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The Amazing Adventures Of Phoenix Jones: And The Less Amazing Adventures Of Some Other Real-Life Superheroes: An ESpecial From Riverhead Books



Synopsis

Bestselling author Jon Ronson walks the mean streets of America where he finds real life, modern day superheroes. Fighting crime, saving old ladies, and chasing away drug dealers â “ all while wearing a mask and a cape. Phoenix Jones patrols Seattle, masked, muscles rippling, while corner boys scatter and teenage runaways are helped, whether they want it or not. He might still see his pediatrician when superhero-ing gets a little too intense, but heâ™ll be back out there with his ass-kicking comrades as soon as heâ™s bandaged up. These do-gooding citizens talk the talk, and walk the walk of mythical superheroes â “ the only thing they're missing is actual supernatural powers.Â The Amazing Adventures of Phoenix Jones is an inside, intimate look at the world of amateur superheroes and a front row seat to their adventures.

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Customer Reviews

Since I'd read a press release about this book beforehand, I knew what to expect in terms of length. I wish Mr. Ronson would bring us a full length book about the subject, because it's very interesting, but for the price I paid I'm perfectly happy with what I got. The book/essay is entertaining as

Ronson's work always is, and informative to boot. Don't expect to take more than an hour or two to read it...but do read it.

I was one of many people who thought the idea of real life super heros was laughable, but there is something about Phoenix Jones and his story that pulls all the right strings for me. Regardless of your feelings about him, or the movement, this is an interesting short piece and well worth reading.

A great short work by Jon Ronson. The author brings his wry, satirical sensibilities to bear on yet another strange subculture. Ronson's look at the world of Phoenix Jones and other wannabe "real life" superheroes is narrative journalism at its best.

I love Ronson's books. The way he puts himself in all of his situations never come across as cloying or blogging and actually help the reader experience what he's experiencing while at the same time turning him into a main character that we follow from book to book. My favorite is the Psychopath Test. This is an essay. Short and sweet and fascinatingly pathetic. I do wish it was part of a larger whole, though.

Extremely well written. Sure, it's a quick read. Sure, it's an odd subject. but it fits the author perfectly. He writes about psychopaths, fanatics, and Superheroes....all fascinating people. As Ronson is telling his story of running around with Phoenix Jones, you feel like you are there. You want to cheer Jones on. You read with a grin on your face. Not because the subject is silly,, but because the story is so much fun to read. I've read several of the author's other books. And they are all written in the same conversational, breezy style.

I should say that I didn't realize this was a short story when I bought it, but it does come with a significant piece of one of Ronson's other books, The Psychopath Test. Ronson's story of his time with Phoenix Jones is both funny, a bit scary, and touching. There really are folks who do what they do to try and help others, even if that effort can be misguided at times. Ronson mostly reminds the readers of themselves, exactly how they'd feel patrolling the streets with a muscular guy in a costume. You'll enjoy it, but the story itself is a short read, perhaps 30-40 pages if printed in a book.

There are a number of cities with self-proclaimed crime fighter; many of them sporting superhero garb, but Phoenix Jones stands out as probably the most brash and most publicized. This short text

relates a few night-walks with Phoenix and a few of his costumed friends. What is missing is some inner psych; why does Phoenix feel his services are needed, and why doesn't he use more conventional means such as joining the police or neighborhood watch groups? This is a very short read, so for \$3 your price per page is more than in most works.

It was an entertaining read but I was very disappointed that it wasn't more substantial given the price I paid for it and the fact that NPR found it fit to highlight in an article that wasn't much more in-depth. Still, if you are interested in superheroes and the men and women who idolize them, it is a worthwhile read.

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