, fighting and learning the truth about his lost parents.

Crows, Snakes, Cockroches and Spiders ... Oh My

One thing is for sure, there is no shortage of Ferals to delight and disgust as a horde of helpers from both the hero's and villain's sides battle it out. From clever foxes, diving doves to wriggling centipedes the story is filled with creature helpers, both good and bad making the action and danger very appealing. And, darker and gritty ... there is casualties both to the humans and ferals. I think the thrills and chills are going to be a big hit as spiders and other creepy crawlers threaten and the powers of the ferals are discovered. Action and danger keep the pace going, making for a fast and fun read.

Dastardly Villains, Chills and Fun Ickiness

Ferals combines action and danger with a gritty setting and intriguing new hero to escape to. I enjoyed Caw and his fellow Ferals as they fought against the evil of The Spinning Man. A sweet friendship kept the story balanced and not too dark. Recommended to older, middle grade readers who like dastardly villains, chills and fun ickiness in their reads.

My Rating: 4 stars. I really liked it!

PLEASE NOTE: A courtesy review copy of this book was provided by HarperCollins in exchange for my fair review. Thank you, HarperCollins for the review opportunity!

Lex says

Pretty good. Fast paced book. Finished it within one night shift. Lol.

Bee says

Istyria book blog ~ B's world of enchanted books

This book was so awesome! I started this right before I went to bed. I snuggled up under my blanket (it was winter and cold when I read this), thinking I'd read a bit to see if it was something I liked and before I knew it, it was almost three hours later and I was more than 60% through. I forced myself to go to sleep and yes it was painful to do. Ferals is fantastic.

Eight years ago, a wave of violence and crime called the Dark Summer swept through the city of Blackstone, once a thriving metropolis, and left a boy called Caw to fend for himself on the streets. His only companions is a small group of crows. Caw doesn't know why he can understand the crows, but after he saves a girl named Lydia from a vicious attack, he soon discovers others like him. Ferals, humans who can speak to certain animals. And some of them are dangerous. Now the most sinister feral of all, the Spinning Man, the man behind the Dark Summer, is on the move again. To save Lydia, her family and everyone in Blackstone Caw has to master abilities he never knew he had and fight a darkness he never could have imagined.

One of the best things of this story is of course the writing. Jacob has created a dark and gritty atmosphere

and I could feel it right from the first page. It reminded me of the feeling I get from movies like Batman Begins, The Dark Knight and The Crow. And the TV show Gotham. That sort of dark and gritty. I loved it! For some reason I think this book would be awesome as a black and white comic book-style movie or an anime. It was fantastic, seriously. I was hooked and I loved every second of it. I'll be honest, though, I don't think it's for everyone. But then again, that goes for every book.

Next to great writing and world building, this book has great characters. The side characters were all awesome and I would love to get to know them better in the rest of the series! Crumb, Pip, Lydia... all awesome! But of course, the main character takes the central stage. Caw is such a great person. I felt for him and I rooted for him. He's shy and antisocial and doesn't trust people easily, but he's very brave and loyal to those he does trust. He can be quite stubborn too. He crows currently living with him were awesome. Milky, Glum and Screech were such great and loyal friends to Caw and they were funny too! Love them!

Ferals is an amazingly written and very original book. I could not put it down once it was in my hands. I recommend it to fans of the movies I mentioned before. And also everyone else that loves a good Middle Grade/Young Adult Fantasy novel. It's just that good. Go read it!

This review is also (or -soon- will be) posted on Istyria book blog

Justine says

I liked this book even though it could be too childish at times for me. I know I probably would've really loved the book when I was in second grade. I can't really say too much about it because of spoilers but I would recommend it to younger people that like fantasy, and people who like animals.

Simona Stoica says

Recenzia complet?: <https://bit.ly/2DAL0G7>

„- Ar fi trebuit s?-?i spun c? aterizarea e greu de st?pânit.”

În timp ce oscilam între două romane YA, o serie fantasy de 12 volume ?i Potopul, de Sienkiewicz, Thomas, motanul meu cel sl?b?nog, ve?nic nemul?umit de via?a „dificil?” pe care o are al?turi de mine, s-a suit pe birou ?i mi-a d?râmat câteva c?r?i, ca s? îmi atrag? aten?ia. Nici nu a clipit când m-am luat de manierele sale. M-a privit în continuare, cu ochii miji?i, la un pas s? se lungeasc? pe laptop ?i s? adoarm? acolo, cu speran?a c? poate mi se face mil? de el ?i îl las s? stea cu mine, cât citesc.

Cum nu îi pot rezista ?i e ?i Thomas un „sufle?el”, l-am luat în bra?e, moment în care ochii mi-au c?zut pe cartea care alunecase sub birou: Neîmblânzi?ii. Abia terminasem Berlin I ?i II ?i voiam ceva diferit, s? m? distan?ez de seriile în care protagoni?tii sunt copii, dar cum nu reu?isem s? m? decid în treizeci de minute asupra unui roman, iar teancul de c?r?i amenin?a s? se pr?bu?easc? din nou de pe birou, am înh??at cartea, cu motanul adormit pe um?r, minunându-m?, pentru a nu-?tiu-câta-oar?, de cât de deosebit? este copert?, de la cei trei corbi înc?p??âna?i ?i mereu preg?ti?i de ceart? (pe care i-am adorat), la p?ianjenii care vorbesc despre moarte, r?piri ?i Vara Întunecat?.

De?i povestea nu este foarte complex?, iar Jacob Grey ?i-i ofer? indicii din bel?ug pentru a dezlega aura de mister care ?nv?luie primul volum al trilogiei, am ?nchis ochii ?n fa?a asem?n?rilor cu alte serii ?i m-am bucurat de lectur?, savur?nd cu un entuziasm nea?teptat cartea, cu ajutorul lui Caw, un personaj uimitor, cu care abia a?tept s? m? ?nt?lnesc ?n volumele urm?toare.

Tr?ie?te într-un parc p?r?sit, într-un cuib improvizat, de care este foarte mândru. Se hr?ne?te cu resturi, atunci când g?se?te ceva comestibil prin gunoaie ?i reu?e?te s? scape de cei care vor s? îi fure mâncarea ?i s? îi fac? r?u, doar pentru c? este mic ?i firav. Are o hain? lung? ?i neagr?, care îi acoper? îmbr?c?mintea murdar? ?i rupt?. Se fere?te ?i se teme de oameni; prefer? compania celor trei corbi, care îl înso?esc pretutindeni ?i au grij? de el. Iube?te în?l?imile ?i mereu caut? cea mai rapid? cale prin care picioarele lui pot atinge acoperi?ul: o bârn? rezistent?, o scar? de incendiu, o ?eav? suficient de stabil? încât s?-i sus?in? greutatea. Pentru c? el mereu va alege s? fie mai aproape de cer ?i cât mai departe de p?mânt. El este Caw. ?i are doar treisprezece ani.

Lottie Berinson says

I found myself wishing it was real.

Yasamin Seifae says

Read this book with my friend Mitra

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[illegible]