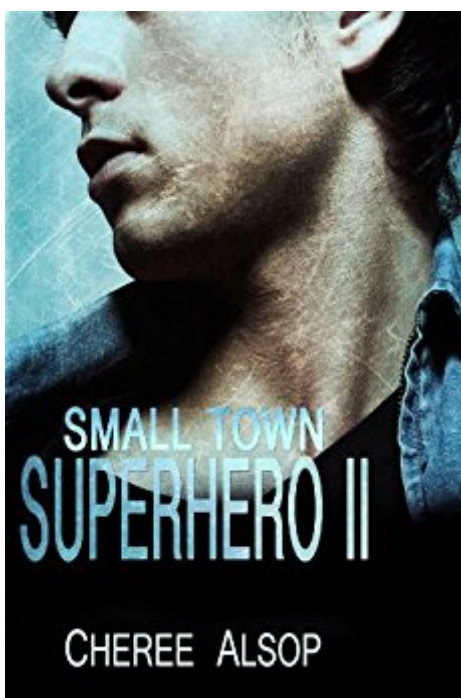


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Small Town Superhero II (Small Town Superhero Series Book 2)



Synopsis

SMALL TOWN SUPERHERO II BY CHEREE ALSOP*** This title was previously released as The Small Town Superheroes: Small Town Superhero Book 2 ***Kelson has a new mission—keeping the people of his town safe in his disguise of the Black Rider. He and his new partner work together to keep criminals on their toes, but an even greater challenge for Kelson is coming face-to-face with his past and the demons that haunt him. When a new threat puts his school and the people he cares about in danger, he is forced to acknowledge how much it all means to him—even worth risking his life to protect. For fans of teen & young adult coming of age stories, teen & young adult action & adventure, and martial arts and MMA. SMALL TOWN SUPERHERO SERIES Small Town Superhero Small Town Superhero II Small Town Superhero III WHAT READERS ARE SAYING "...bit of MMA, bit of motorcycle glory.... Small Town Superhero II is as fiercely page-turning as the first book" --Top 500 reviewer H. Bala "I think Cheree has hit on a potentially great storyline. She should try to get it into comic book form!!! It has what it takes to make an ongoing series." --Iron Man, reviewer "Cheree Alsop has written a great book for youth and adults alike. Kelson - the superhero is battling his own demons plus bullies in this action packed narrative. Small Town Superhero had me from the first sentence through the end. I felt every sorrow, every pain and the delight of rushing through the dark on a motorcycle. Descriptions in Small Town Superhero are so well written the reader is immersed in the town and lives of its inhabitants." --Rachel, reviewer "Can't get enough of cheree alsop. Her books are endearing and always show we can be our own heroes." --Kintarakat, reviewer

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Customer Reviews

Book Review- Small Town Superhero II by Cheree Alsop The Black Rider is still going strong. Magnum is now his partner as they help the sheriff fight crime in Sparrow. Kelson and Magnum try to keep up appearances so their secret identities are safe. No one can know they are working together. So they continue to be at odds at school. Kelson's fear catches up with him as his uncle's barn catches fire and his cousin becomes trapped. Magnum and his uncle rush to help but Kelson is frozen with fear as memories of his sister's death swamp him. He is shaken and feels guilt after he is able to move and helps pull his cousin out of the burning barn. Then he is shaken again when Maddy's mother dies. His peaceful retreat now needs him. He has no idea how to help her. Past issues arise again for her and Kelson has to intervene. Kelson is also kept busy as the Black Rider when a gang takes over the school, kidnapping Magnum. Kelson has no idea if he will survive the next confrontation. Maybe it's time to hang up the Black Rider for good. This story took off where the first one left off. I had a harder time getting into this one even though there was a lot going on. There may have been too much from the fire in the barn to Maddy's mom and dad, then the gangs attacking. Kelson was so busy and emotionally drained yet the reader and character didn't have time to react or process before the next thing happened. I think part of the problem was some of the storyline was unbelievable to me. I had a hard time picturing it after reading the first one. The idea of the book was good. I liked the characters and how they related to each other. I also liked the setting. Kelson was more comfortable with farm life. He was also more comfortable with Magnum. My main issue was there was too much Kelson had to deal with. It was a bit overwhelming for the reader. I give this story a 3 out of 5.

Tortured teenager Kelson Brady exhibits an unreal knack for absorbing punishment. How else can he perform his hero acts while under duress from so many grievous wounds? Small Town Superhero II is Cheree Alsop's immediate sequel to Small Town Superhero (Small Town Superhero

Series). Only a week had elapsed since the climactic events in that first book, meaning that Kelson (a.k.a. The Black Rider) is still recovering from his gallery of deep bruises, lacerations, and bullet wounds. If you haven't read the first book, maybe your eyebrows are arched in speculation.***So, for the next two paragraphs, SPOILERS about the first book***The first book was a really fun read. It's propulsive and action-packed yet graced with strong emotional beats that may make you well up. Small Town Superhero recounted city kid Kelson Brady's harsh adjustment to his new home of Sparrow, a small farming town. We learn that Kelson has held himself accountable for a horrible accident that tore his family apart, and that his mom had subsequently sent him away. It's a trek from California to Sparrow, and there was Kelson, damaged and resentful and craving something to distract him. Also, farm chores are a pain. That malicious Holstein cow kept kicking him whenever he tried to milk it. When Kelson first arrived, the entirety of Sparrow was being terrorized by a local teen gang called the Bullets. It had gotten so bad, the fear they generated was so encompassing, that, in school, when the Bullets harassed their fellow students, the cowed teachers didn't step in anymore. Kelson Brady, shocked at this and outraged and now distracted, did something about it. And because acts of retaliation against the Bullets always ended with houses getting burnt down, Kelson donned a disguise: black riding leathers and a motorcycle helmet for his trusty steed, the midnight-hued ER-6n Kawasaki. And somewhen during his taking the town back, someone coined a code name for him: The Black Rider. And, there, you're caught up. Small Town Superhero II is as fiercely page-turning as the first book. Cheree Alsop has got a gift for detailing the day-in-the-life stuff in such a way that you get caught up despite that it's only, say, Kelson doing chores or chilling with his relatives at the farm. For the romantics, there's a touching love story that's kept up from the first book revolving around Kelson and Maddy, two damaged goods leaning on each other. I do so like the characters - Kelson, Maddy, Magnum, the Ashbys and even the supportive local Sheriff (although I question his decision-making regarding the Black Rider). What are the developments in this sequel? I won't say too much. I'll say that Kelson's final act of heroism from the first book comes back to haunt him. I'll say that Kelson acquires back-up from an unexpected corner. I'll say that Cheree Alsop maintains her ability to break down explosive action sequences. Those who go into this book or the first book expecting a standard superhero story, quit expecting it. Yeah, there are elements of the cape and cowl, but I liken this more to the pulp sensibilities of Zorro and the Spider and the Shadow. Or, okay, Batman. Kelson is a more grounded hero. He doesn't have super powers. He barely has a costume. His calling cards are a well-honed expertise in mixed martial arts, a flair for the dramatic, a desperate need to protect people, and perhaps a death wish. I'm not about to psychoanalyze the guy and say that his crime-fighting compulsion stems from his guilt over that

horrific accident... but, um, it looks like I just psychoanalyzed the guy. Kelson's once estranged mom is here, so that's a shift in the group dynamics, after it had already shifted some to accommodate Magnum. Magnum, he's a complex cat. He's still ringleader to the Bullets. But now he's also become sort of Kelson's homie. We learn more about Magnum and his heartbreaking home situation. I grin at how he and Kelson hang out outside of school but that, when they're attending classes, Magnum still bullies Kelson to keep up appearances. But that's this town for you, man. In Sparrow, you tend to get beat up by bullies, you step on cow patties, you had best drive a truck. In Sparrow, the local entertainment consists of high school football as religion, rowdy motorcycle races on Thursdays, and the Black Rider saving the day always in spectacular fashion. In Sparrow, redemption is hard to come by. Not even confounding the crooked, weak, and superstitious lot necessarily equates to self-forgiveness, ain't that so, Black Rider? And if that's too angsty for your taste, go read the book anyway. Trust me, it's never that long before someone's getting a wicked boot to the head. So savor that.

Small Town Superhero 2 follows along with Kelson and Magnum now that the Bullets have stopped trying to make Sparrow a drop point for drugs. Having a sidekick isn't as easy as Kelson thought, especially not one like Magnum. But the leader of the Bullets has a much kinder heart than he lets on, and his support may be all that gets Kelson through the Black Rider's next few challenges. With the gangs trying to take revenge and thievery happening in the gas stations, Kelson needs backup. But then the unexpected happens, leaving Maddy in desperate straights. Kelson's been there, and he wants to help. But there's only so much of a broken heart that he can fix. Now Kelson has to be the hero, not for himself or even the town in general. Now he has to be the hero for Magnum, and for Maddy. In book two, Kelson really grows into himself as a man. But he's reckless and his heart hasn't completely healed. While risking his life for the town sounds noble, it's tragic for those that love him both as the Black Rider and as Kelson, two sides of the same coin.

This 'superhero' isn't the usual comic book sort - no tights or super powers in here. But that doesn't make it a bad story. In fact the wounds the protagonist faces (emotional and physical) and the mindset that drives him to become the small town's 'superhero' is explored in a realistic way that makes a truly excellent story. This is the second installment and some emotionally painful things happen - some of which reverberated so strongly for me that I had to put the book away for a while - normally I can finish a book like this in less than a week but the emotional pain was enough for me to drag this one out for nearly a month, but well enough written and engaging enough I kept going

back. And, in the end I was rewarded. There are a couple of loose ends for the third book to pick back up on, but enough closure on the other storylines that I am well satisfied with the moving conclusion to this book.

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