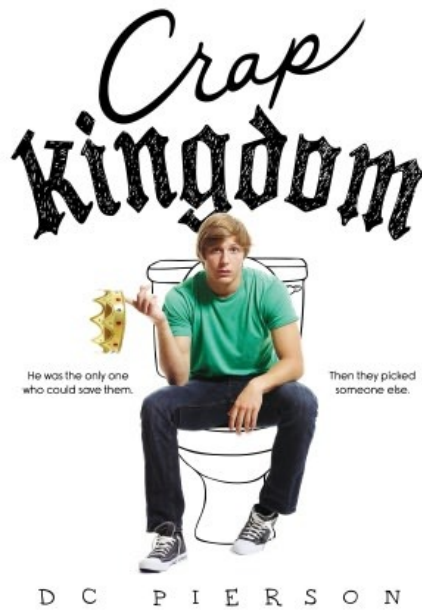




Crap Kingdom

D.C. Pierson

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THE CHOSEN ONE MUST BE RETRIEVED FROM EARTH

HE WILL BRING DOWN THE WALL AND RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO GLORY

HIS NAME IS TOM PARKING

With this mysterious yet oddly ordinary-looking prophecy, Tom's fate is sealed: he's been plucked from his life and whisked away to a magical kingdom to be its Chosen One.

There's just one problem: The kingdom is mostly made of garbage from Earth. Okay, well, two problems: the king hates Tom. Also, the princess likes to wear fake mustaches. And being Chosen One seems to consist mainly of cleaning out rats' noses at the Royal Rat-Snottery.

So, basically, the kingdom sucks.

When Tom turns down the job of Chosen One, he thinks he's making a smart decision. But when Tom discovers he's been replaced by his best friend Kyle, who's always been cooler, more athletic, and better with girls, Tom wants Crap Kingdom back—at any cost. And the hilarity that ensues will determine the fate of the universe.

Crap Kingdom Details

Date : Published March 7th 2013 by Viking Juvenile

ISBN : 9780670014323

Author : D.C. Pierson

Format : Hardcover 360 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Humor, Fiction, Magic, Audiobook

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From Reader Review Crap Kingdom for online ebook

Ken Feucht says

I like Pierson's other book, "The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep (etc.)." This one was not as good. It has a celebrity endorsement calling it "hilarious" on the cover, and that certainly wasn't true. I got a few chuckles, but the comparisons to the "Hitchhiker's Guide" are way overblown.

The main character is sold as being pretty pathetic, even though all outside input suggests he's well above average in ability and probably looks. At one point the girl of his dreams (whom he considers unattainable even though she flirts with him in the first chapter of the book) is throwing herself at him for sex. This is complicated because she has also been interacting with his body possessed by an entity who is not him, which raises a whole bunch of consent issues that are never really dealt with at all.

He also has a best friend who apparently exists to make him feel bad about himself and be able to make sports references because he's not a sports guy. Then his friend becomes his enemy because he took a job the main character turned down and the friend proves to be better at. But not really. Because even though He's jealous, he also accepts that the friend is doing a better job, and the friend remains super nice to him.

The "other side" is not at all fleshed out. There's the titular "Crap Kingdom" with food is characters with funny sounding names and then some luck dragons or something, and then there's a war and a short chapter late in the game that explains that whole history of what's going on, but not really.

Then the book ends with an out of nowhere reveal that sets up another book that I'll never read because this one wasn't that good.

Becky says

Crap Kingdom is a funny book with a relatable MC but it kind of falls flat in the end. In the middle of the book it was doing more plot-wise than I expected; I thought it was going to continue with the soul-swapping stuff, and I wish it had.

Jim says

Fantastic, despite it's ridiculous name.

It's been a long time since I read an entire book in one day. I picked this up around 2:00ish this afternoon and finished about 7 hours later. It's only 360 pages, and other than making dinner and taking out the trash, I spent my Sunday afternoon plowing through Crap Kingdom.

As far as I know, D.C. Pierson only has one other published book The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To and it was one of my favorite reads of the last several years. Crap Kingdom may have actually been a bit better. The prior mainly revolved around the friendship between friends Darren and Eric. Crap Kingdom is also a bro-mance of sorts, however there's an added "love"-story to make this a bit more "adult" oriented than The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To.

Now I understand that some people, actually probably a lot of people aren't going to enjoy this book. This isn't a literary masterpiece, and may not be very identifiable by anyone much older than myself, but it's FUN! I'm pretty sure I'm almost the exact demographic that this book was written for. I may be a bit older than the target audience, but I can still appreciate the references to LOST or Pokémon. There's also no mech-suits this time around, but there's still some fun use of teenage-boy sci-fi love.

It's hard to come across books about teenage boys where the author isn't trying to cram some boy scout life lesson down your throat. Or the complete opposite, a "rebel" at the other end of the spectrum (ala *Catcher In The Rye*, or even *Youth In Revolt*). It's nice to read about uncoordinated boys who overanalyze the wrong things and underemphasize the important things. It's more believable and certainly more relatable. The fact that it's all mixed in with some crazy Fantasy (epic?) is an added bonus.

After seeing D.C. Pierson in a recent Fiber One commercial on TV, I was a little concerned about his career. Don't get me wrong, it's not like I'm on TV in any capacity, but I always enjoyed Derrick Comedy (and the movie *Mystery Team*) as well as his first book (see above). So I was a little nervous about seeing him in product commercials since that seems to be where actors go to die, and he's far too young and talented for that. This book has helped to assuage my fears that his creativity had been put out to pasture. On the contrary, it seems his creativeness is still very active and I can't wait to see what else he has in store.

Kyle Jones says

I heard about this book when the author, a comedian, was on *Doug Loves Movies*. The pitch drew me in right away: "Kid is the chosen one who discovers that the magical land he's supposed to save is complete garbage- literally and figuratively. So he rejects it." And the actual book delivers on that premise. It's a very smart deconstruction of the young adult tropes of "the chosen one" and "the savior child of unfathomable power." The characters are well-developed and relatable-- I suspect if I was a drama geek in school it would be even more so. And the story is crisp and simple, sticking true to it's core ideas. But interwoven through all of it is a clever undermining of the reader's expectations of young adult adventures, without sacrificing a good young adult adventure. My only criticism was that it was too short and fast moving. I suspect the author had much more material developing the world of "Crap Kingdom" but was forced to cut stuff to make it a standard "YA length" novel. However, that's a bit of a shame because I would have liked to learn more of it and let the characters breath. However, that's a slight complaint. Great book.

Megan Tabler says

Terrible book!!!!!!

Renata says

OK so a minute ago I said that romcoms aren't my thing... THIS is my thing. If meta-humor about fantasy kingdoms isn't your thing, you probably won't like this, but if they are.... oh man, this book NAILS it.

SO SO funny. I kept tweeting lines from it as I read--they aren't as funny out of context but I didn't care.

"I'm sorry, what did you say?"

"Ngggthththh? The name of our kingdom."

"Gark said the kingdom didn't have a name."

"It doesn't. But there are times where, grammatically, it makes sense to speak the name of the kingdom aloud. And since it does not have a name, it is traditional just to mumble unintelligibly for the length of the average kingdom name."

It reminds me of *The Magicians* but funnier and less scary. Like not scary at all really. But it has that same kind of vibe, of someone who's consumed a lot of fantasy novels finally getting to write their own and using every trope to its best advantage. And then... without spoilers... even the parts that at first I was "meh" about evolved into awesomeness.

I'M 20 GHOSTS ABOUT THIS BOOK

PS the best part is how it's a fantasy book that did not force me to look at a map of a madeup country. good job Crap Kingdom!

Debbie Narh says

Unfortunately, I only made it to the halfway point before I had to put this book down. Tom is one funny character who I could easily relate to and I think he was the only reason I kept reading. Crap kingdom is funny but it's so much of a satire that it all felt like a joke that quickly got boring. Towards most of the story, I felt apathetic and bored and the world building is very two dimensional. If only the story wasn't so very contrived, it could have been a great novel.

Casey Bryce says

Crap Kingdom is a fun, gentle subversion of the conventional fantasy story—you know, the kind in which the hero finds himself in a mysterious land and destined to stop a terrible threat. And that's what Tom Parking wants—to escape his decent but mundane life and instead be the “chosen one” of an alternate world, one in which he can be a hero with a special purpose. The funny thing, though, is that he actually gets his wish, but perhaps one should be careful what he wishes for...

And the title sums up the rest. Tom's "kingdom" is not the usual fairy tale kind with sunny skies, glittering castles, and frolicking white unicorns. Rather, it's almost literally a junk heap, with a king who distrusts him, an indifferent populace, and a surprising lack of magic all around. Or so it seems.

D.C. Pierson's book is an unpredictable one. The plot bounces and twists in unexpected directions, constantly pushing its befuddled protagonist into circumstances both bewildering and bizarre. Indeed, the most predictable element is Tom himself, who regularly makes poor decisions despite being an overall decent guy.

It's all in good fun, however—Tom's reaction to his less than idyllic surroundings are probably no different than what anyone else's would be, and much of the story's humor is derived by the reader sympathizing with the character as he goes from one predicament to the next. In truth, Tom's "Crap Kingdom" is so crappy, it sometimes seems like Pierson is trying too hard to make his point just for the sake of a few more laughs. The narration of the story itself is also slightly obtrusive, sometimes over-explaining Tom's feelings and thoughts when less would have been more.

But the book succeeds for one reason—it's hard to put down. Readers will constantly wonder what will ultimately become of Tom, hopeful he might finally attain some measure of happiness or vindication. The author's depictions of other lands and worlds, however fleeting, are also richly imaginative and inventive. It's just a pity the supporting cast never rises beyond their one-dimensional boundaries.

Crap Kingdom is a clever, worthy read bolstered by its believable protagonist. It lacks the sheer laughs of the funniest books out there and the epic qualities of the best fantasies, but for what it is, well, there's nothing else quite like it.

3.5 stars

Charlos says

2.5: Funny at times, but lacking the charm that would make it something that would endure. I think the author doing all voices was a bad choice: not that all his reading is bad, but it lacked variety.

Mitch says

I had an idea in my head of the kind of book *Crap Kingdom* would be. It was going to be irreverent, crass, and hilariously inappropriate, the kind of memorable send-up to traditional fantasy that would completely skewer everything commonly associated with the genre, magic lands and Chosen Ones and princesses in distress and every single other staid overdone cliché. But in this case, I think I got my hopes up for nothing, because turns out *Crap Kingdom* is not nearly as funny as it sounded in my head.

Humor is of course one of those 'your mileage will vary' deals, so take of this what you will, but for me at least the first warning sign of my disappointment comes in the first few sentences of the book. I'm more of a physical comedy kind of guy, I like action more than the idea of something being funny, so seeing DC Pierson starting the book by basically telling me how *Crap Kingdom* is going to be different from every single other fantasy, how Tom's impending adventure is going to be different from every single other Chosen One's, well, it didn't really work for me. Cute but not laugh out loud. More of an eh than a lol. And as I read on, it just seemed like the writing never manages to be more than mildly amusing and the laughs just weren't coming. Were there moments? Sure, parts I liked, such as a discussion of the mechanics of barfing in cars with and without windshields, but they were mostly few and far between other stuff that was just strange for the sake of being strange like how the princess likes to wear mustaches or a cheesy variant on a traditional fantasy trope like the whole treatment of magic, nothing that really made fun of the things the book promised to make fun of, you know?

And then turns out, *Crap Kingdom* actually has a plot (but not a very good one). I know I usually insist on books having plots, in fact I probably harp on it more than I should when I review paranormals because it seems half the time there isn't one, but in the case of satire, eh I think the plot harmed more than it helped because, well, it's more full of holes than actually funny. I'm not opposed to nonsensical hilarity, in humor sometimes it actually works just hitting readers with random funny shit and not caring in the least whether it's all logical or not, but still the plot has to be sufficiently funny that I don't care about the fallacies, and it wasn't here. So I'm thinking why the hell Kyle gets magical powers right off the bat when Tom doesn't, why it seems all the denizens of *Crap Kingdom* but the King in particular are so darn capricious, and what's with all the weirdness going on, and while it's all required for the story to work, I guess, it also makes the story

seem silly rather than funny.

And ultimately, that's my problem with *Crap Kingdom*, it's more silly than funny. I get the feeling Pierson wanted Tom to learn a lesson from his experiences, like don't prejudge a place to be crap because if you do you'll have second thoughts and might miss out on your big chance to make a difference, which is not a bad idea in theory, but in practice the story seemed to fall apart by the time that message really mattered. I only kept reading after Tom rejects Crap Kingdom the first time because I expected a train wreck from the whole not-Tom in Tom's body doing all sorts of suave but outlandish things while Tom's physically in Crap Kingdom (don't ask), and all I got out of it was one apparently really dirty letter than I didn't even get to read - after that, the whole conflict with Crap Kingdom's militant neighbor turned out to be rather generic and absolutely not satirical in the slightest, well maybe a bit more weird than your typical fantasy but nothing entirely way out there.

So. *Crap Kingdom* - funny? Not really, at least for me. Hence my disappointment.

Abi says

Well, I bought this book today at the first library sale I've been to in years, yay. I bought eight books (for less than twenty dollars!) and there were two that I hadn't read. I took the opportunity to pick up the others cheaply. At any rate, I read the book today, telling myself that I wouldn't end up reading it unless I did it right then.

I mostly enjoyed *Crap Kingdom*. I think the cover is great, and the idea is, too. Tom, the main character, has a very authentic teenage voice. He's fifteen, and he acts like it. I could completely relate to his wanting to be a Chosen One. I mean, books like those are eighty percent of what I read!

The book pulled me in at page one. I liked Tom - like I said, he felt very real. I liked the plot, too. It was interesting, and I felt bad for Tom when he was replaced by Kyle. Kyle, I liked. He was an alright guy, but not the best friend to Tom, and I think that both of them should have actually talked more.

While I generally enjoyed the main character and the plot of the book, I did think the world building was weak, and some of the situations could have been executed better. The book was entertaining, so that was nice. The humor fell flat for me in some places - it did feel forced, and a lot of the characters had very little fleshing out, which also bugged me.

3.5 stars. I have mixed feelings, but ultimately enjoyed this book. Apologies for the jumbled review.

Sean says

DC Pierson is one of the funniest guys out there. If you've listened to as many podcasts as I have, you'll know that he's incredibly witty and hilarious and so it should be no surprise that his new novel *Crap Kingdom* is a refreshing, fun book that hides a lot of meaning and depth inside a whimsical YA package.

Crap Kingdom tells the story of Tom Parking, a high school student in the middle of nowhere living an all too boring life. Even as a teen, Tom is having an existential crisis...he just wants to be part of something bigger than himself. He's no good at sports, and only OK in theatre, where he's trying to attract the attention of Lindsay, the hottest girl in the drama department.

All this yearning to be part of something comes to a head when he's approached by Gark, a resident of the Kingdom of Pffftthh (or whatever name it has, it sort of varies by the speaker). As it turns out, Tom is The Chosen One of the kingdom, only there's one problem. The kingdom in question is composed primarily of, well, crap: houses are made of tattered networks of old bed sheets, bars are housed in disused (but probably not properly cleaned out) portajohns...and to top it all off, the king appears to hate Tom from the start, causing Tom to wonder if the whole Chosen One thing is all it's cracked up to be.

The story that follows is bright and whimsical, and Pierson does a great job of making Tom into a likeable and believable character who is worth rooting for, even if he messes up almost every situation he's put into. The prose is clean and dialogue-heavy, but don't let that scare you off, since Pierson is skilled enough to propel the story forward without weighing things down with unneeded detail.

Pierson's brevity and sharpness is great for the most part, but in the end, I sort of wish the book was longer. The ending especially sort of feels rushed along, and there's a lot of explanation and info dumping in the last third of the book that I felt could have been given more time.

That being said, if my only complaint about the book is that it was too short for its own good, it means I enjoyed it greatly. Hopefully Pierson will return to the world of Tom Parking later on to give us more adventures in the Kingdom of Tphhththh (or whatever).?

Janine Slayton says

when I first started this audiobook, I wasn't too sure of it. the narration was awesome, but I didn't know if I liked the writing itself.

as the story moved along, however, I found myself really enjoying it. I loved the way the story took the fantasy tropes of "the chosen one" and the Magical Kingdom and kind of turned them on their heads. I also really appreciated that Tom, the main character, was really just pretty average. he didn't have a terrible life, and he wasn't Mr. Popular. I liked his inexperience and naiveté. it felt honest to me. I also really appreciated that Tom never TRIED to be someone or something that he wasn't, the way so many teenage protagonists seem to.

Anyway, despite my reluctance early on, I really grew to enjoy the story and like Tom and his adventures. I also enjoyed that the author/narrator sounded an awful lot like Nathan Fillion when he voiced the king of Crap Kingdom. that is never a bad thing :-)

Sarah Butcher says

I just am not sure what to think of this book. I didn't hate it. I didn't even dislike it. I didn't like it, either. It was "meh, okay." Maybe I just don't get the genre; meta-fantasy (I've seen a few reviewers mention that term) is not something I am familiar with, so maybe that's the problem.

Still, what seemed like a funny parody in the first chapter (I say funny, but I maybe chuckled once or twice) turned into a book that didn't seem to know what it wanted to be. Humor? Adventure? YA Fantasy? Satire?

Maybe it wanted to be all of these things, but if it wanted to be humor or satire AND fantasy, I feel like the humor and satire should have been more consistent throughout the book. The Crap Kingdom in was in way

too much contrast to the surrounding world, and I felt like I was reading two books that I might have enjoyed had they actually been two separate books. Together? Huge no-go for me.

Also, I listened to this book on Audio and felt it was far too long for what it was. The length suggested to me that maybe this story was taking itself too seriously. Again, maybe I just don't get it.

That being said, it's not a BAD book. It's so different from anything I've ever managed to sit through that I don't know what to do with it. I don't know who to recommend this to. I can't say "meta-fantasy fans, read this!" because I don't know how it compares to similar books.

Just judge for yourself. That's usually the easiest option.

Gavin Taylor says

Crap Kingdom is a young adult's novel by D.C. Pierson. It begins with the main character, Tom Parking, contemplating on why his life isn't all bad and how he would like it more if it were. The character has a crush on a close friend. Lindsey Kopec. The girl that makes up a 1/3 of Tom's world. She's only a branch of the trouble that is to come. Then there's Kyle, Tom's best friend, who's like Tom, but only accelerated. Which makes him better than Tom in almost every way. This ends up being a disadvantage to Tom because, after being the Chosen One in Crap Kingdom for a while, the king claimed it was a mistake and Tom saw that he had made Kyle the new Chosen One over the fact that he thought Tom wasn't quite fit for the job. Kyle was ecstatic when he saw Tom enter Crap Kingdom. He had so much to tell him. By that statement, Tom had the feeling that this choice wasn't just made recently. It was actually made a few weeks in advance. This all made Tom really angry, made him feel betrayed by his best friend, and a whole lot jealous. On top of that, Kyle somehow got special powers that allow him to switch between worlds and be in two places at once (sort of). After that major downer, Lindsey is now Tom's girlfriend. Thanks to the soul that takes over Tom's body when he's technically not in it. This other soul is turns out to be a better Tom than the actual Tom. Soon after having a slight argument with Kyle, Tom finds this second kingdom called the Ghelm Kingdom. This Kingdom is full of people who are smarter, a lot more positive, and especially cleaner. Tom had agreed to help fight Crap Kingdom in the upcoming war. When Kyle found out about this agreement, it changed his perspective on Tom. He thought that Tom really must have hated him for taking his spot in Crap Kingdom. So, when the war finally came around, Tom ended up fighting on Crap Kingdom's side. He thought, how could he turn his back on them like that? Kyle was glad he didn't. After all the hullabaloo, it came to the point where Tom took a missile for Kyle. Not an arrow, not a bullet, but a missile. Good thing Kyle was able to use his magical powers to revive him. Only problem was, the king of Crap Kingdom didn't approve. He thought it was Jason, the other that soul that took over Tom's body when he wasn't there. This caused even more problems, but Kyle and Tom were able to convince the king that he should just accept it.

This book was surprisingly funny. Funnier than I expected. I really liked how at the beginning of the book he was complaining about his life and how he would like it more if it were worst. That amused me because I've never heard of or read about a character doing that. In most stories it seems like the characters are either pretty content with their lives or they want it to be better. I also liked that at one point it referenced a time in the story that happened a couple chapters back. It went in depth as to what really happened and how it started out. This was helpful to me, and hopefully other readers, because in the chapter before, it was very vague as to what went down. This left me in awe and drew me closer to this book. I always loved when stories made references to past events. To me, it makes the story more interesting. Some of the parts I disliked were only slight things that could be changed. It felt like some parts were just in there to look nice instead of serving a really purpose to the story. This was a small turn off because it made some parts feel boring to read. Makes you want to skip a few pages so you can get to the good part. This was really only thing I didn't like about this book. It was an excellent read overall. Some things that could have been changed to make it better would

be a little more dialogue from characters. I didn't find much wrong with this book.

In Conclusion, This book is a fantastic read. I can honestly say this book has much to offer. Its minor downfall of stuffing unimportant details into certain parts of the story could easily be looked past. It has a solid plot, an excellent story, and a decent structure. I would definitely recommend this book to those who enjoy the comedic, small journal entry type, fantasy based books. Don't know if there are many out like it, but this is definitely one of a kind.
