



Dungeon Madness

Dakota Krout

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An alternate cover edition for ASIN B01N4UQA28.

Both Cal and Dale have become stronger, each in spite of the other.

The dungeon - Cal - knows exactly how much their strength has increased, and is working hard to become exponentially more powerful. His schemes are becoming more complex, and his dungeon - his body - more deadly.

Dale has a nasty surprise waiting for him as he works to thwart the plans of the devious dungeon. You see, he is hearing a voice in his head that tries to distract him in critical moments, and so must fight his mind as he fights deadly creatures.

Unbeknownst to both, they are in for the fight of their lives as madness threatens the land...

Dungeon Madness Details

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Author : Dakota Krout

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From Reader Review Dungeon Madness for online ebook

Kurt says

One of, if not my most anticipated book release of the year, and it is possibly even better than the first book! The ins and outs of a society built around a sentient dungeon are further explored, while the fantastic cast of characters get into all sorts of new trouble. The audiobook narrator does a wonderful job of bringing it all to life.

Johnny says

MORE!

You must write more, and longer! No breaks for you until I...I mean we, yes we get book three. No sleep, no food, no sex, just write. You will be richly rewarded for your efforts, but only if you don't keep us waiting to long.

Only review I have ever written in this fashion, and if that doesn't tell you what I think of the book then you need a brain.

Chris Evans says

FINALLY!

So it's been months since I finished Dungeon Born and since then I've been binging on LitRPGs. Now that I'm much more versed on the genre, I appreciate the way this series is constructed even more. Everything just feels very cohesive, organic, and fluid. I'm never left skeptical of why an event happened or questioned a characters actions. Nothing feels forced or formulaic, or there because other books do it, or to check some arbitrary box. Krout even managed pop culture references in a non obnoxious way, making me grin instead of sigh in annoyance (Hint to Aleron Kong: it's because it was subtle and rare.).

(view spoiler)

So the Dungeon Born series is 2 for 2 so far, and I can't wait for the next one :D. I highly recommend.

5/5 Stars... I miiiight have stayed up till 2am to finish it, it was one of those types of books.

Hamda says

I picked up the audio book for part one (Dungeon born) on a whim one day.

Two days later I placed the order for this one! it took a full month to get here but guess what! I FOUND A UNICORN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes it's rare that the sequel is even better then the first and not just that but it had a stellar audio performance to top. well it did and more! I am going to continue READING this series as I had a very hard time putting this book down.

Intelligent, fun, creative and full of character this one I would whole heartedly recommend! 11/10

kevin stringer says

What a great concept!

The concept of a story from the perspective of a sentient dungeon was enthralling for me. Better, the cast of characters were fantastic as is the overarching story line. The author did a commendable job of writing an entertaining and novel story. The only home I found through the entire story was that no one had any suspicion of the dungeon's sentience despite numerous clear indicators. That bothered me a bit through both books but not enough to prevent me from enjoying them thoroughly.

Dylan Schnabel says

Better than the First!!

Disclaimer: In the interest of full disclosure: I personally know the author, and I received access to a temporary pre-release copy in exchange for editing services. A review was never discussed, but I enjoyed the book and feel it is deserving of a review. Please note, I did pay for permanent access to the final copy of the book. Also, my personal relationship with the author has had no impact on the following review, unless said impact was grading aspects a bit more harshly.

Quick Look: Dungeon Madness is the second book in the Divine Dungeon series and is a fantastic follow up to the first book. The concept is the same in that the main character is a dungeon, but the scenarios play out quite a bit differently than in the first book. Again, this book is a LitRPG novel with hints of the Wuxia genre, meaning that what the reader gets is a book that could be ripped straight out of a video game with some awesome fight descriptions.

Recommended For: Readers of the first book. Seriously, this book is difficult to read as a stand alone novel because it isn't one. It takes place immediately after the events of the first book and ends in a way which just begs for a third. That being said, the first book and this one are relatively inexpensive and quite long, so if you're interested, I'd recommend picking both of them up. That being said, I'd recommend this series to anyone who really likes video games, anyone who likes dungeon-crawler fantasy, and anyone who likes seeing something new. There are a few dungeon-style novels out there, but very few and the concept is still

fresh.

--SPOILERS AHEAD--

Pros: This book improved upon almost every aspect of the previous book. The mechanics of the writing took a major upswing: writing quality is much better, the editing is better, and the consistency is better. This isn't to say the previous book was seriously hurting in these regards, but there is a significant difference. I attribute these to the author and his team being a bit more experienced. After the mechanical issues, the pros start being even better. The magic system gets even more fleshed out while still staying simple enough where I didn't get confused. The balance of the limitations on things like runes, enchantments, and inscriptions while being accessible to all with the limitless nature of mana while being accessible to a very select few was a brilliant touch. The creatures created in the dungeon show even more creativity on the part of the author, with the floating jellyfish being my favorite. The humor is taken up a notch, and I loved it. Also, while the ending is definitely a cliffhanger, the ending felt less rushed and more minor loose ends were tied up than in the last book. We certainly have a major loose end to deal with in the next book, but I feel like this was a much better ending arc than the first book.

The author also improved on a handful of the 'mixed bag' issues from the last book. Due to the increasing size of the dungeon and the amount of time the story takes place outside of said dungeon, the book doesn't physically stagnate from being told in the same place. There is enough variance throughout the different floors and the surface (and the balance of time spent in each is improved) that there is never the feeling like the reader is trapped. On the topic of exposition or world building, as I call it, we see that the author has refined his ability to show us the world. He lowered the overall amount of exposition and built the world through characters' actions. Even with less exposition, the world kept growing and expanding in my imagination while reading the book, which isn't surprising as the author's biggest strength is world building.

Mixed Bag: The author uses a bit more meta-humor in this book. He refers to himself once or twice in a humorous fashion. He also refers to a few of his fellow LitRPG authors' books. Now, I loved this, and many people seem to love this style of humor. That being said, a few people may take some issue with it. It does disrupt the flow and immersion a little bit, as meta humor is intended to do, but I found that it wasn't enough to get me to even pause, let alone completely stop reading for any length of time. The author also still does rely a bit on exposition through dialogue, but has definitely improved on reducing the amount of such dialogue, especially between Cal and Dani, and replaced it with character building dialogue. Also, we still see rapid character development, especially as we watch Cal begin to become more 'dungeon' and less 'former human', but again, it fits with the vast amount of power the characters gain due to the uniqueness of Cal. I don't see a major problem with any of these mixed-bag aspects, but I decided to put them here because they are the most likely aspects to irk people, at least in my opinion.

Cons: I have the same con with this book as I did with the last one. The last page sucked. Not because of anything that was on the page, but just because there wasn't another page after it.

Overall:

Concept - 10/10

Writing mechanics - 15/15

Consistency - 5/5

Grammar - 5/5

Dialogue - 5/5

LitRPG mechanics - 8/10

World building - 15/15

Monsters - 5/5
Environment - 5/5

Other - 5/5
Characters - 9/10
Narrative - 19/20
Twist - 5/5
Pacing - 5/5
Humor - 4/5
Other - 5/5
Total - $76/80 = 19/20 = 4.75/5$

Ethan Salzman says

My life is complete

Man ever since I read book one months ago I have been waiting for this to come out and now I can't wait for book 3. The author flawlessly weaves an amazing story but he doesn't forget to explain the system or why the MC's are so op. The sense of humor is also amazing had me cackling for hours. I'm like an addicted crazy person for these books give me moar!

Vincent Archer says

This sequel to the first book of the Divine Dungeon, Dungeon Madness starts where the first ends and goes immediately to the next storyline.

Although I still rate it highly, I'll put it relatively below Dungeonborn. There's a couple points from the first book addressed here, but it also adds some new problems.

My main beef and why I'd rate it as 4-4.5 rather than full 5 stars is the Minya character which is relatively unnecessary. I appreciate that she's introduced as a Dungeonborn contrast to Dale, but she creates what I felt unnecessary complexities, and she's also a spoilery source of in-universe knowledge for the Council. It weakens the story when you have a character that basically can tell everyone the Dungeon mechanics rather than having Dale figure them. It's a very difficult balancing act, and one that I do not feel was entirely ok.

The book also ends as a cliffhanger rather than wrapping up the story and setting up the stage for another story. Some people like that, but, unless I'm picking an omnibus edition or a clear self-contained trilogy, I tend to dislike books that leave you hanging. A reason why I disliked the 5th book of the Expanse, for instance: instead of wrapping the story and leaving open the setting for the next stage, it left the main plot dangling for a year.

Still very good, and now, I have to wait for the next one.

GaiusPrimus says

I have to say that this series has become the gold standard for Dungeon books for me.

There were some twists from the first book that I thought would degrade the main focus of the story, but Mr. Krout has done an admirable job of reigning it back in, bringing those loose threads back to the Dungeon.

Levelling mechanics and internal consistencies are top notch and the book has either had professional editing done, or Mr. Krout has some very good beta readers.

Eagerly awaiting for the next 7 books in the series.

Also, the covers are awesome!

Peter says

Binge-read this sucker the day after listening to the first book on audible. After reading this book, I think I prefer reading the series to listening.

Overall a pretty legit book. It wasn't completely predictable which was great. Cal was amusing, Dani was sassy and got a tad scarier, Dale got lipo, and Craig got vanished (but no really he went from a secondary character trainer to disappearing, where'd he go?).

I'm really curious about that Dakota guy though. He seemed pretty powerful and intelligent. ;) Hopefully he didn't die.

Can't wait for book 3!

DAvid says

I couldn't put it down.

I absolutely loved this book, truly I purchased the first one on a whim and I couldn't be happier. Then I got this one and it was even better than the last.

Kevin Parks says

I highly recommend this novel and the Audible version voiced by Vikas Adam. Adam's voice acting is superb and captures the characters and settings brilliantly. A must read for fantasy or video game fans.

Esmerelda Weatherwax says

I liked this one more than the last one because we get to see more of what's going on in the world and there's a bit more depth to the book.

The adventurer main character is struggling how to hold on to his authority in the dungeon raiding camp, dealing with elves, royalties from around the world, and other shit that just makes his life more difficult. Do you let this faction or that faction have control of security, what do you do about the over abundance of royal twists coming and thinking they should be top dog. How do you deal with rationing out the spoils of the dungeon, how do you make roads and trash removal function properly. That sort of thing.

There's of course more dungeon raiding, more monsters, new insights into how the magic works.

There was actual character development in this book rather than just characters being vessels for the plot (which is fine given the story type), but I always enjoy it when characters learn and grow and have development.

The first book was a solid 4, this one I felt was more like a 4.25 - 4.5. This is a prime example of how much I wish Goodreads would allow half star ratings to be more accurate, I can't show in ratings that this book is better than the first.

If you liked the first book I think you'd like the second book even more, this series is very unique so if you're on r/fantasy and looking for a non human POV for one of the Bingo Squares, and you also enjoy dungeon raiding and WoW type video games I think you should check this series out.

Dennis Callaghan says

Want the next one NOW!

Great fun. Good cliffhanger ending. Has the same feel of The Galactic Mage series (which lost its way to my mind), but I hope DK has a long term vision for Cal, Dani, Dale at el. Sorry, but I hate the cover art, sometimes you do judge a book by its cover and I almost didn't buy into the series.

Steve says

An exceptional story that gets you going right where the last book left off. The attention paid to the development of both Dale and Cal make the book standout in my mind, too often stories simply "make it so" instead of showing the process they take to get there. I look forward to the next book and I will certainly recommend the series to others.
