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The Hero Agenda #1: Powerless

Lisi Hong

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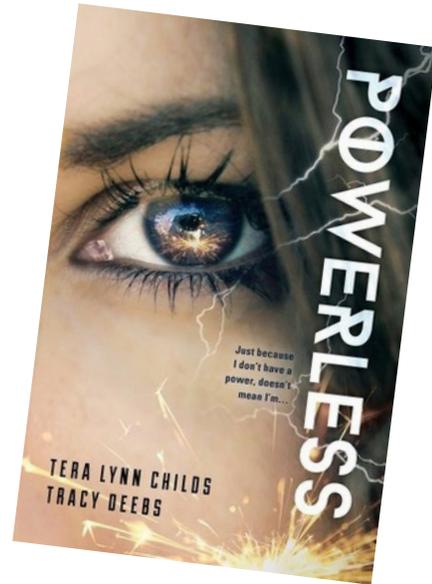
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Book Review

Title: The Hero Agenda #1: Powerless
Author: Tera Lynn Childs and Tracy Deeb
Reviewer: Lisi Hong
Publisher: Sourcebooks Fire
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9781492616573
Number of Pages: 308
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Dependable



Review

Kenna is an average girl in a super world. Literally. Everyone she knows—except her mom who is exceptional in her own ways—has a super power. The only thing that makes her feel special is her research, but even that doesn't help her when the lab she is supervising is attacked by villains, earning her a banishment from the labs. But when one of her supposedly evil attackers saves her life that night, she begins to question the heroes she has always loved and worshipped. Are they really as good as they say? When she sneaks back into the lab and finds a hidden level used to torture villains, she knows they are not good at all. Teaming up with her new villain friends, they fight to free the villains' cousin and Kenna's mom who were captured by the heroes. Along the way she learns to trust the villains she always thought were the bad guys and even falls in love with one of them. After they succeed in freeing the cousin, Kenna discovers her long suppressed superpower and decides to continue helping the villains.

Powerless is basically just like all the other popular young adult novels, only with a superhero premise instead of vampires: an angsty teenage girl feels repressed and like an outcast, discovers the good guys are bad, falls in love with her dark and mysterious savior while claiming she isn't a damsel in distress, and then turns out to be more powerful than anyone else. Even the writing style is similar to other YA books. *Powerless* seems to be written for a younger audience, between 12 and 15, but the content is more appropriate for older teens. While the book is a bit cliché, the reader feels invested in the characters and the plot, enticing them to finish the book and reach for the sequel.

*Contains moderate language, mild sexual content, and moderate violence.