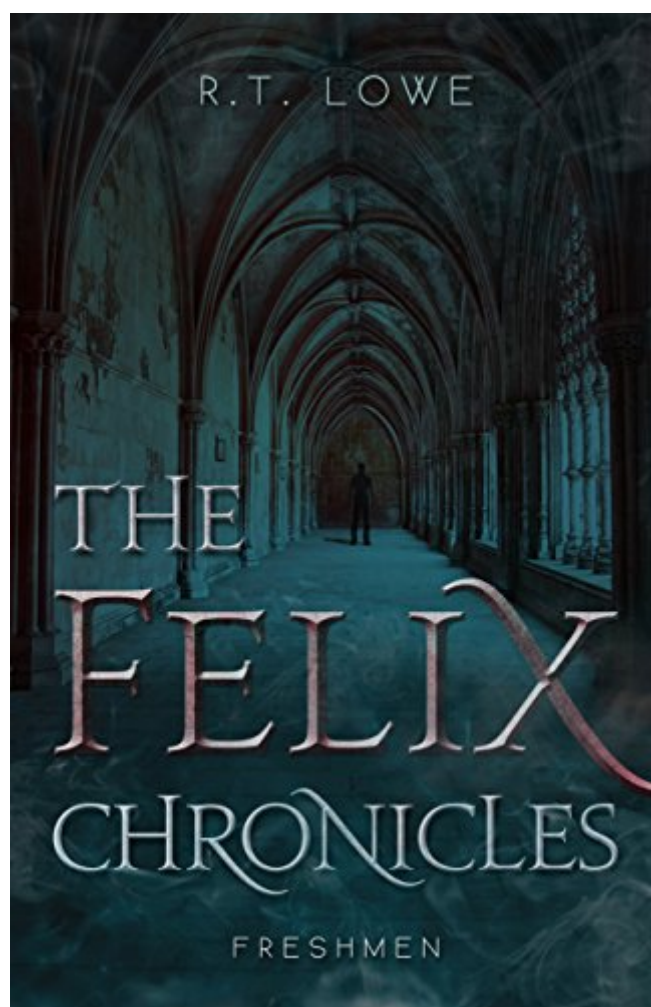


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The Felix Chronicles: Freshmen



Synopsis

Reeling from a terrible accident that claimed the lives of his parents, Felix arrives at Portland College hoping only to survive the experience. In time, however, his reality star roommate shows him there is more to higher education than just classes, shared bathrooms and bad dorm food, and Felix gradually dares to believe he can put his past behind him. But a fateful storm looms on the horizon: In the nearby woods, two hikers become the latest victims in a series of gruesome murders; a disfigured giant embarks on a vicious cross-country rampage, killing teenagers who fail his 'test'; and an ancient society of assassins tasked with eradicating the wielders of a mysterious source of power awakens after a long silence. Only one man--the school's groundskeeper--knows that the seemingly unrelated events are connected, and that an eighteen-year-old boy stands in the center of the storm.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a huge fan of YA/Fantasy books that have the ability to actually pull in the YA male audience and keep them wanting to read. There are some great series out there that boys, teens and men can get into like Harry Potter, Maximum Ride, Lord of the Rings and Game of Thrones but the problem with these series is that the first two is read by most boys before they enter high school and

the other two are typically read after. Sure, I know thereâ€™s some guys that will read LOTR and GOT during high school but most of the ones Iâ€™ve talked to about it say theyâ€™re just too long and complicated to keep their attention. So where are the great fantasy series that girls will naturally gobble up and that guys age 15-18 can get equally excited for?? Enter The Felix Chronicles: Freshmen by R.T. Lowe. While reading this I kept thinking â€œfinally, finally!!â€• this is something I can recommend to ALL our teens that walk in the school library looking for something a little different, a little dark, and a little more. This is the story of Felix, a college freshmen who is having to learn how to manage life after the death of his parents. Heâ€™s attending Portland College and is starting to make a few friends as he settles into the college life despite his recent grief. I really enjoyed Felixâ€™s character, heâ€™s such an all-around likeable guy and portrayed very realistically. The supporting cast of characters are equally enjoyable and were wonderfully fleshed out and real. My favorite of course was Allison, Felixâ€™s best friend from home whoâ€™s always stood by him.

What if Harry Potter didnâ€™t know about magic until he went to college? And what if (along with almost everything else to do with dorm life as a freshman) Hogwarts turned out to be more horror story than dark fantasy, and Harryâ€™s fellow students had a tendency to end up as ketchup? Why am I going into all of this? Well, I was giving it lots of thought as I read The Felix Chronicles: Freshman. I made it through the (long) preface, helped by a warning that it would all make sense later, and that Felix would (eventually) show up. I went through (and then started skipping over) descriptions of beautiful young girls murdered, Bad Things happening in the woods, and a bunch of other disturbing situations, all mixed with the story of Felixâ€™s first year in college. Going away to school can be hard enough, but Felix is still in emotional meltdown following the tragic death of his parents. But balanced against that is what I think of as the single most useful fantasy trope ever: The Chosen Oneâ€”in which destiny chooses an ordinary person to be the only one who can save the world as we know it. Iâ€™m very sincere here. Without this workhorse trope, we would be missing an unending stream of classics from the bible to the Iliad to Harry Potter, Dune, The Matrix, The Belgariad, Lord of the Rings, Narnia, Star Wars, and on and on. So is The Felix Chronicles horror or dark fantasy? Yes. Itâ€™s a long, bloody, graphic, exciting, twisting, scary story about The Chosen One. Felix finds truths about himself, his parentsâ€™ deaths, and his friendsâ€”but mostly he finds out about being the one who has to save the world. Even more interesting is his relationship with his best friend, the seemingly-ordinary (or not?)

Disclosure: As a member of the Goodreads community, this review is posted there as well. The book was received in exchange for an honest and critical review.

R.T. Lowe: The Felix Chronicles â “ Freshmen. Paperback. Review by AR Neal, author of After, and flash fiction novel reviewer (<http://www.everydayfiction.com/flashfictionblog/category/staff/andree-robinson-neal/>)

For urban fantasy fans seeking a change from what has become typical fare, R.T. Lowe presents Freshmen, the first book in The Felix Chronicles series. It is appropriate that a novel, whose prologue begins in the year A.D. 336, would have such heft. At 494 pages, Felix is not for the weak-hearted. The first chapter, The Warning, gives readers a glimpse into the history of a secret battle between â | good and evil â | perhaps. The search for a particularly valuable young man begins during the reign of Constantine, but Lowe does not stay in the distant past for long; the reader is whisked through a pulse-quicken exchange between factions that includes a supernatural fight worthy of the big screen, to â ^todayâ ™ and are introduced to the primary cast of characters: Felix and Allison seem to be two ordinary freshman students and the description of orientation at Portland College will bring back memories for those who have had the pleasure. However, Felix is not the ordinary young adult embarking on his first experience away from home â “ it is revealed that his parents were killed in a mysterious accident that has left Felix in a perpetual state of despair. Allison, his hometown friend and confidante, comes with her own familial baggage as a foster child. But more on them in a bit. Lowe is an expert at scene-shifting.

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