

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.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Amanda T., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: August 17, 2024

"All of Us Villains" is a dark fantasy novel set in the cursed town of Ilvernath, where every generation, seven families send a champion to compete in a deadly tournament. The prize is control over high magick, a powerful and rare force that only the winning family can wield for the next twenty years. The tournament is a brutal fight to the death, with each champion armed with magical spells and secrets handed down through generations. The story follows the perspectives of four of the seven champions: Alistair Lowe, Isobel Macaslan, Briony Thorburn, and Gavin Grieve. Alistair is from the most feared family, known for their ruthlessness. Isobel, who has been groomed for the tournament, faces unexpected dangers. Briony is determined to end the cycle of violence and seeks a way to break the curse. Gavin, from the weakest family, sees the tournament as his chance to finally bring honor to his name. As the tournament unfolds, alliances are made and broken, and the champions begin to question the true nature of the competition and the mysterious powers behind it. The champions grapple with their own morality, the expectations placed upon them, and the dark secrets their families have kept hidden. Each character is driven by different motives, ranging from revenge and ambition to survival and redemption. The novel explores themes of power, destiny, and the moral ambiguity of violence. It delves into the corrupting influence of magic and the ways in which the characters struggle against their fates. As the champions face increasingly dire circumstances, they must decide whether to fight for themselves, their families, or the possibility of a future free from the curse. The story ends with shocking twists and sets the stage for the continuation of the series.

Did the plot keep you interested? The plot definitely kept me captivated all throughout the story, it was one plot twist after another.

Was the pace of the book too slow, too fast, or just right? The pace of the book was just right for me. There was enough going on that I was intrigued the whole time but also slow enough that I could comprehend everything that was happening.

What grade level is this book appropriate for? This book would suit people in grades 8-11. It is like an emotional roller coaster which does require a certain level of maturity, for it does hold some inappropriate scenes.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to? I would recommend this to people who enjoy drama, action, adventure and romance. Also people who love experiencing tense moments that keep you on the edge of your seat or scenes that strike you emotionally.

Other helpful information for teens This book holds a high emotional capacity with the character getting over dramatic at times. So for people that are more impatient this book may not suit them because of how many points are elaborately described, for example how a character feels. This book also has some explicit content not suitable for younger readers.

5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome! This book left a strong impression on me and I really enjoyed it. This book suited my personal taste perfectly and it is my new favorite book.