



How to Grow Up and Rule the World, by Vordak the Incomprehensible

Vordak T. Incomprehensible , Scott Seegert

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Slip on your acid-free gloves, make sure you have a duplicate copy of How to Grow Up and Rule the World (just in case something should happen to this one) and try to follow along as the incomparable, superior-in-all-ways Vordak the Incomprehensible teaches you a thing or two about villainy. Now you, too, can try (and fail) to attain Vordak's level of infamy.

From selecting the most dastardly name, to choosing the ideal henchmen, to engaging in witty repartee with disgustingly chipper superheroes, experienced supervillain Vordak the Incomprehensible guides readers step-by-step toward the ultimate goal of world domination (from his parents' basement in Trenton, New Jersey).

With chapter titles like "Bringing Out the Evil" and "Building a Top-Notch Evil Organization," numerous bold illustrations, and detailed quizzes to assess your level of dastardliness, this book provides everything necessary to rise above the masses, and then rub your ascent in their faces.

In return for this wealth of knowledge, Vordak requests nothing more than an honored place in the evil regime of he who achieves control of the world. (And, of course, the opportunity to assume command, should things not work out.)

How to Grow Up and Rule the World, by Vordak the Incomprehensible Details

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Author : Vordak T. Incomprehensible , Scott Seegert

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John Naylor says

This is funny.

Oh, I mean some of the text is humorous but the funny part is that Vordak himself is so incompetent that his name should be Vordak the Incompetent. This is why he has never ruled the world. This is why Captain Virtue (who, as a side note, wears a lot better costume than Vordak) always escapes and defeats him.

Vordak explains how he thinks a supervillain should be. Any self-respecting supervillain should read this book and strive to do the opposite of everything that it advises. The book describes failure. It is written by a failed supervillain.

It name checks Dr. Evil which leads to my next point. Doctor Evil put a lot of work into being a supervillain. It wasn't all lemonade stands and burger jobs back in his day. He employed the best henchmen (RIP John Smith) and associated with other evil people regularly. Vordak just never has realised this step.

This is an amusing account of Vordak's ideas and failures. I would recommend it to any potential supervillain or superhero. For the laughs (evil ones) and also as a guide of what not to do.

Tara says

I freely admit I don't read a lot of middle grade and young readers books, but I make an exception every now and again. I first heard of Vordak when (literary agent) Janet Reid began tweeting him. Then I saw a video of Vordak from BEA and I knew I had to have this book. As luck would have it, as I was at ALA, standing in line to meet Ally Condie & Andrea Cremer, who should walk by but his Incomprehensibleness himself. He stopped right in front of me, stuck out his hand and introduced himself. He charmed everyone in line. I gleefully grabbed a copy of the book and my husband and I started flipping through it on the metro ride home.

This book is hilarious. Seriously, even the acknowledgments will make you laugh. I would assume this book is geared towards young boys, who will no doubt enjoy it fully, but I don't feel like they're the only ones that will.

Vordak's evil, but a wee bit bumbling and oh yeah-likable, even if he doesn't want to appear to be. I wouldn't recommend reading this book in public, especially if you're like me and have a laugh that makes people turn around and stare at you. There are tips for coming up with your evil name (I'm Tarmar the Impatient), how to fashion an evil costume, courses in minions and weaponry, all complete with wonderful and often hilarious illustrations.

This book is 8+-and some of the vocabulary is what I would consider advanced for the age, but then I thought about it. I was the type of kid who would badger my parents when I was reading something and didn't know what the word was. After five or ten times, my parents would get annoyed. Could this be Vordak's purpose? It would be small slice of evil if it were!

To sum up: I give Vordak 5/5 stars. I highly enjoyed it, and if you have a keen sense of humor, you probably will too. This book would be a great gift for the young person in your life-or anyone currently floundering in their own plans for world domination.

Michelle says

This book will not be for everyone... and you must take the narrator's type of humor in stride. However, it was funny and creative. It had some great text features and pieces of writing that would be awesome to use as mentor text to engage your students (especially superhero-loving kids and fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Big Nate, etc.).

Danielle Booey says

This is a hilarious guide for how to rule the world with fashion tips, best secret lair plans, and how to practice your evil laugh.

For fans of Captain Underpants, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, or Despicable Me. Lots of fun and I snorted out loud multiple times while reading.

Patrick F. says

How to Grow Up and Rule the World, by Vordak the Incomprehensible by Scott Seegert was recommended to me by many of my friends and they all said that it was amazing. I think that is started off slow but then it got so much better. This book is one of the funniest books I have read all year. The plot was not that great, but since the book was funny it made up for the bad plot. I think Scott Seegert did a good job pulling the reader in by the books great humor. Vordak is the guide on how to become an evil villan told by Vordak himself. It tells you how to be a jerk, where good lairs are, how to get loans from the bank of evil, how you should dress, and it even helps you pick out an evil name. I would give this book four stars because it was one of the funniest books I have ever read, but during some parts it was boring. I would recommend this book to anyone who can be patient and wait for the good parts.

Paula says

I can't even speak to the quality of the illustrations or the writing in this book, mostly because I'm just giggling. It's dumb, it's silly, it's MAD magazine, it's engaging, it has been passed around the 4th grade like the lice epidemic we couldn't seem to get rid of two years ago. It even encourages creativity. EEEEVIL creativity. I do love this book.

Colin V.B says

Many of my friends recommended Vordak to me because they said it was really funny. But to be honest, the beginning of Vordak wasn't very good. It was pretty boring because all Vordak did was basically say how great he was. But then, it slowly started getting from childish to funny.

Vordak by Scott Seegert is a humorous, odd, and hilariously fun book that gives you a break from regular books. The beginning of Vordak is a little childish, but the end makes you want to laugh out loud. I recommend this book to anyone who is struggling to find a fun book.

Ms. Finley says

While it wasn't exactly my normal read, this book had a delightful amount of snark in it. I gave it three stars, but my son (and future evil genius) gave it five...

Shel says

Vordak/Scott Seegert. (2010). *How to Grow Up and Rule the World*. New York: Egmont.

196 pages.

Appetizer: Evil Vordak the Incomprehensible has some advice for all of us "inferior" ones: How to grow up and rule the world (in case you didn't figure it out by the book's title). While regularly asserting his superiority, Vordak provides essential information about any potential evil villain's behavior, costume, lair, laugh, plans, etc., as he or she seeks world domination.

This how-to guide includes contracts, quizzes, commandments, scenes that could be acted out, question and answer sections, charts and illustrations that will amuse readers. (I could particularly see third or fourth-grade boys who have just finished *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Captain Underpants* or the *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* series loving this book.) I think this book's varied structure will keep kids engaged.

(Although, every now and then, I did happen upon a page that confused me a little. Like this one from page 43...)

It took me a minute to realize that the "no" and "yes" weren't a part of the dialogue on the page and were instead noting which was the appropriate response. I would have preferred if the 'no' answer were crossed out or something.)

I did also have trouble with the way gender (and nerds!) were presented. Scientists were picked on (I would have preferred if they were championed since mad scientists want to rule the world too!). But much worse, there really was no possibility presented that a female villain would want to rule the world (We have ambitious goals too!) I was willing to overlook this problem until I hit page 130. In this section, Vordak was recommending villain-types to include on a terrifying team. The last addition is: PICTURE

Sigh.

Inappropriate.

I know there are some people out there who would say I'm reading too much into this page (I know this for a fact, I occasionally get comment/email spam from such people who not so kindly request that I relax and not take little kids' books so seriously.) But for real, peeps. Children's literature is how young people make meaning about the world. The subtle messages are the ones that can be the most dangerous (as opposed to "promoting evil" which is repeated over and over again throughout the handbook and is easier to consciously critique). Pairing a supposedly beautiful woman with the suggestion to include her on a team based solely on appearance with the stipulation that she needs no skills is not cool.

I'll stop myself there.

I'd hate to get caught ranting.

For the most part, this is a fun bit of escapist reading for any reader who loves superheroes. One of the book's greatest strengths is Vordak's awesomely large vocabulary. While lots of young readers will not get every word, they'll be amused enough to keep reading and (dare I hope?!) look up the meaning of a word or two to add to their vocab to intimidate and prove their superiority to the "imbeciles."

Plus, one of Vordak's commandments involves playing with language.

Having said that though, I could see some parents having a problem with the book. Early on, Vordak asserts that all people have at least a little evil in them. Plus, a lot of Vordak's evil advice is on a small scale, like possibly saying, "Wow! You are one fat cow." to a lunch lady (p. 29). While I fully believe most young readers will find this hilarious and will simultaneously realize that this is not appropriate to actually say...there is also a small minority I could picture *actually* following through with some of Vordak's suggestions.

I'd still keep How to Grow Up and Rule the World on my classroom bookshelf though. I would probably mark the offensive "hire the woman because she looks good" page with some explanation points and even a "Not Cool" written in the margin to make my stance clear (and hope my students ask why I marked that page *fingers crossed!*). I think the book has great potential to get a reluctant reader enjoying reading! (I'd just also be ready to say, "This book is just for fun! If you *do* let any of the messages in this book--subtle or obvious--influence your behavior, do the exact opposite of what Vordak suggests! Mmm, kay?")

Dinner Conversation:

"Greetings, inferior one. I am Vordak the Incomprehensible. Who you are doesn't matter. What does matter is my dastardly decision to add the world of book publishing to my growing list of conquests. Without even trying very hard, I have created a book of such unbelievable brilliance that it dwarfs all other literature preceding it throughout the course of human history" (p. 1).

"I am tremendously proud of my heartless nature, and if you have any hopes of eventually becoming

planetary dictator, you, too, will need to embrace your inner evil. I'm not talking "break your mother's favorite ceramic egg and blame it on your little brother" evil. I'm talking "willing to pull the moon into a collision course with the Earth by means of a powerful, nuclear-powered tractor beam in order to get your way" evil. I'm talking incredibly evil. Worse than your orthodontist" (p. 2).

"We Evil Masterminds work long, grueling hours developing our organizations and concocting our brilliantly evil plans, patiently biding our time for the ideal moment in which to strike. And then, in swoops the Superhero to thwart everything. No preparation. No planning. Nothing. He simply receives "the call" and off he goes, swooping and thwarting" (p. 73-74).

Nicole says

Josh was just not into this book.

Elza Kinde says

You have been graciously given a complete guide to becoming an evil world dictator by the infamous Vordak the Incomprehensible. Make yourself worthy and you too may learn to attire yourself in a properly villainous costume, combat the superheroic, and develop the perfect evil laugh. MWAHAHAHA!

The incomparable guide for supervillainy, *How to Grow Up and Rule the World* creates a comprehensive career path for future tyrannical dictators. With step-by-step instructions, a captive illustrator's renderings, and resources galore, success is imminent.

With lots of pictures, sarcasm, and ill-gotten advice, Vordak the Incomprehensible's guide is perfect for reluctant readers without a moral compass. Parents may wish to preview the content to ensure that their child will not attempt any of the satirical stunts, especially the one that involves electrical outlets and cutlery.

Heather says

Some parts of the book were tedious and repetitious, and I was thinking that a story might have been better than a "how-to" book. Then I got to the more ingenious bits and cracked up. My favorites include: the descriptions of superheroes "Lead Man" and "Lieutenant Colonel America" (yes, *Avengers* fans, you know **exactly** who we're spoofing) and the Supervillain Power Chart, which made me laugh out loud. There are also a number of gems in the illustrations. By the time I finished the book, my feelings towards the how-to format and Vordak's narration had warmed considerably. The length and the repetition may put some readers off, but this is one I could easily recommend to a number of younger readers, particularly lovers of ridiculous superheroes and supervillains.

Sara says

This book was delightfully hilarious. I actually got an arc at ALA from Vordak himself (who was wearing his very impressive costume), and he signed my book "Muahahahaha, Love, Vordak", but it took me 'til now to actually read it. I'm glad I did though, 'cause it's really well done.

Kinda similar in concept to Dr. Horrible, but this book is a non-fiction instruction manual on how to...well..grow up and rule the world. With advice about costume, evil laugh, lair, evil plans, and what to do once you've actually managed to take over the world, this book is not only hilarious, but useful!

The one thing that keeps me from giving it five stars instead of four is that it went on just a LITTLE too long, but the illustrations and delightfully evil hilarity kept me reading. I'd give this to any boy aged 4th grade through 8th grade, and I'm planning to book-talk it in school visits this spring.

Christy says

An evil laugh is the first step to taking over the world. *How to Grow Up and Take over the World* is Maxwell's, my eight year old son, new favorite book. It has taken the coveted "Can I read it every night?" spot away from the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. I received a galley of this book and instantly became my son's hero because he aspires to great world domination. This book will not be for everyone, but if you are fan of toilet humor, and also believe that **Nick Naked** is not a great super villian name and you have aspirations of taking over the world ... muahahahahaha ... this might just be the book for you!

Cheryl says

My kids all read and loved it, so I had heard many of the jokes already before I read it myself. Really fun. A good primer on taking over the world.
