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Slumbering (The Starlight Chronicles Book 1)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Hamilton Dinger leads a charmed life. Heâ™s got the grades for the top of the class, the abilities of a star athlete and Tetris player, and the charisma to get away with anything. Everything seems to be going along perfectly, including his plans to ask out Gwen Kessler, as he enters into tenth grade at Apollo Central High School. Everything, that is, until a meteor crashes into the city, releasing the Seven Deadly Sinisters and their leader, Orpheus, from their celestial prison, and awakening Hamiltonâ™s longtime dormant supernatural abilities. Suddenly Hamilton finds himself reluctantly allied with his self-declared mentor, Elysian, a changeling dragon, and Starry Knight, a beautiful but dangerous warrior, as they seek to protect the souls of Apollo City from the Sinisters and their evil intentions. Can Hamilton overcome his ignorance and narrow-mindedness to see what is truly real? Can he give up his self-proclaimed entitlement to happiness in order to follow the call of a duty he doesnâ™t want? More importantly, will he willingly sacrifice all he has to find out the truth?

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Customer Reviews

What would happen if Flash Thompson (from *Amazing Spider-man*) or Whitney Fordman (from *Smallville*) acquired super powers rather than the sympathetic Peter Parker and Clark Kent. That is the premise of this inviting YA novel which details the transformation of selfish, conceited Hamilton Dinger into the struggling superhero Wingdinger. Johnson so effectively immerses us in Dinger's limited world in the "social elite" of his high school (In Dinger's words, "Someone had to be popular... So it was my duty, my curse and blessing, to be so.") that the first third of the novel can be a painful read. How self-possessed can this teenager be? Known by his "trademark smirk," Dinger celebrates being intelligent, popular, and attractive (receiving "best eyes" in his yearbook) and frequently ignores or belittles those who do not fit his shallow definitions of what deserves his attention. We see Dinger's narcissism in his relationships with fellow football players Poncey, Mikey, and Jason, but particularly in his attempts to win Gwen Kessler from drama student Tim, who plays Romeo to Gwen's Juliet in the high school's production of Shakespeare's play. A meteor crashing into the town shakes the status quo, giving Dinger a chance to save Gwen's life, but also exposing him to something that slowly transforms him.

The Starlight Chronicles: Slumbering by C.S. Johnson is not the kind of book I normally choose to read. My favorite writer is Arthur Schopenhauer, the father of philosophical pessimism. So when I realized that this book was filled with 'humor' of all things, I was a bit worried. But as I read, I was amazed to find that the book was actually, truly funny. The story largely takes place in the main character's high school, which definitely brought back a lot of memories. It will feel nostalgic to anyone who can still remember the experience of high school. The narrative is told from the perspective of a popular football player, and it is quite hilarious to listen to the sort of things that come out of his self-centered mind. The story focuses heavily on the main character's gradual personal growth, and Johnson does an excellent job of making this process as enjoyable as it is realistic. All of the characters behave naturally; their fears and motivations are things we can all relate to. The writing was excellent. Particularly interesting was a tendency the author had to pass suddenly to present tense verbs when describing the heat of an action sequence. This was a bit surprising to me at first, but I thought it was done really, really well. It really sort of made you feel like you were watching or experiencing the action, rather than just hearing it described afterwards. The book has a lot of character; the main character is lovable, despite being absolutely self-absorbed. His struggles feel real, the questions he wrestles with are very well portrayed. Some of the things one of his friends has to say about relationships are quite profound. As someone who takes a considerable interest in moral philosophy, I found this very refreshing.

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