

Title: *All of Us Villains*
Author: Amanda Foody and Christine Lynn Herman
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Allie H., ninth grade

Date Reviewed: September 9, 2023

All of Us Villains by Amanda Foody and Christine Lynn Herman is an engrossing novel that takes place in a cursed village called Ilvernath. In Ilvernath, there are seven great families that must select one champion to take part in a deadly tournament every generation with the coming of the Blood Moon. It lasts three months, or until only one champion remains, and the other six are killed. The winner's family then gets the prize of being able to control high magick until the next tournament rolls around, when it all happens again. The novel follows the stories of four champions pitted against each other: Alistair Lowe, Briony Thorburn, Gavin Grieve, and Isobel Macaslan. The Lowes have always been the most powerful and feared of all the families, and won two-thirds of the tournaments ever held, including the one prior to this one. Growing up, Alistair had always known he'd be champion, and his family has conditioned him to be the monster he must be in order to win this tournament. However, something devastating happens just before the tournament begins that makes him question whether or not it is worth it after all. Like Alistair, Briony has always known she'd be a champion, but soon, she finds out she is mistaken when her sister is chosen instead. Nonetheless, Briony is determined to find her way in, not only for the honor to compete, but to possibly save everyone. The Macaslans have always been scorned for their unethical ways of collecting raw magick, and when Isobel was the first champion to be announced an entire year before the start of the tournament, she drew an enormous amount of unwanted attention from the press. She is determined to be the champion who comes out victorious, despite her mother not wanting her to compete at all. Finally, the Grieves were always something of a joke to the rest of Ilvernath, but Gavin is smart, hardworking, and eager to prove his worth. When the tournament begins, they will all be forced to fight to the death—unless, of course, they can find another way, a way to end it all.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot was very interesting throughout the story.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was certainly fast, but I found that made it more enjoyable.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I would say this book is appropriate for ninth graders or readers at around that level. I am in ninth grade, and thought it was a good choice for myself.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes fantasy, or even dystopian fiction. It was a lot like The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, but with magic, so if you liked that book, you might enjoy this one, too.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This book has some foul language, so if you find that to be offensive, then you might want to avoid reading it. Also, it has a sequel you'll certainly want to read if you do choose to read this one!

5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!

This was a wonderful, fast-paced novel that I just couldn't put down! It had a great plot, interesting characters, and was overall an outstanding read. There was magic unlike that in any other book I've read, romance, action, and most importantly, I really cared about each of the characters, and I can't wait to read the sequel.