



Fledgling

Mark A. Cooper

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Tormented by his mother's death...

Taken for granted by his father...

Trained in deadly martial arts...

Jason Steed is looking for a place to call home. He finds what he's looking for in the Sea Cadets-an elite group of British youngsters being groomed for lifelong service in the military. But when a routine training exercise goes awry, Jason finds himself in the middle of a secret mission. The future of the world hangs in the balance...and Jason might be the only one who can save it.

Fledgling Details

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Author : Mark A. Cooper

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From Reader Review Fledgling for online ebook

JP Apellido says

This was an amazing book! The flow of the story, the development of characters and their relationship with one another are all spot on. One flaw I found though is the unrealistic nature of the plot. At age 11, Jason Steed is already a multilingual martial artist, earning several black belts, flying planes, etc. Of course, he's a prodigy but it gets exaggerated sometimes. Despite this flaw, I really enjoyed reading this book. I hope to find more books like this.

Bianca says

RATE:5 Starssss

This book is about a young boy named Jason Steele. I like the way it was set up. How it starts when he was like 5 and he just grows to eleven. Really enjoyed seeing how he became who he was. Admittedly, I kinda hated Ray at first. He was resentful towards his son because his wife died in childbirth. However, he grew he learned he loved his son. Jason and the entire book sort of reminded me of enders game. Mostly because he was so young to accomplish so much. This kid is badass. Even more so than Percy. He can speak like 6 languages and knows like 6 styles of fighting. Everything veered into the serious Lane when people started dying though. That NEVER happens in books like this(excluding enders game) I was sad for him. And mad at how much people underestimated him, but it was funny. Did anyone else hate that first bitch nanny. Jason would have never hit his head, if she didn't try to hit him. Great book overall, recommend to everybody. Will continue series definitely. Probably today.

Kyle says

A fast fun read that sets the stage for all the books to follow.

The book introduces Jason Steed whose mother died giving him breath. Jason's father is a career Naval officer and is gone for months at a time leaving Jason to be raised by nannies. At age five, while his father is stationed in Hong Kong, Jason starts learning Taekwondo. This starts a love affair with the art and he is soon awarded his black belt. He then starts studying other forms of martial arts, quickly obtaining black belts in those forms too.

It is during this growth process that we learn about Jason. It's quite easy to become attached to him. As someone with two black belts, I can easily identify with him. I've stopped someone from being bullied at school and then been suspended because I was fighting. So when it happens to Jason it's like "oh Jason I've been there and done that."

When Jason is eleven he joins the Sea Cadets a program designed to groom young men for lifelong service in the British Navy. It's when this group of cadets travels to the ocean off the Jakarta coast that Jason gets to show his true metal.

The plot was fast-paced and definitely held my attention probably more than any other book I've read in quite some time. The characters are well developed considering how short the book is. I'm looking forward to learning more about them in future books.

I'd highly recommend this book for tweens and young teen boys who enjoy action-packed stories. Guys, you're going to love it!

I can't wait to start book two!

Brian Bern says

I really enjoyed this story. There's plenty of action, adventure, and emotion throughout. Jason Steed faces many challenges growing up. Adults treat him unfairly at times, he has a complex relationship with his father, and he finds himself threatened with physical danger. He dedicates himself to learning martial arts and several languages so that he can join the Special Forces or Secret Service when he grows up. He has a loyal friend and an intriguing girlfriend. Then when he joins the Sea Cadets, he is thrown into a situation that will require great skill and resolve to survive.

It's a great story. I believe fans of Alex Rider will enjoy this story. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Colin Gibson says

I read the reviews so bought the book, although it was not easy to get hold of. I ended up getting it from Amazon.

The story is amazing, why this book is not a best seller is beyond me, probably because it's self-published. I really loved the story, the character Jason Steed. The imagination is allowed to run wild, the story is cute, romantic, sad and exciting.

It's the best book I have read since Harry Potter. I can't say enough good things about it. In one word; Awesome.

Melissa Mcavoy says

I feel bad bringing down the super high rating on this one. It does deserve lots of stars as it so clearly delights kids. When was the last time you looked at reviews and found the majority written by grade school boys who described themselves as not liking books?

Fledgling is the first installment in an initially self-published series.

Jason Steed was born in Hong Kong in tragic circumstances: his mother dies during delivery. His British military dad is filled with grief and leaves the boy to be raised by a Cantonese nanny. At five Jason develops a passion for martial arts. The plot is action-packed and cleverly begins with a snippet of the dramatic conclusion. The writing is not glamorous, but given the author apparently wrote this for his son, without

thoughts of commercial publishing, AND the fact that it so obviously captivates readers between the ages of 8 and 14, I give him a pass.

The Jason Steed series is perfect for kids who love Alex Ryder and will go on to love Ender's Game. There is violence, some minor cussing and a tame-ok I really mean bloodlessly saccharine and slightly icky, cuz the kids are 10-romance with a princess. I have my fingers triply crossed that Princess Catherine gets to bash someone over the head in a future installment and a quadruple hope that she and Jason decide they are better off as friends and she winds up going out with his math-whiz buddy Scott- but I'm not holding out much hope.

So as a middle-aged female feminist that's read a lot I can't give this five stars. It falls too firmly in the macho-wish-fulfillment - haven't I seen this in a movie, camp, but I heartily endorse it as a great choice to lure reluctant readers into a book and give them some hope that all adults might not be completely boring and useless. Thank you Mr. Cooper

Michael Adams says

I never read any books until my teacher recommended this for me, After the first page I was hooked n Jason Steed books and now I love spy books, Alex Rider, CHERUB, Artemus Fowl, Jason Steed comes top of the list. The story is very real life, the story grows on you. I would recommend for boy 10-14 if you are like me and don't like to read books this is a good start, my grades have gone up in English to.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

This is a brilliant read! I felt a wide range of emotion while reading this action packed book. Mark does a such a great job at showing both Jason's life now in the present, and his life growing up, and it sets the tone for the resilient young man he really is. It also show cases the broken and then on the mend relationship he has with his father, Lieutenant Commander Steed of the HMS ARK Royal, based out of London, England.

By the time Jason was almost 8, he earned two black belts and a 2nd Dan black belt. He can speak numerous languages including Chinese (which is where he grew up, until his father moved him back to the house he grew up in London, England), Japanese, English and more. He can complete an military assault course in less than 7 mins, and fly a simulated plane. Jason starts off broken and throws himself into martial arts, where he learns a great deal about his own personal inner strength. This strength mixed with his strength prove to be a life saver with Jason finds himself among an elite group from the British army, in enemy territory.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Jason Steed. He has a great young male voice that many tween readers and even teen readers will enjoy. While the martial arts was amazing, and the war scenes brutally awesome and very real, being set in the 1960's-1970's make the book appealing to older readers. Jason and his Dad are invited to the Royal Palace more than once, and the Royal family have minor rules. I liked that Princess Catherine and Jason have a sweet, innocent connection or "puppy dog" love.

At only 11 years old, this young hero has his head planted firmly on his shoulders, but also enjoys doing what some of the kids his age do. He is a boy after all and with his best friend Scott, they do have a few minor mishaps. There's nothing Jason can't get handle and through the course of his story, I was moved to tears a few times. I got so caught up in Fledgling, that I had to remind myself that Jason Steed's story isn't

real, as often times it felt like it was.

Fans of Alex Rider will be highly entertained with Jason Steed. I highly recommend this book, but be warned there is a few war scenes and while they're not all gory, they are real. I'm looking forward to reading more of Jason's story.

Christina Leigh says

Jason Steed: Flegling is a book full of history, action, military combat and of course Karate. The book takes you through Jason's first eleven years of life. He starts out in Hong Kong learning karate, jujitsu and tae kwon do (just to name a few).

Right away, you know there is something different about him. He is stubborn, loves carrot cake and sneaks into a military base at night to play on the flight simulator. This just the beginning though. From this, he ends up beating unthinkable odds.

Along with a little bit of English Royalty added in too!

I won't give away anymore. This story is full of surprises and great moments that will linger in your mind well past the hours you should be sleeping. I actually woke up laughing yesterday morning thinking about the Barbershop scene.

I cried, I laughed, my heart beat a little faster than normal sometimes and I finally decided I liked his father when he let Jason make his own decision in the end.

This is an excellent book for anyone who likes European war stories, young adult novels and books filled with action and adventure. Plus, I see a series in the making. Over all, this is a book that can be easily enjoyed by someone as young as ten but as old as eighty.

Steve Fincher says

English Book Review.... By Steven Fincher Class 8C

I read this book a year ago but read it again for the English project.

Jason Steed is one of my favourite books because it is like real-life. Jason does normal things, he gets into trouble, he cries, he is naughty sometimes, he laughs and is against bully's.

His dad is not very nice because Jason's mum died when she was giving birth and his dad is strict and his dad blames Jason.

EMOTION

A bit in the book that made me cry is when he was 10 and his dad said "I love You" after Jason had been hurt. Jason could not believe it. He said REALLY? You really love me? It was the first time in his life anyone had said that to him it was an emotional chapter.

ACTION.

Its non-stop action, he has no-one that cares for him much, his dad allows him to take up Karate and Judo.

Jason is smallest in the classes and gets tired of being beaten and thrown about but it is teaching him something. Something that he needs more than ever when he ends up accidentally in the middle of a naval secret mission. He is brilliant.

STORY

The story is very original and not like anything else, Alex Rider has a teen body spy and is good but is not so real, Alex Rider is more stiff and fake. Jason is a real person.

CONCLUSION

An action packed story about a boy growing up with a strict father in a military world. Fantastic ending to the story, I have now read all 5 books in the series.

Chris Horsefield says

I love this novel, it's coming of age, action, adventure and a small amount of cupid love. Author's style has been compared to Anthony Horowitz (readers have actually theorized it's Horowitz using a pseudonym). However Cooper's style is more direct and in your face, he tells it like it is, not a classic writer but a writer for today's young readers. His ability to keep young normally reluctant readers is very impressive. A truly original story written for boys, in a style of Anthony Horowitz and Enid Blyton with more action for today's market. A great series and a novel that will always remain a favorite of mine.

Chris Horsefield says

This is the 3rd time I have read this. But the first time in 5 years, and damn it made me cry again.

I read it when I was in school the first time and fell in love with the character, now I am mature (Or should be) the writing seems very 10th grade style, basic and the author 'Tells' the story. I actually think that is the appeal, it's simple to read, an original story and great cute little character, unlike any other so-called teen spies, Jason Steed is more normal, he does cry, gets hurt emotionally and physically.

The relationship between father and son is heart breaking.

After reading that review you would say "Where is the Spy stuff?" It's loaded with action, wise cracks, a hint of cupid teenage romance and hides an emotional factor that builds up and smacks you between the eyes.

Ryan Burt says

1) Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

2) Genre: Young Adult

3) Synopsis: Jason Steed may be young but the fate of the world may rest on his shoulders. Can a teenager

save the world from nuclear war?

4) Feelings: Starting out I didn't think I was going to like this book but the more I read the better I liked it. I am a fan of the "Alex Rider" series and this is similar to that. Maybe not quite as fantastical as the "Alex Rider" but still hard to believe.

5) Final recommendation: Fun and interesting YA read. If you are an "Alex Rider" fan give this a try.

Ryan James Burt

Husband, Father, and Writer

<http://ryanjamesburt.wordpress.com/>

Rice says

Ok let me just start off by saying WOW!!!! This book took me by total surprise! I was kinda expecting something like the Alex Rider novels written by Anthony Horowitz but this book is in some ways very different. The book Fledgling by Mark A Cooper is about a young lad named Jason Steed who is a Marital Arts expert who is the son of a British navy Captain I think? I read this book like 5 months ago so correct me if I'm wrong. Anyway you can probably find the rest of the information at the book description at the Fledgling page soooo.. BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH.. Ok so I finished this book in like a day and a half because I just could not stop! I'm not kidding you cannot stop it's like if you started reading this book and you planned to stop at page 30 for the day by that time you stop its already page 130. It's so action packed that you'll straight away look for the sequels. If you like action packed books and are a young reader you'd enjoy this book very much even if you don't I highly recommend that you do pick this book up and just see how much you'll fall in love with it

Laura says

Wong Tong had always taught him to use the element of surprise. **“Surprise even yourself,”** he had said. **“It’s the best weapon you will ever have.”**

This book is my biggest surprise and find on goodreads this year! Jason Steed absolutely stole my heart.

We first meet Jason at 5 years old in Hong Kong. A little blond haired cutie pie with blue, blue eyes filled with loss, loneliness and strength. So much strength! His mother died during child birth and his Dad is a military man—always away. But somehow, somehow Jason has the biggest heart and sense of honor and goodness. In Hong Kong, Jason learns Cantonese from his nannies and martial arts from different masters and dojos. Karate’s moves, grace, strength, and discipline speak to Jason. It helps him find peace and balance. He studies form after form. Not only does he absorb each art’s technique and style, he learns honor and tradition as well. Over the years, Jason learns when to stand up and defend himself and when to stand down. Lessons that he takes to heart to defend himself and others. Again and again—trouble finds Jason. But trouble doesn’t know who it’s messing with!

The stand out ingredient for me was the relationship between father and son. Ray (Dad) and Jason's time on the page is heartbreaking and adorable. They don't say or express emotion often, but when they do....*sigh* have a box of tissues ready! I cried and cried! I realize this might sound awful, but hells-bells I just did not see this emotional power and punch coming at all! I wanted a light, little book to read for the holiday season with action and fun. And that's all in here. But WOW! So is the emotion. I got walloped!!!! Haha....in a wonderful reading world way though. I found a book to love and a character to follow and carry with me in my heart and head.

Okay this is turning into one of my rambles. Haha....Let me try to pull it together. Fledgling is book one in a series I plan to hunt down and devour ASAP. A book that pulls readers in from page one. From land to sea to sky! This book has it all! A journey that takes us from Hong Kong to Britain with adventure, danger, friendship, princesses, romance, tears, death, and carrot cake! Mr. Cooper captures this fierce, little spirit on the page with such care and power. AND he is not afraid to show death, mistakes, and weaknesses. Mistakes can help us learn and Mr. Cooper shows that again and again. Jason's Dad is far from perfect, but he is not a bad man either. Both Jason and Ray change and grow so much. I can't wait for more. More action! Suspense! And love!

“That's no little kid. That's Jason Steed, the biggest damn hero you will ever see!”

Highly recommended. A true shining gem of a book.
