



Detention of Doom

Derek Fridolfs, Dustin Nguyen (Illustrations)

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When Lex Luthor's family company, Lexcorp(TM), invites kids from all over the country to attend an honors ceremony, Clark Kent is happy to participate. That is, until his award trophy creates a portal to another dimension and sucks him in! Lucky for Clark, his old friends Bruce and Diana along with newer friends Barry (The Flash(TM)) and Ollie (Green Arrow(TM)) are on the case! They'll have to travel to an alternate dimension to free their friend from Lex Luthor's grasp (and the worst detention ever) in this all-new adventure from Eisner Award winner Dustin Nguyen and Eisner Award nominee Derek Fridolfs.

Detention of Doom Details

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Author : Derek Fridolfs , Dustin Nguyen (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Detention of Doom for online ebook

tony dillard jr says

For today's Family Comic Friday, I want you to imagine that all of the members of the Justice League got their powers as kids. It's not that hard to believe since over 60 years of DC Comics history is filled with tales of Superman and Wonder Woman saving the day as little kids. It's occurring in the present as well with a teenage Bruce Wayne becoming the Dark Knight on Gotham.

Today's book selection is 'The Detention of Doom.' It's the third book in the DC's young readers series, The Secret Hero Society. Written by Derek Fridolfs, this series follows a young Bruce Wayne, Clark Kent, Diana Prince and friends as they try to save their middle school from Lex Luthor and his band of bullies.

The Secret Hero Society books are one part graphic novel and one part chapter book. The prose parts of the book are written up as parts of the SHS's dossier on the events of their most recent mission. Those parts are drafted up by Derek Fridolfs. On art is Fridolfs' Lil' Gotham partner Dustin Nguyen.

I'm a big fan of the seasonally themed Li'l Gotham. It's one of the main reasons I choose this book. 'The Detention of Doom' is also a pretty new release by DC Comics; bearing a copyright of 2018.

The book has Clark Kent mysteriously disappearing after winning an award for being a top student in the Gotham City school district. The Luthor Corp sponsored the event. Thus Bruce and the rest of the SHS are on high alert suspecting that Lex Luthor has something to do with Clark's vanishing.

While tinkering with the award, the pint-sized superheroes find themselves transported to another dimension. Filled with sand, a run down school and soul-sucking phantoms, the team think that they have found Clark! Well, he looks like Clark. Only this kid is paler than young Kent and a lot more bizarre.

I thought Dustin Nguyen's art was just great. He's never disappointed me before and he didn't here. Nguyen is supposedly working on a sequel to Li'l Gotham and I can't wait for it.

The writing was pretty good too. Great characterization of your favorite DC heroes as kids. But I thought that the plotting was a little confused at times. On more than one occasion, it's mentioned that a character or two have wandered off from the group. But a couple of pages later, they're back without any explanation.

I know that Fridolfs and Nguyen were splitting the writing duties based on what format the book switched over to. I'm wondering if when Derek Fridolfs wrote out a character he forgot to tell Dustin Nguyen and vice versa.

Plus, there's one scene where Bruce plays very fast and loose with the timeline. Yes, time travel is a big element in the DC Universe. But this instance felt like a cheat for the writers to get themselves out of very deep plot hole.

The Secret Hero Society books are recommended for readers 8-12 years old. There's nothing objectionable for younger readers if they'd like to give the series a shoot. But some of the terms are a little more advance. So younger readers may need an adult's help defining those words.

A very enjoyable blend of novel and comic book. It had a few kinks in the formula to work out. But it was a

fun read. Now with DC recently announcing the formation of two new young reader imprints, I am more excited than ever to see what DC Comics has in store.

Who knows? Maybe one of those books will be my selection for an upcoming Family Comic Friday! Until next week- read more comics!

zapkode says

{My thoughts} – All of the main characters are given trophies for various reasons. Some how the trophies make those who touch them vanish. Clark was the first to disappear.

When Bruce figures out what happened its a little late. They all end up joining Clark in a detention of sorts. The detention they come to find out was created by Lux Luther.

I enjoyed this book as it is written in the same style as the previous two. It is a quick and fun read that is sure to have any comic lover pulled into the story within the pages.

I believe that any child that enjoys reading comics and or graphic novels will enjoy reading these books.

Heidi says

Having enjoyed the first two books in this series, I was eager to pick up the third book, Detention of Doom. The book was fun as were the first two, although I found myself a bit confused in places. I guess that's not too surprising in a book where the sometimes seems unfinished. But in a superhero book with a lot of fantasy elements the strange and the confusing is to be expected. Bruce Wayne was once again the most entertaining of the group, with Diana Prince (Wonder Woman) a close second. Bruce's serious, dark personality shines through, sometimes in rather amusing ways. I enjoyed reading about how Bruce's skills helped save the day when the others lost their superpowers in the Phantom Zone. The role of Bizarro was more important than I thought it would be. A fun series for young superhero fanatics.

Lauren Silva says

Phantom detention zone? So awesome!

Maggie Gordon says

I love the Secret Hero Society books, but this third installment just didn't wow me. It retreats a bit from the chat message format if only because the characters end up in one place together for so long. Fewer characters makes it easier to follow, but the plot drags as our friends are stuck in the detention Zone. Alas, hopefully the next one isn't a miss!

Gail Fazio says

I love how this book is about superheroes when they are children and all go to school together. They get stuck in this very, very complicated detention.

Jillian says

I think I liked this better than the last one, but not as much as the first. The plot here was good, and with a smaller cast of characters, it was less confusing trying to keep track of who's who with just the pencil drawings.

Lots of little nods to the comic stuff. I liked the introduction of Bizarro and the Phantom Zone - hopefully we haven't seen the last of them!

Joshua J Hamilton says

Great work

I read this with both of my 10 year old daughters. We all loved it. It's a great, funny story. I really liked how they tied this into the "main" D.C. continuity. All of these kids were very much in character.

Anna says

While I love this series, this feels by far the weakest. The classic DC heroes are there but the phantom detention zone steals the focus from the characters.

Thumbs up for Alfred the hero though. The Bizarro jokes were good too.

Sarah says

Like the first one, this was a cute read. This story didn't seem quite as fleshed-out as the first (some of the rules of the "Phantom Detention" universe didn't make much sense), but the book still delivered a story that both parents and their children could enjoy. There was a lot of clever writing that, again, proved this was written by fans for fans, and it's a nice way to parents to introduce their children to the characters that they grew up with.

Gail says

BW graph novel. Is it just me, or is it hard to tell the characters apart.

Zachary King says

Such a treasure! Fridolfs and Nguyen play with DC mythology to give us a tale that reimagines the Phantom Zone as a Bizarro detention hall, as the heroes learn how to work together without their powers. There is an amazingly touching moment of heroism in the book, helped ably by the simple and elegant art that fills the book. I sincerely hope there are more of these to come!

James says

This one was just okay for me... I think that the problem that I have is - Bruce as the main character... Clark, Diana, Barry are side characters. Haven't we seen that enough from DC?

And Barry is an inpatient fool. I get that this is the younger version of the characters - I get that it is different than traditional DC canon with Barry getting powers as an adult.. but that Barry, as a police scientist knew his science - he was not rash, but calculating... smart...

This Barry is a cliche

Pam says

Graphic Novel

This time the young superheroes get sucked into an old detention created by those on Krypton. Lex manipulates everyone and sends them to this desert. They have to work together to find their way home. Will definitely hold mid-elementary students' attention.

Nathaniel Voll says

My 6-year old son (almost in grade 1) simply adored this series. An avid and knowledgeable DC superhero fan, this series offered an accessible view of his favourite heroes as they take on the public education system, summer camp and--of course--the phantom zone! He loved following the mystery as Bruce and Clark narrate, document and catalogue their findings in lists, instant message conversations and classic graphic novel panel styles.

While he LOVED it, I scratch my head at the decision to have Bruce narrate two books, Clark one and Diana none... When you already only have one female hero in the group (including secondary character levels like Flash, Green Arrow and Cyborg), but a handful of female villains, and don't give Diana a chance to narrate, it becomes highly problematic. I want to read my son a Wonderwoman-centric story. Fridolfs, can you arrange this for book #4, please? I want to teach my son to f*** the patriarchy.
