



Where There's Fire

Cari Z.

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Making a name for myself as a Villain in Panopolis is hard work. Six months ago, my boyfriend broke me out of jail. Now he's spending most of his time defending our turf against other Villains he accidentally freed along with me. And my new psychic powers are not only impossible to control, but they're also giving me migraines.

But it's not all doom and gloom. My skills are improving every day, and Raul—aka the Mad Bombardier—and I have never been happier. That is, until my first solo job is interrupted by a mysterious woman who tells me that Raul has been kidnapped by a ruthless new Villain. The only way to free him is to do a job for Maggot, a man with scary ideas and an even scarier superpower.

I can't go to the cops or a Hero for help. Odds are they wouldn't listen to me anyway. If I fail, Raul will be killed. If I succeed, we'll both be bound to a man who'll stop at nothing to put Panopolis on the path to civil war.

It looks like the only way to win is to take out the competition.

Where There's Fire Details

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Author : Cari Z.

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From Reader Review Where There's Fire for online ebook

Xing says

Definitely a more violent turn of events, but Where There's Fire brings great momentum to our heroes AND villains. While there is a lack of Raul in this story, we do see a lot of development in Edward's character. And that ending! I can't wait until the next book.

Arch Bala says

I knew I would enjoy this one as much as I've enjoyed the first book, Where There's Smoke. I just totally loved the progress on the characterization of the story's main protagonist, Edward Dinges – the newest villain in the city of Panopolis. Here, we see how Edward try to learn to control his his new Superpower with the help of his boyfriend, Raul aka the Mad Bombardier.

This second installment also introduced us to new characters – villains and heroes alike such as Firebolt, Maggot, Vibro etc... Ooh, I even laugh out loud when there was a villain named >_@

I super loved the story development as well – it's just fluid all throughout like you're really moving along with the characters until the very exciting conclusion! And by gawd, speaking of that conclusion – that was totally way awesome than what I've expected!

Again, bravo to Cari Z. for such solid writing and ATM, I'm dying to read the next book and find out who will be challenging the Mastermind!!!

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

Marte - Thunderella says

**** 4 Villain stars ****

This was much better than #1 Where There's Smoke. There's actual character development here. There's also more action, more powers, more villains, more side characters that does a decent job of framing the story, and also more to fight for.

The story picks up six months after the end of #1. Edward is learning how to use his new psychic power, which is not without costs. Raul aka The Mad Bombardier gets kidnapped by a Super (?) Villain named Maggot (ick by the way), who uses Raul as leverage to get Edward to do a heist for him. A lot of shit goes down, not all according to plan, and there's the epic show down, which was awesome. Revenge is sweet!

I really liked Edward in this. How he is dealing with his powers, both pros and cons. How he sets upon

solving the almost impossible task set for him by Maggot to save the man he loves. I went from disliking Freight Train to liking him, since he redeemed himself from #1, and the touching scene with him was just heartbreaking.

All in all, I enjoyed this story. Much more than #1. I also really liked the cover for this book. It sets the mood in a way, looking at this cover and reading the first chapter when Edward stalks the dark streets of Panopolis.

Thanks for Marco for the BR!

Jenni Lea says

I lucked out the day Cari Z picked up my prompt in the M/M Romance Group's DRitC event otherwise I might never have read her stuff. She wasn't even on my radar until the event. I'm so happy I found her (or rather, she found me) cause her stuff kicks major ass. I loved this!

This and the first story in the Panopolis series is just so easy to read. The words flow so well and the dialogue is smart and quirky and right up my alley.

But did you have to do what you did to Raul, Cari? My poor Raul! Come here and let me kiss it all better baby. *sniffs* My sweet, darling Raul.

I can't wait to read the next one!

Gonna buddy read this with my gal pals as soon as it comes out!

Adam says

I think it's safe to say that Cari Z is one of my favourite new-to-me authors of 2015.

'Where There's Fire' picks up six months after the end of book 1, Where There's Smoke. To put it simply, book 2 has more of everything. More action. More romance. More villains. More heartbreak. I liked it a whole lot.

While there's less sex in this sequel (though there wasn't that much in book 1 to begin with), it's also a lot

more romantic. We get to see Raul and Edward as a couple, happy in love, living without the constant fear of being found out by both the authorities and other villains. Sure, they're still living on the edge, but they're doing it together, and increasingly as equals.

I'm thoroughly impressed with the direction that the author took Edward and his superpowers. It's something new and fresh, and both the advantages and limitations he has to deal with are nicely portrayed.

The mystery/thriller aspect of the book kept me on the edge of my seat. It was a roller-coaster for sure, and the outcome was not at all what I expected. However, I will say that those looking for a tale of hardcore villains will probably be disappointed. It looks like the author has decided to make Edward and Raul more anti-villains, rather than run-of-the-mill evil villains. I like where the story's going.

I'm hooked on this series.

ARC provided through NetGalley.

BWT (Belen) says

4.5 Stars

Even with the (somewhat) cliffhanger ending...I loved this!

I loved Nick J. Russo's narration, especially his character voices, which are so good in this series (his voice for Raul makes me swoon).

In this installment of the Panapolis series Edward has a tentative grip on his new powers, and he and Raul are getting Edward ready to be a true villain. Told entirely through Edward's POV, the story is fast paced, humorous at times, and totally entertaining.

Edward has a lot to get through this time, dealing with problematic heroes, and terrible villains, including the grossest, most vile villain yet.

Totally entertaining, and totally worth the price of admission, I'm so happy I picked this up as a Whispersync deal for only \$4.98.

There were a couple of small audio issues, mainly the sound fading in and out, but it doesn't happen enough to really mar overall listening enjoyment.

Now I have to wait impatiently for book 3, Where There's A Will, to come out on audio, because I honestly cannot imagine this series without Nick J. Russo 's voice in my ears.

Recommended!

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Rosa, really says

4.5

Lazy review #2.

Book?

Where's #3, Cari?! I *need* it.

Thank you, BR buddies!

Karen says

Just another day in Panopolis...

'Where There's Fire' is the second installment of Cari Z's 'Panopolis' series and once again I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to enjoy the audiobook narrated by Nick J. Russo, who also narrated the first one and does an equally excellent job with this second installment.

This one picks up just a little while after where the first book left off, 6 months after to be precise. Eddie and Raul are trying to make a life together after Raul (aka the Mad Bombardier) has helped Eddie escape from prison along with several other villains. Eddie's new psychic powers are giving him migraines, they're constantly having to defend their turf against the villains who escaped along with Eddie, other than life is pretty good for our MCs. At least it is for a little while.

I totally enjoyed this story and all the twist and turns that it involved. Eddie and Raul are absolutely my favorite heroes...villains...ever! In 'Where There's Fire' we journey with Eddie as he tries to establish himself as a villain and finds himself having to play the hero and rescue his boyfriend from yet another one of Panopolis's villains and it's not looking good for him but when the man he loves is at stake Eddie proves himself to be up for the task.

I loved this story and honestly I have to admit that while I'm anxious to read the third and final installment which is about Freight Train one of Panopolis's heroes who has been a secondary character in 'Where There's Smoke' and 'Where There's Fire'. I'm probably going to wait for the audio version because this series has been such a treat to listen to on audio that quite honestly I'm having a hard time imagining myself enjoying it nearly as much as an e-book.

An audiobook of 'Where There's Fire' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Otila says

****4.5****

I love Superheroes but sometimes the Villains can be just as (if not more) compelling.

I'm loving this series. It's funny, clever and exciting.

Favorite quote:

I wasn't comfortable abandoning him like this on the sidewalk; I was a Villain but not a complete asshole.

So, when's the next one?

Thanks for the great buddy read, girls!

Samantha says

Oh. My. GOD. Cari, you are the true mastermind. TYVM.

Review Now Available @ Scattered Thoughts & Rogue Words

WEEE. I finally have it!

But... I don't have time to read it for a few days. OF COURSE. Thank you, life. Who needs enjoyment anyway?

I can't get my hands on this soon enough.

Jennifer?Pher? says

OMG! More, more, more!

So, yeah, the level of creativity that Cari Z. possesses is blowing my mind. There is no need to twist my mind in any way shape or form to get this world and this story. She presents it and I get it and I get it really, really good.

I don't know what else to really tell you, I am not gonna recap the story for you because honestly, you need to read it.

Give me more!

Thanks again girls for the Buddy Read! Can't wait for the next one!

Lala says

And here we go. Sooo much better than the 1st book.

This series is like a breath of fresh air. The world-building is superb.. so detailed, vivid, and really creative. I love Panopolis with its Heroes and Villains and all the urbane grit. It's a dark city, where politicians are corrupted, where the pharmaceutical companies rule and manipulate, and it's not clear who the good or bad guys are.

Having got some weird superhero powers by the end of the previous book, Edward Dinges is preparing to die his cast with the Villains. Not that he has any choice...his boyfriend is a Villain, after all, Edward is running from the law...so he has to embrace his new role as Panopolis's newest bad-ass. It's not so easy, though, as Edward will have to prove himself by committing a major crime..namely, robbing his former bank.

This story starts out very dynamic. It's fast-paced, full of action..a real page-turner. I was engrossed in Edward's adventures, disgusted and at the same time saddened by Maggot, horrified for Raul, and cheering when Edward's mission turned out to be a resounding success.

Can't wait for the next book!

ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley

Ije the Devourer of Books says

Part two of the Panopolis series continues with the excitement of book one and sees Edward trying to make a name for himself as a villain. He has to do this so that he can protect himself from other villains and send out a message that he is not to be messed with. Having been arrested, experimented on and then rescued, Edward now has to get to grips with his new circumstances and with his strange new ability. He settles down to a life on the edge with his beloved Raul. All seems to be going well. Edward is learning how to control his powers and he has a safe home with Raul.

But this uneasy peace is short-lived.

A heist goes wrong, Raul is kidnapped and Edward finds himself being blackmailed by a ruthless villain and he realises that the only way forward is to take out the villain but first he must do what he is being coerced into doing so as to save Raul's life.

And does he do it?

Yes he does with many surprises along the way and this is because he is infact a bad ass!!

This stage in his new life brings Edward into new territory, with a future and a purpose that he couldn't have imagined for himself and one that will be a challenge to live up to. But when it comes to Edward Dinges there is more to him than meets the eye and as he begins to grow in the use of his powers he develops a new kind of mastery over his own mind.

This is a great follow up to book one. It takes the story in a surprising and new direction which is quite hard to forsee.

Who knows what will happen next?

There is lots of action in this book. Lots of action, battles, blood and gore, deaths and surprising new characters and all of these enrich the story. The story is also fast paced with surprising twists and turns. Suddenly the lines are blurred and what was villany slowly becomes heroic, what was heroic seems to lack real freedom and there are other players who hide in the grey overlap between good and evil, and it seems this is where the real power lies.

Edward begins to sense that there is more to Panopolis than meets the eye and there are shadowy people and shadowy institutions who wield a power that is unseen but which is clearly felt. The story is now growing in drama and suspense and it makes book two even more thrilling than book one, especially as we see Edward growing and evolving through pressure and through pain to become a villain in his own right.. And we also see a shift in strength between Raul and Edward as Edward begins to take the lead in their planning and their future.

I really enjoyed the twists and the turns in this story. They are both entertaining and attention-holding. I just wanted to race through and see what happens knowing that it wouldn't be something I could forsee. Edward has a way of escaping from the most difficult situations but he does so in a way that is plausible and moves the story along. It is also great to see how he grows with each challenge.

I really like this series. My only concern is the gap between books because this is a series. I hope we won't have to wait too long for the next book. :)

copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for a fair review.

♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says

Reviewage on Prism Book Alliance®

Edward Dinges is back, though not as he once was. Nope, now he's with his Villain boyfriend, Raul aka Mad Bombardier, and things are even more complicated. Panopolis is shaded with many a grey area, most of them dangerous, some less obvious than others. The Heroes aren't always right. The Villains aren't always wrong.

Edward is using his power to great effect, one on one. It also hasn't improved his opinion of himself, or his

desire to help more than hurt others and, he's still a bit in awe of Raul and this love they now share.

"I thought you'd like it," Raul said, and there was nothing but honest pleasure in his voice. No smugness, no annoyance at my pickiness. Just hundreds of hours' worth of work in order to ease my mind. What had I done to deserve him?

This story opens at a subdued pace, which is good. It allowed me to settle in and reacquaint myself with the lay of the land and the characters and where everything stood after the end of Where There's Smoke. This would be the only time this book was anything remotely resembling subdued. It speaks to what a good communicator Cari Z is, she's dialed in and knows what she wants and how to portray it. She also knows how to give me enough to feel included in the story while leaving much for me to discover and conclude on my own.

From now on? The pace is fast and furious, as are the events that unfold, some of them stomach-turning and had me biting my lip and sitting forward, on the edge of my seat, wondering how the hell things were going to turn out. This is definitely a darker story, more gory, blunt, and brutal than book one. Morality has become and even more slippery creature, the level of evil has been upped, and the result of these is the emotional toll has risen in price, and bodies, and fear and consequences.

I did find myself questioning the level of ease with which Edward accepted this new stage of his life. He seemed ok with many aspects of what he was about to do, what it could mean for people he knows. It felt incongruous with the rest of his personality and previous actions. We're reminded a few times about what he suffered once arrested, and then detained by GenCorp and the "experiments" forced upon him which led to his new power. I couldn't quite buy into that as the reason for some of his actions and thoughts, it still felt off, I couldn't reconcile. On the flipside, it made me want to go back and reread Where There's Smoke, see if I could make better connections. That's definitely a plus.

The focus of this story is the massive struggle brought upon Panopolis by GenCorp and their unfettered manipulation of just about everything. It's a battle between those who choose to support the behemoth, which includes much of those in positions of authority, and those who see the cracks in the reality those authorities are trying to maintain. What a roller coaster ride of a read this is! Unexpected turn after unexpected turn, characters desperately trying to accept and survive their changing realities, and realigned alliances which force everyone to approach the barely contained chaos of Panopolis in unforeseen ways, and all of it is handled through Cari Z's confident writing.

I can't wait to see what happens next! Roles are being redefined in huge ways, many of the rules set out by those in power are under constant attack and beginning to show the strain, and despite what many people think, Edward and Raul and the others don't exactly have a clue as to what they're doing and what will happen. In other words, this still ain'tchur momma's Superhero vs Super-villain yarn, yo. :)

Melissa says

I enjoyed this better than book 1. I kind of thought I might, because I could see all the potential from book 1. This is such an interesting story idea and I am excited to see where it goes. We are talking about Villains here, and there are levels of Villains. There are the really psycho bad guy slit a grandma's throat bad, and then there are the rob a bank but don't hurt anyone Villain. There are also the Hero's, but some aren't very heroic. In this book there is a "hero" who doesn't care if she hurts an innocent in her quest to get the "bad

guy." But again, there are hero's who seem to want to be good and do good.

I do recommend this and if you choose to start the series, don't give up after book 1 if you don't 100% love it. Things are just getting interesting when this book ends. Oh, be warned that there are some pretty gory and icky parts. Involving eye balls. And maggots (not together). Yuck!!! Bleh, I am getting the hibbies just thinking about it.
