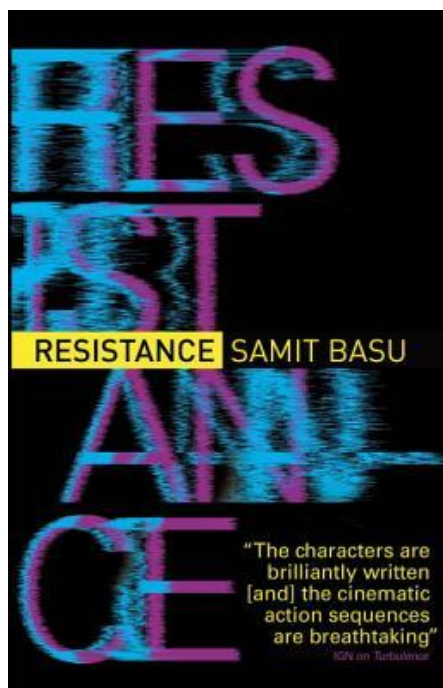




Resistance

Samit Basu

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In 2020, eleven years after the passengers of flight BA142 from London to Delhi developed extraordinary abilities corresponding to their innermost desires, the world is overrun with supers. Some use their powers for good, others for evil, and some just want to pulverize iconic monuments and star in their own reality show. But now, from New York to Tokyo, someone is hunting down supers, killing heroes and villains both, and it's up to the Unit to stop them...

Resistance Details

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From Reader Review Resistance for online ebook

Robin Burks says

When I read Samit Basu's *Turbulence*, all I could think of was that the novel was actually a comic book, but in a novel format. I feel exactly the same way about the sequel, *Resistance*. After receiving a copy of *Resistance* from Titan Books, I delved into the story. I'll admit that at first I was a little lost. There are so many characters to keep track with and I couldn't remember which characters had which superpowers. I'm bringing this up first because I feel that Basu might have needed a bit more writing at the beginning about reminding us of just who is who. It's either that, or I'm getting old and losing my memory.

Instead, though, the first chapter lunges us into a scene that can only be described as something you might see from *Transformers*. Seriously, it has everything we geeks love: giant mecha that combine to form even more giant mecha and Godzilla-type creatures invading... you guessed it... Tokyo. I could forgive the lack of explanation at the beginning because that first scene was mind-blowingly awesome. It's described in a way that makes you envision it and also makes you hope that someone someday turns these books into a feature film.

After that, the action doesn't stop, and at times, it almost feels like too much. In the first novel, the characters had a little breathing time here and there. They don't get that in this book. I will admit that although I'm complaining about it, I didn't really mind, because these scenes were so high voltage that I kept turning the pages of the book well past my bedtime.

I also liked the fact that you're really not sure who exactly are the good and bad guys in this book. Those roles were defined in the previous title (sort of), but now, it's hard to tell who really wants to help out humanity? The ending is equally as gray, and although you think you know who the good guys are, you have to ask, are they?

Basu does a good job of answering the question: What would it be like if normal humans were suddenly given superpowers? I feel both books deal with this issue in a way that isn't just humorous, but also realistic. And that's what makes both books a good read.

Nick says

(Disclaimer, or whatever it's called: I begged a copy of *Resistance* from the publisher. I honestly can't remember whether I got a freebie of *Turbulence* or whether I bought it, but let's assume I was sent that too, so you can consider me entirely bribed, except that seriously: I get sent a LOT of books and I don't write up many of them. Plus also, if you want to bribe me you really need to think more in terms of expensive Italian wine, glorious hotels and very, very large amounts of money. I'm sure there are books I could be bribed with - books that contain, say, the locations of very, very large amounts of unclaimed platinum or the secret to immortality or the formula for anti-gravity - but I don't seem to get sent those. So I don't make a claim to exceptional virtue here, I'm just saying that my integrity is a high-ticket item and in this review I'm doing my best to give it to you straight. Okay? Good.)

I really enjoyed Samit Basu's *Turbulence* - because it was just a terrifically enjoyable new angle on the superhero actioner. It's centred on Asia rather than North America, and the difference permeates everything in the story and straightforwardly makes the book(s) infinitely more interesting. Basu has a great sense of pop culture cool mediated by a nicely ironic awareness of ubiquitous human frailty and our lack of self-

knowledge which informs his superheroes and their powers. Those powers are themselves derived from personality and desire, which of course makes the whole thing the more revealing.

This book picks up the story a little down the road from the end of Turbulence, and it's every bit as zinging. Giant lobsters fight mecha warriors in the sea off Japan, the team from the first book are as torn and dangerous as they were before, and the whole world may be about to end. In other words, the scene is set for exactly the kind of heroics and unravellings you'd hope for.

Fresh, exciting heroics with a serious spine. What's not to like?

Whitney says

3.5 Personal Rating

Review written for and published by Portland Book Review on October 8th:

The sequel to Turbulence, Samit Basu's Resistance continues the narrative of a world where superheroes are an everyday occurrence. Eleven years ago the passengers of flight BA142 developed fantastic abilities and heralded a new wave of superheroes, as well as the inevitable villains. The Unit works to maintain a balance, but they are stretched increasingly thin. Meanwhile, super humans are going missing and tensions between the humans and the supers are about to boil over.

Resistance is a fascinating and complicated novel delving into the potential ramifications of a world overrun with super humans. While it is possible to read Resistance without having read the previous book, the sheer number of characters and their relationships with each other might be a bit overwhelming for readers who jump in with book two. The characters in the novel take a backseat to their super human abilities, which combined with the plot, political alliances and betrayals is what drives the narrative forward. Readers looking for a deep emotional connection with the protagonists or antagonists should look elsewhere. This is a book that really shines with its action scenes, but tends to get bogged down by its own complexity. Resistance is a good read for fans of the superhero genre in all its many mediums, but the average reader might be in a bit over their head.

K.J. Charles says

I raved about the first of these, Turbulence, and this is just as much fun. I don't understand why they aren't massive. They are laugh-out-loud, brimming with gleeful inventiveness, with terrific characters and a great, utterly ridiculous, explosive plot. I don't read superhero comics and am sick to death of superheromovies, but I would watch the hell out of these as movies except they'd never be as good, because books have an unlimited special effects budget.

Really bonkers enjoyable genre fiction, giving the reader a thoroughly good time, with huge body count and some fun twists. I recommend the pair highly (you don't have to read #1 but why would you not?).

Michelle says

I really loved the twists and turns of this book, I did get a little bored of it at certain points but I just plowed through and thoroughly enjoyed it! I am hoping there is a third book!

Brian Palmer says

This is a standalone novel set in a universe the author had created in a previous book (which I have not read); in this world, 11 years have passed since a planeload of passengers from London to Delhi were given superpowers by some phenomenon. Since then, new super powered have arisen ... there are signs that they may not be as strong as the "First Wave", but they're fundamentally changing everything. This world is basically ours up until the diversion point, and the superpowers are tied in some fashion to people's internal consciousness, so there are classic superheroes and supervillains. Moreover, as the numbers have grown, there are "super-architects" and "super-detectives," and super-powered prospering throughout.

But of course, if there are superheroes and supervillains, there are super-fights, and these are often hugely destructive, balancing out the tremendous advances in technology and ability that have been made. What is bound to happen with the unpowered, then? What is their place in all of this? And just because individuals have superpowers, can they fight the forces of corporatization, nationalism, and their own pride?

This book is a book in love with classics of superhero genres (it opens with a sentai team fighting kaiju sent to terrorize Tokyo, before shifting its attention to a UN superhero team stationed beneath the Statue of Liberty ... of course, a new Statue of Liberty, given supervillains' penchant for destruction, but still). There is an in-universe explanation for why these arise, but that changes little.

The underlying question about how to handle life in a world where unpowered humanity is seen as little more than breeding stock for the superpowered to have their way with is not completely answered, but the book is a fun adventure that at least shows people grappling with the problem. (One thing which helps distinguish this from many other comic book novels, although it doesn't play any notable role, is that most of the "First Wave" superpowered are southeast Asian, to the point that the UN team has an obligatory "token American" to balance things out).

Fun and quick.

Callum Shephard says

Serving as a sequel to *Turbulence*, *Resistance* explores what follows when the world faces a growing number of meta-humans who are a law unto themselves. Set in 2020, a decade after a flight of passengers gained superpowers thanks to a random occurrence, the world has dramatically changed. Many superheroes are celebrities but humanity itself is losing ambition, seemingly resigned to be lorded over by super-beings. However, someone is killing off these meta-humans one by one, and they have a plan...

Serving as a deconstruction of the superhero genre as much as a celebration of its various tropes, *Resistance* is a closer examination of the impact superheroes would have on reality. Despite the colourful science-fiction elements present – with nods to super sentai series and kaiju films – there's a darkly cynical undertone. For everything weirdly wonderful the world offers, there is equally something darkly wrong and problematic which makes everyday life all the harder with every passing week.

Written in a format similar to light novels, it's a book that readers can easily breeze through at a rapid pace

without anything seeming underdeveloped. Furthermore, its sense of scale with heroes traversing entire continents never fails to emphasise the weight of events. This said, the book isn't as smart as it thinks it is. A lot of this territory has been trodden before by the likes of Warren Ellis, Alan Moore, and Kurt Busiek; while its concepts are never pushed far enough to offer much more than comic readers have seen in *Astro City*.

Despite this, *Resistance* is nonetheless a great tale and entertaining from beginning to end. It offers something different from the usual yarn, and is well worth a look for any science-fiction fan.

Robin says

Thanks to the publicity department at Titan Books, I had the opportunity to read this book in advance of its publication in July 2014. In fact, they were even kind enough to send me a free copy of *Turbulence*, to which this is the sequel. In that book, India-born author Samit Basu introduced a new wrinkle on the superhero cape and spandex, with ordinary people on a present-day flight from London to Delhi becoming extraordinary in what would come to be called the First Wave. Each person on that flight, and on several other flights around the world, suddenly developed super powers based on what they wanted most in life. Some became villains, others heroes, and quite a few of them perished in the struggle for world domination that followed.

Now the story moves into the near future, somewhere around the year 2020. The world has been profoundly changed. There has been a Second Wave of powers as people figure out what flight-paths will make them super. The balance is tipping so that normal humans no longer have any achievements to look forward to, except to serve the super-powered ruling class. Some of the heroes from *Turbulence* are still trying to use their powers to make the world better for everyone, but they have their hands full with constant monster attacks, doomsday prophecies, hero-villain slug-fests, and super-powered rampages of destruction. The Unit, answerable to the United Nations, does its best, but it needs to be twelve places at one time, and mistakes are made that cost the world dearly. An evil corporation has arisen, seeking to control all the world's super-powered leagues and squads. And a young Japanese billionaire with a grudge against supers wants to level the playing field, no matter how many lives it costs.

The upshot is an action-packed book in which heroes and villains swap loyalties in surprising ways, giant creatures wreak huge amounts of property damage, and flying people, invincible people, shape-changing people, people who can teleport, and many other strange characters, pile onto each other in an escalating series of battles around the world. Brace yourself for a plague of insectoid zombies. Duck and cover as tanks, aircraft, and rocket-launchers square off against mad-scientist inventions and ninja robots. Hang on tight while the Justice League and the Power Rangers, or their nearest equivalents, employ their abilities with rare tactical brilliance in the super-power smackdown of the century. And try not to squirm as the action pushes closer to the date on which the end of the world has been reliably predicted.

Precisely what goes on in this story is too complicated to summarize briefly. Let it be enough to say that it's exciting, often suspenseful, and at the same time full of thought-provoking ambiguities. Sometimes even the good guys and the bad guys aren't certain which they are—whether what they are doing is right or wrong, helpful or destructive. Often their actions and their motives are mixed, and the lulls in the action leave plenty of room for emotion-fraught soul-searching. It makes the texture of the adventure that much more interesting. As for who does the good and bad stuff, I suppose there is room in this review for a taster.

Among the leading heroes and villains in this story, you will find—

Aman, the ultimate hacker: a bloke from India whose mind can control the internet

Uzma, the siren: a British-Pakistani beauty who can get people to do whatever she tells them to do

Tia, the one-woman army: a woman from India who can split off copies of herself and merge them back in again

Vir, the lone ranger: a solitary Superman who goes around righting wrongs, and wants nothing to do with global politics

Jai, the ultimate soldier: a once and future supervillain who cannot be killed

Sher, the tiger man: enough said

Anima, the anime girl: a warrior princess with cartoon eyes and an endless arsenal of glowing bladed weapons

Jason, the telegenic telekinetic: a teen heartthrob who moves junk with his mind while starring in a TV series about himself

That Guy, the photobomber: a nobody whose superpower is to always be wherever something important or interesting is going down

Kalki, the boy god: an insane, blue-skinned, four-armed, horse-headed child whose wish-granting ability can actually alter reality

—not to mention somebody who can conjure up a different Godzilla to stomp on Tokyo every month, and a girl whose blood can cure diseases, the guy who can pass through solid objects, the detective who doesn't need to rely on deduction to find her man, and many, many, many more. It's a superpocalypse, and you're invited, along with the whole rest of the world. If you have the guts to poke your head out of the comfortable and familiar and try a new, somewhat foreign flavor ("international" would be a better description), you will be richly rewarded. Only look out for falling buildings, animated statues, monsters with poisonous flatulence, and the possibility of at least a third book to come!

Samit Basu's other titles include the Devi novels, also featuring Indian superheroes; the GameWorld Trilogy, which appears to be a mash-up/spoof of world folklore and sci fi-fantasy classics; and *Terror on the Titanic*, the first in what looks like a series of historical fiction-fantasy-mysteries featuring the Morningstar Agency. He is also the author or co-author of several India-themed graphic novels.

Tony says

An OK superhero tale with loads of battles and destruction. Became somewhat boring after a while.

Martin Willoughby says

Meh. Would make a good comic book, but not a novel.

Danie Ware says

Sadly, this defeated me.

I really enjoyed the first one, and this certainly had the same wonderful sense of humour and slightly sly look at how superpowers would fit - or not - into the politics and media of a modern society.

It had some glorious comic-bright battles, larger than life, where I could see the 'Zap! Kapow!' that decorated the panels, and some moments that made me chuckle aloud - the exploding bear being a personal favourite. That and a character called 'Reload' who runs out of ammo during a fight.

However, I found myself both overwhelmed and somewhat bewildered - kaiju and mecha and giant Anime warriors and jetfighters and and and... I had no idea who was who, who their allies or enemies were, what they wanted or how they all fitted together. Frequently, I had trouble actually telling which character was which (not helped by a poor narrator, regrettably). I think this one may have been better attempted in print, rather than on audio.

On principle, I won't give a star rating to a book I didn't finish. But I may have another attempt at this one - and remind myself by reading the other one again first!

Carl Harris says

First off, let me say that this was a Goodreads win. Have you ever sat down with your friends and played the "Who would win this fight?" game? Or the "How cool would it be if..." game? I'd like to think that part of the genesis of this book was a bunch of people in a bar sitting around talking about comic books and what they would put in and how they would do things. Now, let's run down the Fanboy Checklist and discuss what is in this book. We have:

- 1) Superheroes
- 2) Giant Mechs fighting
- 3) Kaiju
- 4) An Indestructible Super Villain (reformed)
- 5) Volcano Lair complete with
- 6) Dinosaurs
- 7) Billionaire Playboy turned Vigilante
- 8) Shadowy Corporation bent on World Domination
- 9) Ultra Cool Superhero Team with Hangout
- 10) At Least One Character With a Faked Death
- 11) Slightly Insane Demigod
- 12) Gadgets and Gizmos
- 13) Shapeshifters

Yes, this book has all that. Thing is though, it kinda works. The pace is fast, you bounce from one corner of the world to the other. The characters are as varied as the super powers (personal favorite: Uzma's Voice), you don't have several cookie cutter heroes. While you don't have to read the previous book *Turbulence*, I think it would help. In this book, no one explains HOW people got superpowers. I assume that this was covered in the first book. The most you get is a brief mention about the flight. Also, there was a character in this book, Jason, I had no idea what his superpower was until two-thirds of the way through the book and someone actually said what it was. I kept thinking that if I would have read the other book I would not have had that problem.

All in all, if you enjoy comic books, superheroes, giant monster movies, manga or anime, this is a book for you. Four out of five stars.

Claus Wøbbe says

Ready the first 50 pages or so - can't finish it. It's too much magic for my taste. Writing style with the special type of humor in every second sentence annoys me as well, but hey, that's just me.

Anete says

Cilvēki ar superspējām. Detalizētas un iespaidīgas cēlas ainas. Indiešu autors ir radījis darbu, kas atgādina Michael Bay filmu ar Bolivudas piešprici, domāju stāsts ļoti labi ekranizētos ar visiem briesmīgiem un transformeru cienīgajām ainām. Šeit bija daudz man negaidītu pavērsienu.

Māžīgais jautājums - cilvēki ar superspējām būtu supervaroņi vai superāundari? Un vai maz ir atšķirība starp tiem?

Tikai izlasījuši 2/3 grāmatas, konstatēju, ka šis ir sērijas 2. grāmata. Oups?! Bet tas īstenībā maz traucēja, ja nu vienīgi visi šie indiešu izcelsmes vārdi nedaudz juka kopā :D

BMR, MSW, LSW says

I picked this book up at Dollar Tree, not realizing it was book 2 of a series. Some series have books that you can read as a standalone, but this series is not one of those series. You have to read book 1 for book 2 to make sense.

Resistance picks up some years after the end of *Turbulence*. I'm still not quite sure what happened at this point, but it was not a happy ending.

Recommended for those who enjoyed *Turbulence*. Otherwise, it's not essential reading.
