



Dungeon Deposed

William D. Arand , Amelia Parris (Illustrator)

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Alternate cover edition of ASIN B07B4VYMJZ

Ryker only has one goal in his life right now:

Turn a certain adventuring guild into a flaming wreck while dancing merrily through the smoldering ruins.
All for the chance to get back at a handful of people.

It isn't as if they didn't deserve it either.

They had driven him from his home. Chased him physically from the very guild house itself. All the way to the gates of the city.

Simply because he wasn't as strong as they expected him to be.

As strong as he'd expected himself to be.

He'd returned to the city the next day and left with his means for revenge. Something he'd hidden away and told no one about when he found it in one of his few Dungeon Dives.

An inactive Dungeon Core.

A crystal the size of a fist with a soul inside. One that could create anything from mana it wanted to. From monsters and complex cave systems to gold coins.

Years spent in planning, and unfortunately farming, as he waited. Now it felt like his moment was finally here.

The Dungeon Core had been acting strange lately. As if it were finally... coming to life.

Watching over the crystal like a hawk for this very event, Ryker impatiently waits. Any day now, it'd start.

And he could set about taking his vengeance.

Starting with ripping the soul of the Dungeon out.

Warning and minor spoiler: This novel contains graphic violence, undefined relationships/harem, unconventional opinions/beliefs, forced political marriage (and consummation), and an UNSTABLE hero who is as tactful as a dog at a cat show. Read at your own risk.

Dungeon Deposed Details

Date : Published February 28th 2018

ISBN :

Author : William D. Arand , Amelia Parris (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 382 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Polyamorous, Harem

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From Reader Review Dungeon Deposed for online ebook

Asher says

Okay overall. But fun dungeon set up.

So, let me start by saying that warning that's in the description of the book is spot on. What I didn't like: Ryker is quite unstable sometimes and when he gets mad he tends to threaten some graphic rape scenario to the person he's mad at. It's a bit unnerving especially when it's to a women and each time they basically have no reaction to it. If you threatened rape to a women I can assure you it would garner a very different reaction....mainly fear or anger. Not the nonchalant attitude that they have. I'm also astounded by how much Ryker gets laid. No joke it's like 3 times a day. And it's indeed a harem, a large harem at that, as was stated in the warning and so I guess it's should be expected. What I really enjoyed about this book was the dungeon building that was done. It was fun to read about how Ryker kept evolving it and in turn he grew as well. I really appreciated that a lot of the female characters were strong and not wilting flowers. They were strong fighters or politically strong. Adele is my favorite, she made me laugh out loud a couple times. I will read the next book but to be honest it won't be at the top of the list.

Conor says

Plot: 9/15

Prose: 3/5

Character: 6/15

Setting: 20/25

Dialogue: 6/10

Enjoyment: 24/30

Overall: 68/100 (3.4 stars)

Rob says

I'm hope my review provides enough justification for my 2 star rating that anyone who reads this will be able to assess whether they want to give it any weight or not. If you think my concerns are pointless then ignore my review. If you think my concerns have merit then you may still purchase the book but will at least better understand what you are getting into.

As I will use some small quotes and examples from the novel and make some comments that might be considered minor spoilers I'll be marking most of this review with a spoiler tag.

I'll start by saying I have read other books written by Mr. Arand prior to the release of Dungeon Deposed. In particular I read both entries in his "Super Sales on Super Heroes" series.

In many respects Mr. Arand's Super Heroes series has more than a passing tonal similarity to his new Dungeons series. Not that the two different worlds are anywhere near comparable. In fact they are

diametrically opposed (i.e. modern vs medieval). However, they both feature a male protagonist starting out as an underdog but who finds a way to succeed beyond expectations. Also both main characters face powerful, seemingly almost unbeatable, antagonists. And finally, as a bonus, both heroes in the two series are surrounded by a number of very attractive women available to be won over to fulfill the stereotypical male “harem” fantasy.

Personally, as a man, I find the harem aspect a fun addition to stories. If I’m completely honest, it was probably one of the reasons I first picked up one of Mr. Arand’s books.

But here is where we get to the heart of my review. In the case of *Dungeon Deposed* (as opposed to Mr. Arand’s Super Heroes books) it is the author’s massive mishandling of the harem part of the overall book plot that significantly reduced my enjoyment of an otherwise interesting premise.

So where did the author slip up to such an extent that it brought my rating down to 2 stars?

I’ll start the discussion with the author’s own Amazon synopsis. Mr. Arand gives readers a fair warning where he will be taking the story as follows - *“This novel contains graphic violence, undefined relationships/harem, unconventional opinions/beliefs, forced political marriage (and consummation), and an UNSTABLE hero”*.

So I will clearly state I was absolutely aware that the author would be using forced marriage and consummation as a plot point to move the stories harem development forward. And if it was solely this aspect of the plot that bothered me I wouldn’t be writing this review as it would be stupid to fault the book over this issue given I was fully aware of what was involved before I even read page one.

No, for me, it was how this forced marriage thread in the book was developed by the author - as shown through the subsequent actions characters take and their responses to the event - that left me feeling dissatisfied with this story as a whole.

(view spoiler)

So, overall, I'd say give a pass to this book as there are better works available in the LitRPG genre. If you like the Dungeon concept try the Ancient Dreams series by Benjamin Medrano. It's world is dark but character motivations and actions are far more believable with a solid resolution to the plot at the end.

Daniel Petrocelli says

I liked this book - as I really like all of Arand's writing. I didn't LOVE it like Otherlife or Super Sales. Can't really put my finger on the 'why'. I thought Ryker's rage to be a bit over the top - and certainly would impact those around him who would likely find it off-putting and borderline abusive.

Whereas I genuinely liked Runner and at least understand Felix's somewhat amoral viewpoint, I found I really, really didn't like Ryker. I couldn't even sympathize with him and so I guess I wasn't as invested as with the other works.

Frankly, more Otherlife and Super Sales would be higher on my 'to buy' list than the follow up to this. I'll probably try to keep going for a book or two, just to see if Ryker turns into somewhat less of a scumbag.

Russell Gray says

I feel like there's nothing wrong with harem stories and I don't mind when the harem genre tag wants to ride the coattails of something else which seems to be the case with this dungeon core/harem story. Just because I don't expect a literary masterpiece from a harem story, does that mean I should always expect the character to just be a complete piece of garbage? Is it really that hard to just put a legitimate human being in one of these things?

So I guess if you've ever read a harem story before, you have probably seen one of these loser do nothing whiner guys. Sometimes it's actually a fairly decent 'nice guy' type character who is at least a human being though a very boring and generic one. In this story it's the bitter guy who wants to blame circumstance and everyone else for why his situation isn't great.

I don't have a problem with a zero to hero type of story. I even like them, but especially so when they actually work to achieve something. I mean hey, look at Rocky. That's a zero to hero story but he doesn't become champion because he found a pair of magic boxing gloves, it's cause he actually busts his ass and struggles, finds rivals, loses, deals with challenges in his personal life, and ultimately grows as a person.

Here the character basically does nothing other than magically accomplish a variety of things while handwaving away how he seems to suck at everything except when it's something needed to move the story forward. He pretty much just gets surrounded by women who want him who are all more competent than him and he just complains and has a temper. Even when his circumstances improve significantly, he's still just complaining as if everything is a bother.

Character aside, the writing is also unfortunately on the wrong side of average. There is a lot of exposition and telling rather than showing or actual action. There are also a lot of anachronistic similes used like using the phrase lock, stock, and barrel. Did you just use a gun metaphor in a medieval fantasy story? Yes, yes he did. He also referred to a condom and to toilets at points.

There are a lot of grammar issues at times as well. The first chapter in particular seemed riddled with mistakes that should have been caught in editing. The character of Wynne is referred to by name before her name is given and there are multiple sentences missing punctuation at the end.

I know the litrpg community wants frequent content, but maybe people need to start giving them what they need rather than just what they want. What they need is higher quality writing.

Despite having very few positive things to say here, there is undeniably still something to the story since I kept reading and was still interested in the story as it unfolded....

but I feel like the large number of positive ratings misled me in this case because I just found a story that followed the shadow of the Divine Dungeon series but without any personality and also covered similar territory to a Daniel Schinhofen book but with the writing quality much lower. I honestly can't recommend this one to anyone and I will probably pass on all previous books from this author since the writing is unlikely to be any better.

Trent says

Excellent as expected.

There are few authors whose books I will buy immediately on sight alone. Without reading any blurbs. Without even the courtesy glance to reader reviews or ratings. Without at least considering for a moment whether the new book before me may or may not be worth the time...

Not so with William D. Arand.

I bought this book as soon as I saw it. I cared not a whit what it was about or what others before me might have thought about it.

I was not disappointed. Nor shall you be.

Johnny says

Not litrpg

This is a dungeon story.

I read this book rather quickly, I think it was due to just being a Damn fine read.

I don't give very many five star reviews, but this one earned it by simply making me want more.

I will read this book again when book to comes out.

The harem aspect of this book is done in good taste, without all the explicit teen wet dream sex. I liked that. I highly recommend this book for a fun read.

Upset says

Very good start and great ways this book could go forward.

One thing I can kind of complain about through this is that he never even considered trying to test limits with

an avatar. Build himself a demigod body in his likeness. Practice spells to counter detect life etc. His main weakness in this entire book has kind of been the fact that he is vulnerable. With how much he tinkered with spells and limits it was almost out of character to not even consider messing with the avatar spell. I'm sure we'll see this in book two. I look forward to it!

Vince Blas says

Another great book from Mr Arand! A really neat premise, and an interesting storyline with just enough curveballs to keep everything interesting. Very heavy on the wish-fulfillment (and boo to anyone that says that's a bad thing), plus a great ending that promises lots more drama in the future.

However, while I am a fan of all Arand's books, and I really wanted to give this one five stars, I couldn't quite justify it. Elements that didn't quite jive with me in Otherlife or Super Sales were easy enough to overlook when everything was still fresh, but by the third series, seeing those same very specific tropes has started to grate on me a bit.

The protagonist whose (surprisingly effective) seduction technique seems to primarily just be directly complementing their bustline. The reliance on using enslavement mechanics to expand the harems, or moreover the fact that no one ever seems to notice the severe ethical problems with this. I could go on, but I'd rather not spoil the other books.

I'm beginning to worry that Arand is just writing the same book series over again for the third time (although, full disclosure, I haven't read Super Sales 2 yet). And that might not even be a real problem, it's a fun book! If you liked Arand's past books, *you will like this one too*. But if you had any complaints in the past, it seems unlikely you'll see them redressed in this series.

This review is heavy on the critique, but to be clear, I still enjoyed this book quite a lot. I love Arand's books, and I am helpless to resist the Dungeon Core genre; I will eagerly await the opportunity to preorder the next installments. In the end, I just hope that Arand can balance the desire to maintain his very unique and contrarian voice with the ability to grow and develop as a writer.

Show us what else you can do!

Zachery says

The dungeon core parts of this book are kind of okay. Not terrible, and not great either.

The real problem is the characters. The protagonist is a guy who goes into blind rages fairly often. In the first chapter or so, he threatens to kill and use someone as a condom. He admits that this probably isn't an idle threat. What a lovely person.

There's a potential harem that pops up, which like with all harems, means that the women are boring, 2D caricatures of people. I can't say I understand the appeal. The sex scenes are never great, and the characters end up being bland and uninteresting. It also removes a large portion of the books potential audience.

I couldn't manage to care about the protagonist, the women, or the cardboard cutout villains. From what other reviews say, the Protagonist gets even worse later on.

Shawn Dibble says

This book is an incels/neckbeard fantasy. Seriously, if you go to subreddits about the above two groups, it feels like the author would fall into one of those two categories.

The main character is a childish rapist monster. He wants women to worship at his feet or treat him as he wishes (those who don't are his enemy). When he makes a decision, everyone else must fall into line. He claims to be a simple man, but can easily figure out in detail what is going on (although if you thought about any of the situations where the main character "easily" analyzes the situation, you would realize his conclusions are not the only possible outcome(s)).

He expects all his women to be virgins until he has sex with them. And he forces himself onto his concubines even though he knows one doesn't want that and the other clearly has stockholm syndrome.

The guy throws a temper tantrum when he doesn't get his way and in many cases says damn the consequences and does what he wants. The universe hands this man everything he could ever want, but he doesn't spend any time actually working for these things, instead this scholar/wizard does hard work in the field and occasionally works on his dungeon/city.

I saw other reviews that were happy they stuck until the end. I finished the book and I'm still waiting for this big change in him.

Bolajide Adeyoye says

So Good....

W.D. Arand is one of "those" authors. He's good like an M. Scott-Earle or a Stryvant. And he writes these dynamic character driven stories that suck you in. At times when he's really on fire it seems might possibly even a little better than other writers of the genre in some aspects because his fan service is almost like an afterthought a bit of light frosting on a rich nuanced cake. He's good, really good, so good that I kind of hate him a little because he's not really all that prolific. Logically speaking I know that's probably part of why he's good in that he takes the time to craft the world and the characters instead of just doing the best he can and then just putting out what he has...but I still got to say it's frustrating as all get up...Reading his work is like having a really good dream or hearing a really good song..that can't be bought in any of the usual outlets...it just sort of messes with you because you end up spending the rest of the week wanting more. That's how I feel about this author he always leaves me wanting more and I love and I hate it and all in all its a really cool trick. The books are decently sized so you don't feel cheated. He uses cliffhangers that for the most part aren't cliffhangers, he makes you fall in love with some characters and hate others enough that you don't feel at ease till you no they've been handled...It's just all really insidious, I spent a whole day reading and then when I realized there was no more book left I felt like shaking my kindle to get at the crumbs. All in all it was good book and I look forwards for the sequel.....which I'm sure will come out and year now....

Jeff Dunton says

Great Dungeon story!

This book has a slightly different take on the usual dungeon pov. A semi regular guy, hellbent on revenge, controlling an entire dungeon and the resulting town around it. Great story, action, adventure, some sex, countless deaths, pick it up and read it already!

Rebecka says

I really like reading about living dungeons and liked the Selfless hero series, also by William D. Arand, but the MC in this book was just so very, very, very unlikable. A mean, cruel and self-centered person that boasts about his great plans, but ends up only reacting to others instead.

Steven Mein says

Couldn't put it down.

Ryker is relatable and fun to follow. His plan for petty vengeance quickly grows more involved and expansive than he wanted and it makes for great reading. The moral dilemma makes the character much more likeable.
