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Stefan Korsak and his genetically-altered brother have evaded the Institute for three years. When they learn the new location of the secret lab, they plan to break in and save the remaining children there. But one of the little ones doesn't want to leave. She wants to kill...

Basilisk Details

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From Reader Review Basilisk for online ebook

Jayda says

Going to review this and its big brother Chimera when I have the time... for now, just marking it as TOTALLY living up to its predecessor and actually, exceeding my expectations. Another intelligent, dark, action-packed, gritty AND witty read written by the snark-tastic Rob Thurman!

Penelope says

I liked this book, but I still can't help feeling like Stefan and Misha are only shadows of the characters in her other books. This one fleshes out Misha a lot more. While the ride is enjoyable and unpredictable, it just made me want to re-read the trickster books and Cal and Niko series again. Maybe I just like those guys better.

L-D says

This book opens with Stefan and Misha hiding from the Institution and trying to build a new life for themselves. Misha's abilities are growing in leaps and bounds as is his relationship with Stefan. I love the way Rob Thurman builds strong brotherly relations. It really draws me into the characters. I liked this book and was entertained by the action. I felt the ending was a tiny bit anticlimactic which is why I gave it 4 stars but for a second book in a series, it was pretty good. I hope she continues to write about the Korsak brothers.

Ami says

3.5 stars

Three years after his brother, Stefan, took him out from The Institute, Michael "Misha" Korsak has learned a lot to try to blend in, to be "normal". Currently residing in a small town, with different names, their life takes a drastic change when their father, Anatoly is murdered, and they are now on the run from both the government and ruthless killers in the form of Chimera kids from the Institute, who break free and ready to take the human world as their killing Playground.

The first book of Korsak Brothers series, Chimera, is an amazing piece of writing. In the sequel, Basilisk, Michael "Misha" Korkas takes seat as the narrator -- and that makes the biggest impact for me. Unfortunately, it's for the worse. I'm not very much into Michael's thoughts. His narration (or I guess it means Ms. Thurman's writing for this) feels a bit too much, a bit excessive. Added with actions and twists, it actually makes me feel tired.

In addition, I cannot help that Michael's "voice" reminds me of the other younger brother of Ms. Thurman's creation: Cal Leandros (though Michael is less mouthy).

However, I admit that Ms. Thurman paints the beauty of brotherly love VERY well, with grisp of smart

humor. It entertains me in some parts. It just doesn't grip me as much as book 1 does.

Heather Anne says

Entertaining, but nothing more.

Jacinta says

Loved It.

Jam packed with all the things I love in books guns, action, brothers and a ferret! Had me on my toes to the end of the book and then became sad as I realised that I had finished and may have to wait a while before the next book. sigh.

Anyways I recommend that you read the first book to this series (before this one most obviously) which is called "Chimera" cause it may clear things up for you a little so you kinda then get the flow of this book.

If you enjoyed the first series of Rob's which is the Cal leandros (which to this day still remains my favoroute series :)). Then you will most definately fallidng for these two bad ass kicking brothers as well in no time.

Serene says

I didn't like it. I like some of Rob's books, but.. I think I can only deal with one pair of dysfunctional co-dependant brothers. At the point where the lead character was thinking what an awesome lethal, smart guy he was and the ferret was biting his brother again, I just decided I'd had enough. It wasn't funny, cute or entertaining, just kind of hokey. I'm also not really into the mafia hitguy stuff. If you have to tell yourself your smart, and a lethal weapon, chances are you are really not as awesome as you think.

I'm going to stick with the Cal Leandros books. I just can't get enough Goodfellow and give these a pass.

Sarah says

Oh, Rob. Oh Rob.

I tried. I tried to read past the awful emo that topped anything that Cal and Niko ever had to offer. I tried to get past the awful dialogue and expository repetition, telling myself that yeah, while the book could probably in fact, be done in 40 pages, surely there was something in here to keep me reading.

I even tried to explain away the awful ignorance displayed about domesticated ferret behavior. Biting *all the time* to draw blood? Er, terribly abused. Really. Beyond anything every hinted at in the first book. Horrible smell - so bad everyone always commented on it. Must still have scent glands and being washed daily off scene. (Might also have something to do with the bizarre diet, too!). But nothing can explain the noises. Or the other distinctly non ferret habits. Have you ever seen a ferret outside of a big box pet store, where they tend to just sleep most of the time?

But then I got to the part where Misha finally meets up with his online sorta of girlfriend, and oh my gods, the tropes were going to kill me. And the if a reader couldn't see where the plot was going with the awesome perfect super bionic and oh so smart girlfriend, then they....just deserved to read to the end of this awful thing anyway.

Arismum says

Really enjoyed this one, but I still prefer the Cal Leandros series, hence 4 stars.

Sana Afifi says

4,25

Miss Clark says

3.5 at times

Sequel to Chimera. The brothers have been on the run for three years, free from the mob and the Institute, first in Bolivia and now in a small town in the Pacific northwest. Michael is your average teen working at the local coffee-shop. Stefan a painter and jack-of-all-trades. Life is good. they have a home. Stefan is content. Michael is working to find a cure for the others so they can be freed. They had Saul track down the new location and they are just waiting for a break-through.

Then Stefan and Michael's father, Anotoly, is murdered and everything spirals out of control as their pasts catch up to them.

Genius might be described as a supreme capacity for getting its possessors into trouble of all kinds. ~ Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902)

Fantasy abandoned by reason creates impossible monsters... ~ Francisco Goya 1799

Impeccable opening. Transitioning from Stefan to Michael in a situation that guaranteed my interest to see what would happen next. I also like to think that because of Michael's psychic healing/killing abilities, in that moment when he healed Stefan and all those thoughts were running through his head, they were transferred to Stefan and so Stefan knows what Misha thinks of him. Knows without doubt that he had done the right things for Misha.

For continuity, though, I wish Michael's thoughts matched precisely with his thoughts when Stefan dies later in the book. Only part of it is there.

Misha is an unreliable narrator because he knows that he is not Lucas but refers to himself as Lucas and talks about not being able to remember, etc., when he knows he never could remember and never could have. They are not biologically brothers. I just don't understand why that issue was not addressed earlier in the narrative.

But more than that, there was Stefan. He was overprotective and called me kid, but he was my brother - mine - and I sort of loved him. Not that I'd say that. You couldn't just go and say things like that aloud. Tv said so. Movies said so. General guy culture said so - I'd learned that from close conversation. Everything said so. Almost three years with him and the possibility of losing him said so.

Funny the things you don't want to say and tempt fate, the things you don't want to admit to yourself, no matter how often you think them. We were free and alive now, but that might not always be true.

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Michael uses his genetic abilities on Stefan - a huge violation of their trust in one another. It was wrong and careless. He put Stefan to sleep, trying to let him rest but it resulted in Misha getting shot in the head when he goes outside without Stefan.

"When you went outside without me."

"You were asleep. You needed the rest," I pointed out.

"Without me. What did you do, Michael?"

There was no Misha now. He knew what I'd done....

"I would've woken up when you opened that door. After the mob, after what you and I lived through before, I would've woken up and we both know it."

I'd disappointed him. There hadn't been a time Stefan had been disappointed in me until now...

I walked in silence behind him. I had issues. Anyone raised at the Institute would, but I hadn't felt this worthless and guilt in my life. He was the sole family I had and I'd let him down.

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In the beginning, when he'd rescued me, taught me how to live in the real world, taught me... everything, he was nothing but patient. He was the most patient, protective ex-mobster you could find, because he knew how damaged I was, which I think might have been only marginally more damaged than he was from guilt and despair. Not once in almost two years did he ever snap or lose his temper with me, even if I deserved it - especially if I deserved it.. But after two years, he went from treating me as a phantom brother who would disappear at any moment and started treating me like a real brother. It turned out I liked that. After two years, I wanted to be given a verbal ass-kicking when I deserved it, I wanted to pay off the half-blown-up garage, etc. I wanted all of that. Why? Because that meant no matter how annoying I was and how quickly Stefan would make sure I paid the price, he always had my back. He protected me from anyone and anything. Blood is thicker than delinquent behavior. And while that wasn't one hundred percent correct (not actually related), I took it. Good, bad, and all that came between, Stefan would always be my brother, my family, and that was something. That was really something.

I'd finally found that different kind of truth - a lie that wasn't a lie at all. Stefan knew I wasn't Lukas, but he knew I was his brother, the same as I knew that he was mine, that being brothers had nothing to do with sharing the same blood. He wouldn't ever tell me about Lukas and he would hope I'd never find out. He wouldn't risk that I'd again feel those doubts that I had following my rescue or that I would think he considered me any less of the brother he'd been born with. That was Stefan. And that was fine. That was better than fine. Some things didn't have to be said aloud.

Lisa says

Started very slow, kept putting it down and not returning for weeks - partly busyness and partly lack of interest. Built to some good action. Overall an enjoyable read.

Rane says

I can always count on Rob to give me, the reader, action-packed books with lots of humor and at the heart two brothers who will move heaven and earth for each other in truly dire situations.

In Chimera we follow along from Stefan Korsak view as he finds after 10+ years his brother whose been genetically-altered to be the perfect superhuman assassin, killing with a single touch. Finally breaking free from the institute that experimented on Misha (Michael) and other children, the brothers seem to have loosened the hold the institute had.

Basilisk picks up three years later and from Misha view as those who the brothers been hiding from find them, dragging them from their hard won peace. But now the ones who were the experiments are running the show, and it's once again up to Misha and Stefan to find a way to stop them before they bring complete death to the world.

It was refreshing to have Misha view to the story this time around, from the scary kid we first met, Masha has grown to be a great young guy, who's still dealing with the world (and his hate for LOLcats) showing the emotional insecurity of dealing with his brother, feelings and life in general. This was one of the highlights of the book for me because even if he's pretty much a genius and superhuman powerhouse, he still has doubts, which makes him all too human.

RT leads us on a merry chase through a few states as the Brothers track down the other Chimera and one scary little girl by the name of Wendy who can kill anyone with a thought. Cue the gore! The story does take a little time to get into with Misha bouncing around from one thought to another, but quickly picks up as the brothers leave the place they've called home and pick up Saul with his eye popping wardrobe. The banter between Saul and Misha has me rolling with laughter, and poor Stefan having to deal with his crazy genius brother is heartwarming cause you know he wouldn't change him. Because he's his brother.

Clues and omissions by Misha give the reader a few pauses as you wonder what he's been hiding, and Rob wraps it up nicely with a lot of surprises along the way.

Entertaining and just plain fun the Chimera series is shaping up to be a great series and maybe giving the Leandros brothers a run for their money!

"It was five months later that I finally admitted defeat, finishing what I'd started more than half a year ago, and was at my laptop, hacking into Lolcats, crashing the site, and removing any mention of it from the Net. It was evil and had to go."

Cheryl says

There are big spoilers for Chimera in this review. Skip it if you haven't read the first book.

Basilisk picks up almost three years after *Chimera*. Stefan and Michael, or Misha as he likes to be called, are living in a small town in Oregon, holding down normal jobs while they plan their raid on the Institute to rescue the remaining chimeras. While not all of them are enthusiastic killers, none are like Misha who has a working conscience and an aversion to killing, even to save himself, so he's worked on developing a cure.

Not long into the book they learn that someone is coming after them and have to pull up stakes quickly, and with some property damage. Which means they have to put into motion their attack on the Institute immediately, which means they bring in Saul, Stefan's criminal acquaintance who does occasional work for him at an exorbitant fee (he's really Stefan's friend but has a bit of a hard time admitting it).

I'm not going to go into the rest of what happens because I don't want to give anything away, but I loved this book. It was told from Misha's POV and it's definitely different than Stefan's which, I know some will disagree, is a good thing. In *Chimera* we didn't know what was going on in the super smart head of his, but in *Basilisk* we find what he thought then and how he has developed in the three years since. There was a lot of internal and external dialogue about what he was capable of doing and what he would do, of things he learned at the Institute and since he was free, but I liked it. It gives the reader insight into the Misha and the other kids who were raised there, why they are the way they are and how amazing it is that Misha isn't a sociopathic nut job and how much Stefan had to do with that.

Some other reviewers have said that if you didn't see a couple of things coming you either never read a book, saw a movie, or whatever. Well, I admit it, I didn't see a couple of little twists with characters coming, but, like I've said, I'm just smart enough to know how dumb I am, so sue me. Even if I had figured everything out, I still would've enjoyed the book just as much. For me, this series isn't a whodunit, we know who the bad guys are, it doesn't matter which one is the worst. I love the relationship between Stefan and Misha, especially since we know they aren't actually related by blood. And yes, in terms of the relationship between the two main characters, who are brothers who will do anything for the other, it's very similar to Thurman's Cal Leandros series. Again, don't care.

I keep saying this in reviews of her books, but I don't know how Thurman writes her characters with so much emotion and all that other touchy-feely stuff without making me want to hurl, but she does. I was ready to give this one five stars after reading the freaking prologue and I can't wait for the next book in this series.

Cathy says

Quite a ride. Everything that I kept thinking all along, "Yeah, but what about..." was totally addressed in the end to my complete satisfaction. I can't say too much without spoiling things, but she does a great job of doling out the story and making it all make sense in the end. But as usual, it was the wry humor and heartfelt emotion that was the best part of the book. Rob's a master of sarcasm without meanness, always making me feel in on the joke. And I'm not sure what makes her write so many books about the deep love between brothers (or a sister with her Trickster books) but she does it very powerfully.

I have to say that reading this was really poignant. I had already gotten the book and had it ready to read next when I saw on Twitter that Rob had been in a very bad car accident and was still in ICU after a week. I know that reading and enjoying the book is the best thing I can do to honor her, and I'm continuing to pray for her complete recovery. I hope that by the time you read this review she's fully recovered. You can see updates about her progress on her website. I know prayers and good wishes would be greatly appreciated. <http://robthurman.net/blog/>

Kate says

The second book in the Chimera series is just as fast paced and interesting as the first one. This time around we get Misha's perspective on the situation and he's really grown in the three years since the end of Chimera; at least he's certain he has. The big bad of the book (The Institute and its 'children') are as creepy as ever and the action sequences are fantastic. My favorite aspect of the book is the interaction between the brothers Stefan and Misha as Misha comes to realize that maybe he doesn't have everything figured out after all. Add some good old fashioned snark and a dash of the science fiction and Basilisk has been my favorite read of the year.

Nicole says

It was quite entertaining overall, and the plot surprised me at times. There was one twist in particular that I realised afterward the author had given plenty of clues about, but I didn't see it coming. But I didn't like this one quite as much as the previous Korsak brothers book. Maybe it was just my mood/what was happening in my life.

David says

Needs to quit trying so hard to be clever. Yes, family is important, I'm not going to forget this central theme to the book from page to page. Also, we could use some different characters. Misha/Stefan/Cal are all functionally the same character with their reptative not terribly wise cracks, the overcompensating focus on junk food, their so gosh, golly, good hearted badassness. Which is all too bad, these are interesting ideas just weighted down with the flavor which winds up overwhelming the story.

Nicola Taylor says

Guns are for boys, High explosives are for men.

In the case of Basilisk, true words as Micheal "Misha" tries to show that at nineteen, he is a man.

After waiting an agonisingly long wait after Chimera Rob Thurman gives us an action-packed second edition to the Korsak Brothers.

It starts with the discovery of Anton Korsak's (Daddy Korsak) death and from there on the plot is engaging, fast and very intriguing. Basilisk shows how far the Korask brothers will go to keep each other alive. Stefan will kill for Misha and Misha learns what he would do the same for Stefan, despite not wanting to be a killer. He learns that saving his family would not make him a freak or monster, it simply "makes him human".

The sinsiter Institute is not the major threat in this book. Its the other Chimera children, mainly Wendy, the ten-year-old who loves to kill. Wendy is now forever a name I now associate with killer ten-year-olds and is also the name of my next pet :) She's just creepy and you expect her to skip along singing 'Ring Around the Rosie' while people around her just drop dead. Or see her kill a clown in a role reversal. Creepy.

Basilisk includes Rob's brilliant humor with Godzilla the ferret. ("Guns don't kill people. Ferrets do") I laughed so much at parts i had tears in my eyes. I also had tears at some of the more heartbreaking moments between the brothers.

This book is epic! Worth the painful wait! And is overall f**king amazing!!!! **Long Live the Korask Brothers!!**

Lin says

[or not so brother. He knows! (hide spoiler)]
