Elixir

Ted Galdi

Elixir

Ted Galdi

Elixir Ted Galdi
"Blessings can be curses, and curses can be blessings"

The world's smartest person. On a dangerous journey to cure his girlfriend of a mysterious disease. Up against a powerful drug company, not to mention, his own mentors.

Do you like stories about extraordinary abilities?

Do you like protagonists that fight for the women they love?

Do you like endings you can't stop talking about?

Then you'll love Elixir, the debut novel by Ted Galdi, an Amazon #1 bestselling author who's won Reader Views and Readers' Favorite awards, and been featured by FOX, ABC, and iHeartRadio.

Get your copy of this hit book today and go on a fast-paced adventure around the globe alongside an enigmatic genius with a target on his back.

More on Elixir

Protagonist Sean Malone's journey begins at fourteen. He has an IQ north of 200, a full-ride scholarship to the country's top tech university, and over a million bucks from a winning run on Jeopardy!.

However, he wishes he could just be normal.

His genius comes at a price. When he cracks the Traveling Salesman Problem, the hardest puzzle in computer science, the US government manipulates him, using his cryptographic discovery to pursue a covert operation and killing innocent people along the way.

When Sean pushes back, the Department of Defense pushes harder. And a conspiracy against him ensues.

With the aid of some empathetic FBI agents, the brilliant protagonist flees to Europe to build a new life under a new name, abandoning academics, and hiding his mental gift from everyone.

He enjoys a quiet existence in secrecy the next few years. And at eighteen, falls in love.

The calm shatters when his girlfriend, Natasha, turns critically ill. Her doctors have no idea how to control her disease before it overcomes her.

His intellect is her only hope of survival. He knows nobody else can figure out the medical mystery before her time runs out.

In this hidden identity thriller, Sean brazenly returns to the United States, where he has to avoid the

omnipresent eye of the NSA as he tries to piece together a cure. His obstacles intensify when he hacks into the servers of a multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical company. And it finds out.

He now has to dodge not just one, but two powerful institutions on American soil, all while besting a next-to-impossible medical problem and finding a way back to Europe before it's too late for Natasha.

Elixir is a story about identity, secrets, and above all, love.

This Amazon #1 bestselling medical thriller is enjoyed by both YA and adult fiction audiences.

Action-packed and fun, while romantic and endearing, the international story will serve up an unputdownable reading experience as it unfolds across the globe, ushering you to Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Mexico, Rome, Switzerland, and Silicon Valley.

Plus, you'll find its parallels to modern society intriguing. An NSA book, reminiscent of the Edward Snowden incident, the technothriller examines the darkness that can loom over government agencies, and the resultant political suspense.

And its take on the Ebola virus is an expression of how human ingenuity, if allowed to flourish, can make the world a safer and better place, a hopeful reminder in light of Ebola outbreak 2014.

A fast-paced, sci fi medical thriller with unique characters and streaks of cutting-edge mathematics, Elixir, written in the tradition of authors like Michael Crichton, is sure to stir your emotions while compelling you to turn pages.

One of the most-downloaded Kindle Unlimited suspense thrillers, it's a can't-miss.

Ted Galdi is also the author of the novels An American Cage and Lion on Fire, and the short stories A Road to Nowhere, Hazel Is Missing, and Intrusion.

Grab your copy of Elixir today and begin your high-profile world adventure.

Elixir Details

Date   : Published July 31st 2014 (first published January 1st 2014)
ISBN   :
Author : Ted Galdi
Format : Kindle Edition 259 pages
Genre   : Young Adult, Thriller, Fiction, Mystery

Download Elixir ...pdf

Read Online Elixir ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Elixir Ted Galdi

From Reader Review Elixir for online ebook

Laura says

Thank you to the author, Ted Galdi, for gifting me with a copy of Elixir in exchange for an honest review!

You know, I've always been fascinated by intelligence. What causes it and the people who seem to have higher than normal intelligence. It's always been very interesting to me so it's no surprise that I loved this book. Granted, there were a few rough spots but it's all water under the bridge.

When I started reading this book, it gripped me and didn't let me go until the last sentence. I risked missing the Super Bowl people! Now that is some major gripping! While the final 'problem' did go on for quite some time, it wasn't really drawn out per say. There was just a lot contained within it. I think that's the best thing about this book - there wasn't anything that was necessary so everything just flew by.

Now about the Ebola. I won't tell you how it's related to the story other than Sean has to find a cure or his girlfriend dies. With the Ebola crisis hitting Africa now, this seemed all too real and is happening on a daily basis. That's what made the ending so fabulous for me.

The one rough patch would be Sean and Natasha's relationship. It all just kind of jumped from first date to serious relationship. There was a little in between but it didn't seem real exactly until she becomes ill. I know there's a page restriction and all to keep it interesting but it could have been developed a bit more I suppose.

The Final Verdict:
An action packed book with thrilling twists and turns that never bored me for a second. The ending was very well done and I loved Sean's 'superintelligence'. Sean and Natasha's relationship could have used a little more oomph although the relationship between Sean and his aunt was amazing!
5 stars

Quotes:
"She almost doesn't seem real to him, more like a collection of thoughts plucked from his brain and played back to him on a screen. But he can smell her perfume and notice how she narrows her eyelids a bit when the wind blows and the way the shoelaces of her leopard-print sneakers flop as she steps. She is real. And he's glad he's real to her."

"He can feel her heartbeat, just as fast as his"

"For Sean the idea of avoiding Paul Pine's allegations is comforting, but he sees a new identity as something with much larger potential, a shedding of the labels he's has his whole life, an escape from the story of his dark past. A thrill courses through his chest. He picks up the envelope and tears it open."

"'Why'd you try to solve it then?'
'I wanted to see if I wouldn't be able to.'
'What do you mean?'

'Everyone at school said it was the hardest one out there. I thought maybe I'd... hit a wall trying to figure it out.'

'You don't hear that a lot at the NSA.' Patrick chuckles, so does the professor. 'Why would you hope for... failure?'

'It would be a change I guess.'"

"He bangs his hands together a few times, knocking the Doritos dust off. 'How much encoded info is in that...group?'

'Pretty much all of it.'

Sean leans back, the gravity of the situation sinking in. He's quiet for about a minute, the crying baby the only noise between them. 'Sorry.'"

"The Smartest Person on Earth. He hates that title, been called it three times before."

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Before I start my review of this book I'm just going to preface a few things that contributed to why it didn't work for me.

I've been steering away from YA because I haven't really liked many books in that genre lately. I lose patience early with young characters and have a hard time connecting recently. I also don't read a lot of Sci-Fi because I have a degree in Chemistry with a minor in Math and Physics and usually I find something that is just horribly wrong with most books in this genre. Let's add to that I have worked for a biotech company and in the medical industry with a significant amount of time spent on viruses, diseases and cancer. **This book did not stand a chance.** *I almost feel bad for it.*

The Story Sean is a super genius, with off the charts intellect. He holds the record for the longest Jeopardy winning streak playing against adults when he was 10. At age 14 he is in college and working on some of the most ambitious coding of our time. When he cracks an algorithm that can be used to decode any encryption his life takes a turn and Sean has an opportunity to disappear and start over again in a new country with a new identity.

After years of living like an average person he is again forced to use his super intellect to try and save his girlfriend Natasha from a critical illness that will kill her. That means revisiting his old life and identity to get what he needs to save her.

What I did like: In every book I read there is generally something I do like in the story. That is also true for this one. While I did have a very difficult time connecting to Sean when he was younger and suffering from being a genius and feeling responsibly for the death of his parents and a few others, I did like him more at age 18 in Rome. The middle section where he meets Natasha and they have their first date and get to know each other was really my favorite part of the entire book. I also enjoyed the chase between Sean and 'The Bad Guy' when he was fighting the clock and trying to save his girlfriend. I really wanted him to make the time deadline and get to her.

<u>What didn't work for me</u>: Almost Everything else!

The entire book is mostly about Sean however it is written in 3rd person and really that is my least favorite writing style. I find that it rarely works for me except for in high fantasy. I never really connected with Sean because I was never in his head. Just a random paragraph for example:

About an hour later he's sitting on a folding chair outside a room in the clinic's main zone. He has a blue soft cast on his left foot stretching to mid-calf. As he gulps from a bottle of water, the door opens with a squeak, a nurse stepping into the hallway. He swallows his sip....

There are too many he's she's and such in this, it made it so much harder to connect to the characters.

The beginning Sean was difficult for me to really like. Before I became at all attached to the character he became broody and blamed himself for things far out of his control. Remember how Harry Potter sort of became a brooding Ass in the half blood Prince after seeing Cedric Diggory die well he had 4 books prior so when that happened I was still rooting for Harry. Sean had maybe thirty pages so I really didn't care.

~~And now on to the science of it.~~ I'm spoiler tagging this entire section as it will give away the crux of the plot. *If I didn't have such a big science background maybe I could have let it go and just enjoyed the story* but alas there was just too much that I couldn't do it.

(view spoiler)

This book totally wasn't for me. I don't really recommend it to anyone with any sort of science/math/logic background.

Copy received from the Author for review.

Jola says

Review also on www.jolasbookshelf.wordpress.com

'Elixir' is a nice debut novel by Ted Galdi. It has an interesting premise. The action sequences weren't badly written and I found myslef enjoying them.

My only complaint is that I'd like other characters, beside Sean, to be more developed. I liked the world presented in the story and the suthor's style, so I'll look forward to read his other works.

Thanks to Ted Galdi for sending me an ebook of his novel!

Janet Hecht says

I received an advanced copy of this book from the author via Goodreads in exchange for an honest review.

Overall, Exilir is a good debut novel with an interesting premise and I look forward to reading future works by the author.

Exilir is a thriller involving Sean Malone who is a genius with an IQ of over 200 (off the charts). At the age of 11 he became a millionaire from his winnings on *Jeopardy*. At the age of 14 Sean is attending college and inadvertently solves an "unsolvable" computer hacking problem that creates problems that will follow him throughout his life. As a result of this and his subsequent actions, Sean and his aunt have to flee the country. The story picks up again when Sean is 18 and is living under an assumed name in Italy. (view spoiler)

I liked the premise and concept of the story. I felt I understood the protagonist and could really see a development in his character. It was well written and did keep me on the edge of my seat. The plot itself was good, however, I felt that there were three plots in the book and perhaps this would have been better if it was separated into one novel and then a sequel. That way, there could have been some more backstory on his childhood and more development of other characters in the book, especially Sean's aunt, his childhood friend, and his girlfriend. They felt two-dimensional to me.

I know thrillers like this often have a lot of unbelievable events that would be unlikely to occur in the real world, requiring you to suspend your belief in the realistic. This is normally okay, but I had to do this too many times. (view spoiler)

While Sean was a well-developed character, I didn't feel invested in him as a person and felt that he acted very rashly. I think that may be a generational disconnect, as my teen years passed several decades ago.

It's not the author's fault that I have gotten weary of corporations being portrayed as so evil that they will hire someone to murder another person.

While I had several problems with this book, it did take me on a suspenseful thrill ride, which I enjoyed very much. The author is a very good writer and I look forward to reading more from him in the future.

Miodrag ★♣ says

Now you can find this review on My Blog too!

Elixir is Ted Galdi's first novel and now me after reading it, I can't wait to see what he will come up with next. This book is beyond good. I loved it!
STARS: **5+**

This book was really something!

I divided this book in three parts and I will review it like that. (<u>I will not do whole recap of the book, I will just say some important [but not all] things that happened, but those are just some little parts, you should read this amazing book for more!</u>) :)
Let's start:

First Part - Start of the book is mostly everything to me, if it starts good, I'm in for a ride, if not, it gets hard to get drown in the story. But I liked whole introduction to Sean, smart 14-year old kid with IQ 250, loved his Aunt, his friend Kyle, then Professor Steven. Problem starts when he resolves something no one on earth ever could and then some things happens... he gets himself in danger and needs to fake his death (and his Aunt too), and they get help from one really good man Peter. Many things happen in this first part of the book. Be prepared!

Second Part - This was my least favorite part, I mean only couple of pages of 'Four years later' part (after faking his death). His name is now James (but I will use Sean forward), and he have 18 years now. I really didn't like seeing him I don't know, doing graffiti, drinking... it was kinda boring, one other part I wanted to see, what's happening with Aunt Mary, we find out later. Also, here he meets a girl, Natasha, how they meet, I will not tell. One more thing, he have friend here, new one, Fabrizio, they do graffiti together. ^_^ That should be it, this was just that new start in Italy, and I kinda lost it, because all those 4 years before Italy, it was just like nothing, and I didn't like that, I wanted to know what happened in those four years, but later I totally forgot about this little part and when we get to know most of the things now about Italy, Aunt Mary and his new identity, what they are doing and all, it gets better!

Third Part (I was blown away!) - This is the BIG part of this book, when Natasha gets sick and he makes a formula to cure her (he found most of the formula from the site of one big Facility that do those things, he hacked from their site. They made some mistakes, but he resolved everything after some hours of thinking.), now he needs to make a cure, then problems start, when he gets back in US, then he and Steven looks for chemical things for cure and everything after that is just WOW, getting kidnapped (and whose work is that, come on, guess? :P), everything that happens on that little trip... I was just like reading and reading and I couldn't stop. End was really good and I like how this book ended. At one moment, I really though it wouldn't end well, but it's good that it ended with how I should say "Happily Ever After" for Sean and Natasha.

My favorite quote from this book:

"*I think if we have something inside of us that's... put there by nature for a reason. We shouldn't repress it. We should listen to what it's saying and not care too much about the consequences.*"

Almost forget, while reading this book, I got all this thinking and imagining about how cool movie would look based on this book, I really hope it happens one day, I totally would go and watch it.

RECOMMENDATION: Everyone who likes good mystery/thriller book, should give this book a try, and even if you don't read books of this type, let this one be a first for you. I know book is not yet released, but when it hits stores, run to the nearest one and get this thrillingly-good book!

I want to say Thank you to Tom for giving me free e-book and you did a great job with your firstborn (LOL), keep up! I really can't wait to read more books from you! :)

Dustin says

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Self-published author Ted Galdi graduated from Duke University, where he acquired a background in film, and the various forms it has taken over the years. Through my brief conversation with him, the author seemingly absorbed and applied several literary techniques throughout the writing of his debut novel, *Elixir*.

Sean Malone is an 11-year-old *Jeopardy!* contestant, and with an IQ of approximately 250, his sheer wealth of knowledge at first felt somewhat contrived, unbelievable. As I compulsively flipped the pages, however, my opinion dramatically changed. Sean's character became very real, even relatable. Galdi consistently takes relatively flat surfaces and imbues them with life. This applies to the locale(s) as well.
Fast forward three years and we see a slightly different, though not necessarily mature, protagonist. Enrolled at So Cal Tech and reluctantly attempting to complete a supposedly "unsolvable" mathematical equation for his professor and long-time mentor, Sean unsurprisingly solves the algorithm. This, in turn, propels the plot forward, as the calculations catch the attention of the DEA, resulting in a change of identity and location.
At this point, *Elixir* reminded me of the hit film, *Mercury Rising,* starring Bruce Willis. Having seen the film multiple times, I expected much of the same, only from a different perspective with similar circumstances. Sadly, the novel takes a drastic turn from there (not for the better, either, IMO,) and earnestly I'm not too sure if it fully recovers or not.

The changes didn't deter me much, though, as I'd already invested too much. I needed to know where it was going. Not only that, but there was a nagging voice in the back of my head, insisting that there had to be something connecting the present with the aforementioned political intrigue. I was anticipating it very much and anxious to unlock the secrets, but to no avail. There are subtle connections that you learn later on, but not in the traditional sense and not what I wanted at all.

The most jarring aspect seemed to be Galdi's choppy prose, which initially looked like a slightly polished rough draft. And it wasn't until the 3/4 mark that I thought to ask him if his unique style was intentional, or merely a drawback of reading an ARC, and learned that it was, indeed, deliberate. Interestingly enough, Ted took his knowledge of film and utilized that here. For instance, there are an insurmountable instances where he omitted certain words in order to move the action along faster. Also evident are the absence of many commas (reminiscent of Cormac McCarthy,) making it essential to go back to clarify what I'd just read. In this way, his style is quite effective, despite my initial impressions.

Another way that it reads like a script are the short scenes/chapters which comprise the novel. These really emphasize dialogue, action, visualization and atmosphere, while limiting internal dialogue and "telling" the reader about character back history. Instead, he adheres the cardinal rule of good writing: "Show, Don't Tell."

Most impressive to me, I think, was how Galdi developed Sean's character. (Natasha's as well, to an extent.) He approached certain aspects from a single angle, then came back later from another direction entirely. Then another, etc.. In my experience, it's rare that a writer attempts this technique, let alone pull it off successfully. I don't think it's an easy feat, either. Kuddos, Ted!

Towards the end, there were a couple elements that felt unrealistic, but overall I enjoyed it a lot. An impressive debut, needless to say. Regarding the three scenes in question, I suspect the author thought they'd propel the story forward, and to a degree that's true. However, I think it's dishonest writing and a disservice not only to his readers, but especially to himself.

If you've read this book and are interested in my problematic scenes, click here:(view spoiler)

"I think if we have something inside of us that's...put there by nature for a reason. We shouldn't repress it. We should listen to what it's saying and not care too much about the consequences."

Thank you again, Ted, for this wonderful opportunity!

Aditi says

They say, *"Intelligent Men are dangerous"*. Or is it? Ted Galdi, a 29-year old debut author has portrayed otherwise in his new novel, *Elixir*. He has not followed the traditional way of making super intelligent man as the most dangerous species, instead he has presented him as the life-savior, a genius on whom nature might have given some extra brownie points to make living of other less fortunate human beings better. This may be Ted Galdi's debut novel, but it feels like he is really a pro and quite a natural while penning down his story. With all the right amount of twists in the right places, right amount of mystery and suspense, right amount of actions and bloodshed, the book proves to be a real page-turner right from the very beginning.

Sean, a 14-yeard old kid, with an IQ of 250, becomes a threat to the nation within overnight. His talent was already known to the world when he won half a million dollars on the show, Jeopardy! Consequently, bagging him a full paid scholarship to the country's most elite university. Along with a computer science professor, Steven, he invents mind-blowing hacking formulae. Thereby, Steven makes his colleague, P.Goya from F.B.I aware of Sean's invention. Thereby, he becomes n overnight threat to the country, following which he was forced to leave the country along with his aunt to Rome, where four years later, he is a graffiti artist and also falls in love with a very rich girl, Natasha. But Natasha's (view spoiler)

The author proves that he has natural talent when it comes to penning down his imagination. The plot is thoroughly well-developed as well as it sounds like the author has intensively researched about the whole scientific background in the plot and also giving valid logical and technical explanations when required. The characters are also very strongly built, especially, Sean. He has portrayed Sean as a brave hero, never ever scared for a single moment and always maintains his calm in the toughest of tough situations, for instance, he tries to bargain for his life with a professional killer, he sweet-talks him, but never ever losing his cool or show any sign of panic. Sean is determined having a very strong will-power, besides his intelligence. Also Natasha has been portrayed a s a sweet, simple, lovely and not all posh girl. Aunt, Mary seems like a woman who is very strong to stand beside Sean in all his pain, failure and happiness like his own mother. She tries to fill the gap of having no parents in Sean's life. Sean had two best friends in the book, one when he was 14 at Pasadena, named Kyle, who believed in his heart that Sean would return one day and another was a bad boy in Rome, while he was 18, named, Fabrizio. Yeah the Rome part may not be that interesting, but the climax of the book is a highly compelling one.

The best part o the book is when Sean makes up his mind to share his formula to save people from the deadly diseases with the director of CDC. He says that nature has made him strong for a purpose and that he should not repress or hide his power.

The chemistry between Natasha and Sean is something to look out for. It's very sweet and cute and both dreamt the same dreams. It was something so innocent, pure and beautiful.

Guys this books is one hell of an addictive one. After just, 4-5 pages of the book, I totally got hooked into it. It's intriguing and thrilling and some adrenaline-rushing moments that you'll die for.

Read this book, and get your mind blown over with the impact of this book.

Thanks to Ted Galdi for providing me with the physical copy of the book in return for an honest review.

Terri says

Introducing... Ted Galdi! Do NOT forget this name because, if his debut novel "Elixir" is any indication, Galdi is a name you will see on Bestseller & TopTen lists often!

"Elixir" grabbed a hold of me from the vey beginning when we're introduced to 12 year old wunderkind, Sean Malone, who is literally the smartest person in the world. At the beginning, Galdi begins to take you on a journey of a boy struggling to fit into a world that he doesn't fit into. You would be forgiven if you think that this is a story that's been told before, but it HASN'T been told like Galdi tells it. Because just as you begin to settle into a "good" book, Sean does something totally EXPECTED but takes the story into a direction totally UNexpected & quite suddenly, you're now reading a "great" book.

No more on the specifics because I don't want to give anything away but I don't want to hide this in the "spoiler" section. Suffice it to say, "Elixir" features a cast of characters who find themselves challenged by this boy wonder, & who, although has an unequaled intelligence, is still very much a boy; an immature, emotional & a confused boy. Sean will challenge the "adults" in a way they've never been before & how they rise to this challenge is what makes this book so surprisingly good!

Amber says

I was given a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.
Sean Malone is the smartest person on earth. Ever since he appeared on the game show Jeopardy! , he has been hounded by others to answer trivia questions. All he wants is a normal life. He gets it when he solves a very hard math question which attracts the attention of the NSA. To stay safe he goes under the FBI's witness protection program with his aunt at age 14. Several years have passed and Sean who is now 1 8 falls in love with a beautiful woman named Natasha. When a mysterious illness befalls her, it is up to Sean to find the elixir to save her from the clutches of death. Can Sean save natasha before it is too late? Read Elixir and find out for yourself.

This was very action packed. I was held at the edge of my seat while reading this. Fans of young adult and thrillers will enjoy this action packed adventure.

Mitsy says

Yes! Sean Malone is a 14-year-old genius who gets himself in trouble with the wrong people and literally has to leave the country. He spends four years in Italy, where he falls in love with Natasha. When Natasha becomes seriously ill, he risks everything to save her. I love Sean's transformation from beginning to end. Natasha is great. I love how this story's written. Exciting YA novel. I'd love a sequel.

Sara says

Sean Malone is a young genius. With an IQ over 200, he has the capacity to solve even the most difficult problems. However, this intelligence led him to danger, forcing him to move to Rome for his safety. There he meets the love of his life, who becomes critically ill. His intelligence is the only thing that might save her; for love, he'd solve it all.

I won't lie to you: I read about half the book and just quickly skimmed the rest. I had been looking forward to reading *Elixir* and seeing how the concept would unfold. However, this book barely captured my attention and interest. It's unfortunate to say that the numerous flaws present in this book is what hindered its potential.

 Sean : Sean is the lead protagonist and he's brilliant (or so we're told he is). But in truth, for someone who is considered "the smartest person in the world", Sean is inconceivably stupid. He has the privilege of having the highest IQ known to men and the capacity to solve worldwide issues, yet he never takes advantage of it. He never thought about how much he could attain; the *good* he could do. All he did was blame himself for things that were out of his reach (such as the death of his parents) and hide/hate his brain's capacity. It frustrated me to read his constant struggles.
 *(**Life tip for all of you out there:** Stop feeling sorry for yourself and for your circumstance. Accept what you have, enjoy it, and live!)*

As a benefit of his intelligence, Sean has a full scholarship at *fourteen years old* to one of the country's top universities (to emphasize my point of his stupidity, I should probably mention that he drops out). However,

his intelligence just didn't make *sense*. In the beginning, he is given an impossible equation that no one before him had ever been able to solve. He sat looking at particularly nothing for an hour, and then POOF! *He solved it*. Don't get me wrong: there is nothing abnormal about hitting realization and solving something out of nowhere (it happens to me at school in abundance). However, it's impossible for me to grasp or accept the idea that without any background knowledge, he was automatically able to solve an equation in which professionals with *years of experience* struggled with. *There is a difference between* **knowledge** *and* **intelligence.** You could tell an incredibly intelligent child who knows nothing to do a simple sum such as two plus two, and yet the child will not be able to solve it, simply because they have not been taught the concept or process. People need the necessary knowledge in order to succeed. Einstein was a brilliant man, but he never sat down and after an hour of doing absolutely nothing did a light bulb appear above his head. The things he learned and accomplished took time and background knowledge. Just as a person can't simply give the definition of a word they've never heard before. They must read it or hear it and then they'd be able to assume the definition using context clues. Therefore Sean's spontaneous ability to solve things is just completely unbelievable.

I think what most bothered me (and you might not want to click "View Spoiler" if you're really looking forward to *Elixir*) was (view spoiler)

The writing & organization : While I do enjoy reading in third-person point of view, it just didn't work for this book. I never knew what was happening inside Sean's head, which resulted in me never connecting with his character. I didn't understand him (or even want to), and it's mainly because of the POV used. However, it has crossed my mind that maybe the POV was essential due to the fact that the head of the brightest person in the world's would be hard to write about. Yet the way Galdi handled third-person point of view could be improved.

The writing was plain and some authors manage to make that work. However, there was little to no descriptions. What does Sean look like? What does his aunt look like? His best friends? What does the sky look like? What does *anything* look like? It's important for the reader to picture a scene perfectly in their head. I did not have such privilege with *Elixir*.

The way the book is organized is unsettling. All chapters were sweet and short, which came to be actually invigorating. Yet it made it hard to understand the relationship between Sean and his girlfriend, Natasha. One chapter they have their first date, the next chapter it's three weeks later and she's meeting the fam and then they're in bed. It didn't flow smoothly and made their relationship two-dimensional. The reader did not grow with the relationship, it didn't feel as if the reader was watching the relationship evolve live. It just felt as if looking through a picture book; cute but not real enough. Also, *what was the main plot in this story? What was the climax? The resolution?* There were too many things going on, as if there were two plots. First Sean was in danger; the rising action, climax, and resolution was explained. Then Sean met Natasha; a new rising action, climax, and resolution was also explained. It was confusing and simply didn't fit.

Last but not least (and maybe my top complaint), was the dialogue between Sean and his friends. 'Yo', 'Homie', 'Dude', 'Sup', 'Man', 'Bro', and the list goes on and on. I am aware that these words are popular within the youth (myself included), but I also do know that they are not as excessively used as they are in this book. *Every dang sentence that comes out their lips and directs itself to a friend includes one of those words*. Every one. Always. As part of the current youth, I can assure you (and like to believe) that our vocabulary isn't as low and disappointing as to constantly use those words in a manner where they become absurd and annoying.

Overall : Ted Galdi has lots of potential and I have no doubt he will live up to that potential. Elixir is only his first novel, and I'm excited for any upcoming ones. Writing is not an easy feat, and I can't even begin to imagine the struggle, but with more and more experience, I know great things are to come.

Rating: 2.5 stars | ★★★?? | *I received a copy in exchange for an honest review*(less)

Jane Jago says

I enjoyed this. It's what I would call a boy's book, being intensely masculine in its point of view. That is not to say that it is in any way anti-woman as women are treated with tenderness throughout. It is simply my reaction to the book.

A good read and a good story

---

xrysa says

Arc kindly provided by the author in exchange of an honest review

Kick a$$ debut from Ted Galdi. Elix is a very well written book and obviously well edited. One of my few complaints about this book was the fact that some chapters weren't long enough.

The plot
Our hero,*Sean*, is the winner of *Jeapardy!* and the smartest kid in the world. Truth be told, being at the top is lonely. Sean during his whole life is trying to find someone or something smarter and better than himself. However, his efforts are worthless, until his teacher introduces him to the "Travelling Salesman Problem". One of the most powerful algorithms that has ever existed is solved and hacked by a boy who hasn't even finished his college. His motives...innocent…..The results…disastrous…

After a few events he reaches the edge because of his anxiety. One step before self-destruction.

A few years later his life has changed a lot. Finding the love of his life was easy but saving her? I didn't find it equally easy. Sean is determined to save the girl no matter the cost. Will he succeed ?

> **If you are going to lie,lie for a friend.if you are going to steal,steal a heart.If you are going to cheat,cheat death.**

I liked this book a lot. It was such an enjoyable read and the one thing I'm sure about is that I will read again a book by Ted in the future. It was a fun ride and recommend this book if you are seeking an action packed story. It was not focused on the romance part a lot but it didn't affect the wanted result.

Caru says

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Rating: ★★★★?

My Opinion Of This Book: It was really entertaining, but it had a few flaws!
_____

 Let's Meet The Characters!
Sean Malone: Our protagonist is Sean Malone/ James. He's very, very, very intelligent; in fact, he's the smartest person ever with an IQ over 200.
I liked Sean's character. I thought I wouldn't be able to relate to him since he's a freaking genius, which I thought would make him so not like a regular teenager. But, I was wrong! Sean is like a regular teen; he has the slang, he makes dumb decisions sometimes, and all that other stuff teens do.
Yup, **relatable, well developed, and complex.** Plus, he's super cute!!

> She smiles, moved by what he said. "Six boys and four girls, huh? Why not five and five?
> [Sean] "So the boys can look out for the girls. When we're not around. It'll be easier if there's more boys. Me and my wife are gonna make sure we teach them stuff like that really young. Watching out for each other and sticking together and all. My wife is gonna be cool. I know exactly what she's gonna be like. I picture her a lot."

Natasha: Natasha is Sean's girlfriend. I really liked her. She's playful, fun, cool, and strong. I just really loved her personality! I wish she would've been in the book more, though.

The Side Characters: Kyle, Fabrizio, etc: Kyle and Frabizio are Sean's/James' best friends. I like them both, they were pretty funny and cool. But I wish they both would've had more page-time. Same goes for the other side characters.

 The Romance: The romance was so cute!! And I'm ao glad it wasn't insta-love. It was well executed. And Sean and Natasha definitely are a great couple!

> [Natasha] "Look at you up onstage with your little fancy hair and your fancy little outfit."
> His cheeks get red. "Stop."
> "Awwwww." She snickers. "What happened to this style? I think I like it better than the one now. Much more refined. Really. You should consider --"
> He starts tickling the sides of her belly. "You want to laugh?" he asks with sarcasm. "I'll make you laugh."
> Giggling, she tries to push him off. "Stop. Baby."

The Writing: The writing is what really made me knock off a star. It was okay, too simple, I think. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't terrible -not even close- , it was just okay, not the best. It could've been more descriptive. Plus, there was some sentences that were missing commas.

 The Plot/Storyline: The plot was unique and original. It was also fast-paced and very entertaining! I LOVED it!

 Overall: This is a definitely a great read! I'd recommend it to anyone that likes a thriller/ action-packed novel!

Lauren says

I was given a free (PDF) copy of this book in exchange for a review.

In retrospect that was probably a mistake on the part of the author. Thrillers are not my favorite genre but I was in the mood so I figured I would give it a go.

I started out annoyed because the PDF wouldn't convert to EPUB so I could read this on my reader, strike one but not the author's fault. I almost wonder if that was on purpose so it would be more difficult to highlight passages.

The premise of the story is okay, a little cliche. A boy genius solves an "unsolvable" problem and the government goes after him leading him to enter witness protection.

Now my biggest complaint in this book was Sean. It say repeatedly that his IQ was off the chart. Then it says it was charted at 250. Does off the chart not mean off the chart? Also could we not choose a slightly more plausible number? They say that Einstein was at 165.
[image error]

Then we have the character himself. Aside from some guilt issues the kid had no real personality. It proceeds on to the least detailed and boring romance of the century. (view spoiler)

The characters were flat and the writing was not up to my reading standards. I want to be shown the picture. I love description, I hate just being told. There were multiple times in which the brand dropping were reminiscent of American Psycho but without the need.

The part that probably bothered me the most was her disease. (view spoiler)

What follows is a series of coincidences and cliches resulting in numerous eye-rolls and sighs from me.

I think that the author has some good ideas but needs to slow down. The characters needed more development, the story needed fewer gaping holes, and the writing needed more description beyond simply telling me she wears "pink wayfayers".

I don't like giving such a low rating to a book that an author sent me for a review. I wanted to love this but unfortunately, it just didn't work for me.