



# Extolziby Gruff and the 39th College

*Sean Black*

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## **Extolziy Gruff and the 39th College** Sean Black

Twelve-year-old Extolziy lives with his family of not so lovable rogues, the Gruffs, on a crime ridden housing scheme in Scotland. When he is almost killed in a car accident, he finds himself transported to a secret Oxford college where kids who have suffered terrible trauma are turned into super-human beings.

A fun, action-packed adventure set amongst the dreaming spires of the world's most famous university, Extolziy Gruff is the first in a series of middle grade books from thriller writer, Sean Black.

## **Extolziy Gruff and the 39th College Details**

Date : Published October 31st 2013 (first published October 29th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Sean Black

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Genre : Fantasy, Adventure

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## From Reader Review Extolziby Gruff and the 39th College for online ebook

### Jean says

I won this on a Goodreads Advanced Readers giveaway.

I honestly like the characters, and am curious about what part 2 will bring. As an adult reading this, I must say that it really ~is~ aimed at a younger audience, but is still an enjoyable read!

I don't know where Sean found the name Extolziby, but it really works for this character!

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### Stephanie says

i have won this book from goodreads.

i would say this book this is fairly interesting. The characters are likeable

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### Pop Bop says

Deeply Cool, Action and Interest Packed, and Well Written

The first few chapters don't even really hint at how fine the rest of this book is going to be. The name "Extolziby" suggests that the whole effort is going to be a bit precious, and the description of the Gruff clan suggests some sort of street urchin lark. Wrong, wrong, wrong.

We have high-tech post-sapiens experiments and a teen X-Men vibe. We start with the hero's fish out of water experience at the 39th College, and then watch him develop into a heroic figure and fight evil with a band of doughty companions. But the best part is that this book is written to a much higher standard that are similar hi-tech action/adventure tween thrillers.

The characters have style and flair. They are distinct and well developed. Considerable care has been taken to establish unique identities for the main players and they are written consistently and fully. Very few of them are "types" and at least three of the supporting characters could warrant stories of their own.

Our hero, Extolziby, (nicknamed "X" in what I take to be a sly dig at the "X-Men franchise), is especially well established and is a smart, honest, courageous, likable and thoroughly engaging lead character. His transformation from street tough to potential hero is convincing, (although necessarily and appropriately fast paced), and he brings a sense of wonder, bemusement and humor to the story, giving it a dimension beyond just action/adventure.

This is complemented by an unusually successful effort by the author to set scenes with effective descriptions, realistic dialogue, authentic sounding sci-fi mumbo jumbo, and a rather cinematic feel for how to keep the narrative racing forward. The breathers between the action, and especially the setup that gets Extolziby to the 39th College, have a light touch and are good-humored. (The author plays a bit with the

notion of a Scottish boy loose in a posh English setting, and that adds a bit of zip to the character and to the early college scenes.)

The upshot is that while this turns into a whiz bang adventure it is crafted with restraint and care, which makes it a rewarding reading experience across the board. A very nice find. ( Please note that I found this book while browsing Amazon Kindle freebies. I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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