



# Chance Fortune and the Outlaws

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## **Chance Fortune and the Outlaws** Shane Berryhill

For as long as he can remember, fourteen-year-old Joshua Blevins has wanted to be a superhero. He has the brains, the passion, and the heart. There's only one problem: he doesn't have any superpowers. But Josh isn't about to let that stop him.

Determined not to give up on his dream, Josh enlists the aid of his mentor, Captain Fearless, a retired costumed adventurer, to gain entrance to the Burlington Academy for the Superhuman under the false identity of Chance Fortune--a superhuman with the power of having unnaturally good luck.

Masquerading as Chance, Josh rises among the ranks of his fellow students at the Academy, eventually becoming the leader of his own combat team, the Outlaws. Together, Chance and his teammates Psy-Chick, Shocker, Gothika, Space Cadet, Iron Maiden, and Private Justice make new friends, battle new enemies, and ultimately find themselves caught up in a struggle for the fate of the universe. Can Chance and the Outlaws save the universe--AND survive their freshman year?

## **Chance Fortune and the Outlaws Details**

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Author : Shane Berryhill

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# From Reader Review *Chance Fortune and the Outlaws* for online ebook

## Elisa B says

*Chance Fortune and the Outlaws* is an adventuresome, easy read. Ever since Joshua Blevins was a kid, he always had the hope of being a superhero. He had the determination, heart, and brains to be one. But there was only one problem, he didn't have any superpowers. So when a famous superhero, Captain Fearless, moves next door to Josh's house, Josh is mad excited. Captain Fearless becomes his mentor and finally decides that it's time for Josh to apply to an academy. Josh enlists to Burlington Academy but does not make it. He gets depressed and sad, but when Captain Fearless says that he hacked into the system and was able to get Josh accepted, everything changes. Josh now goes under the name of Chance Fortune, gets new friends, and even starts a new team called the Outlaws. The Outlaws are one of many teams that compete against each other and use their superpowers to win. Josh, or Chance's team consists of many different super-humans that each have different superpowers. All except Chance. When the Outlaws start beating many teams, Chance gets elected the team captain. Finally, they beat all the teams but one. The one team they have not beat is unstoppable, unbeatable, and scary! Will Chance and his teammates be able to beat the best team ever known and become the new unbeatable team? You'll have to read to find out.

I liked this book because it had lots of suspension and action but I did not like it because at some points it got boring and sounded a bit cheesy. I recommend this book to you if you want an easy read and find adventure fun. This was not one of my favorite books because there was too much cheesiness involved. *Chance Fortune and the Outlaws* made me feel as if I was Chance and was competing against the unbeatable and unstoppable team. I would also go through some parts feeling like I had other super-humans' superpowers but most parts I would just feel bored. If you've read the *Captain Underpants* series you will have fun reading this book too. Have fun reading *Chance Fortune and the Outlaws*!

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## Carlynn says

An interesting concept: a boy with no superpowers whatsoever, goes to a school meant only for superheroes because he wants to be one. Who hasn't dreamed of becoming a superhero? I certainly have. Unfortunately, this would have been a much better book if the writing could've been better, the character interaction less weird (Love at first sight? Seriously? And the way the main character interacts with his love interest was just really, really, REALLY awkward. I didn't even understand why he liked her in the first place.), and less use of cliches and stereotypes (Just because they're Asians doesn't mean they are supergeeks or have cutsie anime-style powers or even know KUNG-FU!!!!!!!!!!) I only gave it 2 stars because of the idea.

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## Trina says

The *Chance Fortune* book, like the *Percy Jackson* series, is a great series of books for reluctant readers. There's a good supply of action and adventure, with a few little inside nods to comic readers. The characters are funny and engaging -- and it's really nice to have a YA character that has a healthy dose of common sense.

Josh doesn't have a chance to attend Burlington Academy because he doesn't have any superpowers, but he disguises himself as Chance Fortune (with the superpower of good luck) and uses his common sense to succeed at the school.

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### **Rachel says**

A boy with no superpowers wants more than anything to a superhero academy. With the help of his mentor and friend, Captain Fearless, he creates a new identity for himself and attends under the alias Chance Fortune, who has the power of super-good luck. But his adventures with his new friends, his combat team the Outlaws, soon take a darker turn and Chance's having no powers could save them all.

Full of friends and foes, new dimensions and creatures from other worlds, Chance Fortune and the Outlaws will keep you laughing out loud.

Pop into the library and grab this book off the shelf, especially if you're into science fiction. Trust me, it'll be worth reading!

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### **Cara says**

I wasn't crazy about this book. I thought it was just okay, but that might just be because I'm not a huge fan of superhero books. If you love them, then you'd probably like this book more than I did.

I thought the story was a little slow and the characters a little stereotypical and lacked some depth, but it wasn't too bad. The plot was a little vague. I wish there was a little more explanation.

This is more of a children's lit than young adult, in my opinion, so any kids who like superheroes would probably like it.

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### **Smaileh says**

There are a number of humorous superhero books available for young readers now--this subgenre seems to really have grown since the release of *The Incredibles*. This book is geared to a slightly older audience, and has the intriguing trick of making the main character someone who has no superpower at all. Like Batman or Doc Savage or the Phantom, he has gone through many years of rigorous training, both physical and mental, to achieve a certain level of superhuman abilities, but that is not enough to gain him entrance into the Burlington Academy for the Superhuman. However, when he changes his name to Chance Fortune and claims that his superpower is good luck, he is accepted into the school. Though it may seem that he is at a disadvantage, he soon becomes the leader of his team, mainly because he has grown up without a superpower to depend on. His teammates may have psychic abilities, or the power to shoot lightning from their eyes, but Chance is the one who sees how they can combine their powers and work together to defeat the other teams in competition.

The middle section feels a bit rushed--a lot of time is spent on coming to school, making friends, building the team and winning their first competition, and then we jump to the end of the school year and the final competition against the team of school bullies. Still, there were some very enjoyable moments and I look forward to the next book in the series.

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### **Sherwood Smith says**

Josh Blevins and his pal Eddie knock at the door to the home of a mysterious old guy who just moved into their neighborhood in Littleton, Tennessee. Josh pulls out a comic, points to the cover, and says, "I'm sure he's Captain Fearless!" When he appears, Josh begs to be trained . . .

And a few years later, after intense training involving the learning of languages, many forms of self defense, and playing chess while doing several other tasks including standing on his head, Captain Fearless deems it time for Josh to apply to Burlington Academy for the Superhuman--the superhero training school. Josh's one problem is that he has no superpowers, but with all that training, surely he'll get in? No. He's turned down. He throws a fit--says he's a failure just like his father--but Fearless says they'll go storm the academy and force them to interview Josh. When this fails, Josh throws a far bigger tantrum, resolving it abruptly just before Fearless comes to him with good news--he pulled some strings and Josh is in!

At the academy, he picks his new superhero name, Chance Fortune, and his costume. He makes friends and enemies on first meetings--relationships that don't change. This includes his immediate attraction to Psychick, who becomes his girlfriend. His other friends end up in his fight team, the Outlaws, and the enemies comprise the fight team most feared in the school, the Invincibles, led by the arrogant, cruel demi-god Superior, whose single-minded evil makes Draco Malfoy look like Spongebob Squarepants by comparison. Chance's challenges in superhero training result in many attacks by Superior that are nearly lethal, but there seem to be no consequences. Meanwhile at the end of the year the standings in the fight team competitions have the Outlaws versus Invincibles as rivals for the trophy. Meanwhile, there is something suspicious going on in the academy. Teachers and students alike seem to be turning into blank zombies, but no one seems to notice until almost too late. Can Chance save the day?

The audience for this book is probably the nine to twelve crowd. The writing is uneven, sometimes funny, other times klunky and confusing. There is little about what superheroes actually learn outside of the combat games, and characters are pretty much single-trait, either nerdy good guys or nasty bad guys. Josh goes in with mega-special training, but at each crisis he seems to forget it all, after which he hates himself. Midway through we finally see him stand up to a bad guy and then help a friend, which starts a chain reaction that rescues the teammates from annihilation, after which we are told that Chance is a natural leader. We know who will win, and who will solve the problems besetting the school--though the solutions are imaginative. These somewhat simplistic plot elements will please a middle grade reader who loves comic book pacing and characterization, but I am not sure would work for a more sophisticated teen reader.

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### **Julie says**

Kid with no superpowers wants to go to a superhero school. Very Sky High-ish, but Sky High is better.

This follows the same pattern I've been reading so far in that the kid is tutored first before going to the school. Though there's no spiritual/magical journey involved in this one.

Typical school hierarchy, only the ones at the top are demigods -- children of gods. Next are 'mortals' which are superheroes with cool powers. Then 'adventurers' which are superheroes with less cool powers.

Writing/Editing: The name 'Chance' appears in the text before it's supposed to, which is confusing. The story is mainly from Chance's point of view, but then the author takes the sneaky way out and uses different points of view for when the bad guy's doing stuff Chance doesn't know about and then in battle scenes, to get every member of the team a chance to see some action that Chance isn't an immediate part of. Which works if you're writing a comic book or a movie, but doesn't work so well when it's a novel. Also, there are lapses in the Chance POV when sadness can be seen in his eyes, or other things can be seen in his eyes. Yea, don't think Chance is looking at his own eyes, do you?

Gender: In short, the gender sucks. Yea, okay, so there are superhero chicks and their powers aren't too stupid and too stereotypical, but the names are horrid! Psy-chick, Steel Valkyrie, Iron Maiden, Delilah. Yin (or is it Yang?) The names all clearly say 'I am female'. The only exception I found was 'Anime'.

Race: The 'nerd' character seems to be black. I missed that 'til nearly the end. There's an Indian girl who seems to be the daughter of Shiva. And there's an entire 'Team Manga' made up of Asian kids. Seriously? Who's more likely to come up with a team name of 'Team Manga'? Some Asian kids or say.. white American kids?

Homages: I don't mind homages. Name a kid Grayson if you want to. Name your space station Heinlein. Sure, that makes sense. But don't tell me the aliens are from Shazzbot, without at \_least\_ saying 'The planet you humans call Shazzbot'. Then there's Chihiro hanging out with a dragon. Randomly. And then a huuuuge, roll-your-eyes moment involving deep, secret, dark, magical language that I won't name specifically because OMC, it might be a spoiler.

World: There's some cool stuff with the world. Superheroes have been around awhile. They have a whole island city they've created. Regular humans cook with atomic ovens. There's some silly comic book-esque swear words. That's all cool. I just wish we didn't also have the homage problems listed above that ruin the whole thing.

Action scenes: The most boring. Thing. Ever. And just when you think we're finally past an action scene, there's another one. And another. Until the final climax when you're just ready for it to be over with already. And which, it turns out, was mercifully short.

Angst: Over-the-top and out of nowhere. Chance has an angstful breakdown about being too much like his father, who we hadn't heard thing one about before that. Then he gets over it pretty quick with the help of a girl. But he also spends a lot of time second-guessing how much he really wanted to be in the school. Meh.

And the last thing I wanted to mention, because it didn't fit anywhere else above, Chance seems spectacularly clueless and dumb about superhero things, given that he wanted to go to this school forever and ever and spent years getting ready for it. So we get a whole As You BLOODY WELL SHOULD KNOW, Bob conversation on the way to the school.

Some good stuff buried in this book. I just wish it had been much better edited. Tor, you let me down.

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## **Timothy Wachtveitl says**

This wasn't too bad. I received this book awhile back and never got around to reading it. It wasn't that bad, but it wasn't too great, either. Pretty quick read too.

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## **Isaiah Apfel says**

I really liked reading Chance Fortune. The story itself was predictable ,except for a few moments, but still fun. The one thing I disliked was how in the back it said "Soon, Chance and his teammates find themselves caught up in a struggle for the fate of the universe." This is pretty stupid seeing as how Chance really doesn't get "caught up in" it till the LAST chapter. It felt like "Yay he saved the universe in one chapter!" I will admit that in the second epilogue(whats up with that?)I was not expecting the ending. All in all I thought that it was a good book. It did kinda remind me of Sky High. But I got over it. Read it in about two sittings and liked it. Cannot wait till I read the second one.

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## **Alan says**

This was very close to a four star review. Berryhill takes his love for silver age comics and combines it the Harry Potter premise to create an entertaining read (even if you are an adult reading this YA book).

Josh wants to be a super hero, and he finds a retired hero to train him in his small hometown. His initial application to the famous Burlington Academy is rejected, but a scheme by himself and the retired hero lead to the creation of Chance Fortune and his "super power" of amazing luck.

The formula (Chance meets other new students enters the school atheistic competition) is familiar as are the archetypes the adult heroes are drawn from. This is an easy and breezy fun read.

At the same time Beryhill tries, and I thinks succeeds at trying to define what makes a hero.

If the story hadn't ended on such a cliffhanger, been complete in and of itself, I might have upped this to a four star review.

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## **Madigan Mirza says**

Action and adventure await Joshua Blevins. His whole life he's been training for and dreaming of becoming a superhero... the small fact that he doesn't happen to have any superpowers isn't going to stop him. Rejected from the superhero academy, his mentor, Captain Force, forges him a new identity, "Chance Fortune" whose (difficult to prove, and subtle) power is "good luck".

Once he's at school, "Chance" spends a lot of time hoping desperately not to get caught. Even as a "superhero" he's classed among those with lesser abilities. He attempts to make up for this by suiting up with

as many high-tech gadgets as allowed. The students at Burlington Academy for the Superhuman spend a good deal of time in mock battles preparing themselves for their lives of crimefighting. Chance is soon teamed with Psy-Chick, Gothika, Iron Maiden and Private Justice who find themselves squaring off against the school champions led by Superion, a real bully. I was kind of reminded of the Harry Potter "purebloods vs. mudbloods" conflict.

This was a fun campy read. Some of the battle sequences got a bit long, I thought, but on the whole, I very much enjoyed it. It ends on a huge cliffhanger, a certain set-up for more in the series. There is a sequel, Chance Fortune in the Shadow Zone.

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### **TJ C says**

**CHANCE FORTUNE AND THE OUTLAWS** Is about a boy named Joshua. He always wanted to be a superhero and always wanted to go to burlington academy. When he tried to make it he failed because he was human. so his mentor captain fearless helped him go in as chance fortune which was this other dude. He got in and made friends with shocker and space cadet they then got in a team with 5 other people. Soon chance became a captain because he was doing really good. Then they were doing really good then faced the incredibles. This team had superion. A snob who was super powerful. They went agaisned each other then it was a draw. The captains faced each other. Will chance win. I liked how it had lots of figurative and easy knowing not huge words, but maybe not a children's book. Maybe not for elementary. All you superhero lovers here's a good book for you. Honestly i like superheroes but aren't huge fans but i liked this book. This book is like exterminators so check that out.

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### **Jake Mallison says**

This is one of the funnest books i have ever read. It really reflects the admiration of super heroes from graphic novels in the last four generations. My favorite sections in the book is when it list the technology that they use at Burlington Academy of Super Heroes. The only thing I have to bring up is the lack of depth in the subject. What I am talking about is they talk about one subject for maybe at most a page without going to deep into the subject. Other than that it was a very good book.

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### **Amy says**

The idea of the world and the plot is right up my alley, but I was disappointed that whatever passion/care the author or editor had for this project, it didn't show through in the final book. There are numerous typos in the text, the racial and gender roles are sadly stereotypical, and several conspicuous plants early on in the story are not connected/properly paid off later (the most notable for me being the defeat of the centrally programmed robot army in the beginning and the defeat of the centrally hypnotized super army at the end). There's some fun world-building but the odd pacing and inconsistent stylization show a lack of trust in readers (yes, yes, I know it's for kids, but give kids some credit!) that ultimately detracted from the story.

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