



Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift

Elise Stokes

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An Ancient Secret Has Risen. A World In Peril. Can This Evil Menace Be Stopped?

Two months after being infected with a strange retrovirus, Cassidy Jones continues to live a double life as she struggles to master her astonishing superpowers. School has become the only normal thing left in her life—except for tall, dark, and handsome Emery Phillips, who shadows her every move, ensuring her secret is safe. But when a sleepover at Catamount Mountain Zoo takes a menacing turn, the world hovers on the edge of disaster as Cassidy is drawn into another riveting and perilous mystery that threatens the planet.

Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift Details

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Author : Elise Stokes

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From Reader Review Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift for online ebook

Gail Welborn says

Cassidy Jones, Seattle's fascinating fourteen-year-old super-hero, returns in another delightful adventure for middle graders and beyond in book two, *Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift*. Cassidy continues to adjust to heightened abilities of sight, smell, speed and athleticism since the accidental exposure to Professor Phillips secret, experimental 10X formula.

The adventure begins with Cassidy at the Seattle Center garbed "head-to-toe in black," wearing a black ski mask to disguise her youthful age and "mutant" identity. It's one in the morning as she runs her gaze up and down the "white-painted beam of the Space Needle's northern leg" gauging the gravity defying climb to the top.

Seconds later, Cassidy settled under the Christmas tree that adorns the 605 foot, saucer-like Space Needle and could feel the Needle's exhilarating sway as icy wind whipped her "dark-red hair into a frenzy" She knew Emery, the professor's brilliant fifteen-year-old son, would be upset she left home without calling his Droid and then dismissed the thought. Even though he was her secret bodyguard she had to work off this pent up energy. Besides she planned to climb back through her bedroom window before he checked for her GPS location.

She peeked over the saucer like edge when she overheard voices below and saw four surly teens circling "Ol' Joe," a homeless man she knew by scent, until he spoke to her for the first time tonight. When he saw her at the base of the Needle he had warned "...Ol Joe is watchin you Green Eyes...somebody is up to no good..." Full Review: <http://tinyurl.com/b4crb82>

Vered says

I hate giving 5 stars. Here's why:

- a) There are people out there who suspect that 5 stars are from best friends or review swaps or paid for etc (I write only honest reviews, with no incentives or favours given or received); and
- b) What if the author's next book is even better and you can't give out more stars?!

But sometimes I just can't resist. This is definitely one of those times. I loved this book! Seriously, and I'm not a young adult. In '*Cassidy Jones and the Vulcan's Gift*', Cassidy and Emery are back for more adventure as they try to capture a runaway tiger and stop an evil plot that could lead to world domination. What's not to love, right?

More specifically, I loved the complex characters that Elise Stokes has created. Even the 'minor' characters are real and have a life. Cassidy and Emery don't fit into the typical YA lit stereotype, in which one character (usually the girl) is waiting to be rescued or protected by the other; nor are they trying to prove anything or kill off another tribe or gang or whatever. I like how Cassidy's family is united without being sappy about it. The parents are actually intelligent and connected with their kids' lives. There's a good

balance of adventure, mystery, drama and humour with a touch of romance (but not too much, thank heavens).

What I don't like: Book #3 isn't out yet. Ugh. I want more.

Definitely highly recommended for anyone looking for a fun read!

Timothy Davis says

While Cassidy stalks a Siberian tiger, a metal man dashes past her like the “flash a fishing lure reflects in the sunlight.” Her “prey drive” engulfs her and she shoots after him like a bullet—thus putting Emory and her in the center of a scary and exciting mystery within a mystery. Lovers of Cassidy Jones and The Secret Formula will delight in this second book in the series. It's more than just thrilling. Stokes deepens and widens the playing field in this book. She not only introduces fascinating new characters, but digs deeper into Cassidy's psychology. Some examples. Stokes amplifies Cassidy's turmoil about handling “the beast” inside of her, adds complexity to Cassidy's relationship with Emery, and brings Cassidy's romance with Jared much more to the fore. Without wishing to reveal how the book ends, I will say that the ending is very satisfactory—no loose threads—while at the same time introducing surprises that made my mouth water for Book 3.

Alisa says

I thought this book started out slower than the first one, but by the end I couldn't get enough of Cassidy and Emery! Cassidy is a great heroine -- already feeling like an awkward teenager, she is now stuck with these super powers that she has to hide. She comes from a loving, supportive family - but this is something she must hide even from her own family -- for their own safety! If people found out what a fantastic weapon she was, there is nothing that could stop the bad guys from tracking her down -- and using her family to get to her. As she gets stronger, she discovers new powers - is there no end to her freakishness?

Thank goodness she has Emery -- smart Emery who is taking a break from Stanford (if I remember correctly he's 17 years old - may be 16) to act like a normal high school kid so he can protect Cassidy -- mostly from herself. She can't afford to get angry and let her instincts take over and reveal to everyone who she has become! And there is Robin who seems to find new ways to get under Cassidy's skin and put Cassidy's temper on edge -- especially since that one incident when Cassidy let her temper slip a little and threw the ball at Robin during gym class (a little harder than was probably humanly possible) and broke her nose...

I love the way Emery and Cassidy interact with each other -- of course, nothing can be too easy between any hero and heroine. And there is Jared who Cassidy has always loved, and can't seem to get out of her mind... or heart...

Dana Griffin says

If you're reading this review before purchasing Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift, don't but it. It'll deepen your smile lines from the perm-a-grin you'll have while reading this book. You'll put off work, sleep, and

caring for crying children.

In this second book in the series written in first person, you learn what an extraordinary young woman Cassidy is. Though she's a typical teenager, she's a good child with a loving family. Her thoughts will make you chuckle often. She has all the torment you'd expect for a fifteen year old girl, yet is genuine and intriguing. I often thought I was reading a true story written by a talented fifteen year old writer, not an adult woman making up a story.

Cassidy makes mistakes that'll make you shake your head, all the while realizing she had to in order to stay typical for her age and sex. Cassidy fights with her twin brother and his friends as you'd expect teenagers to do. She's tormented by other girls at school, has a crush on a guy, but can't get up the courage to apologize for an embarrassing mistake she made in the first book, and gossips with her female friends. All the while she and Emery, the genius fifteen year old neighbor, investigates the theft of a tiger and someone with a mysterious metal suit. The fact Cassidy has heightened senses, strength, and speed after inhaling a secret formula in the first book that mutated her are secondary to this marvelous story.

Ms. Stokes is an extraordinary writer whose only fault is she can't write these books fast enough. The third book in the series is being finished at this time, in early 2013. This hooked fan is patiently waiting its arrival. I'll be like Harry Potter fans years ago who waited outside bookstores for hours for the arrival of the latest in the series.

Readers of all ages will enjoy this series of books.

Daniel Hansen says

So far so good

The second book and getting better. The characters feel more real and the story really flows well. I will be continuing the series. If you liked the first I suggest you try this one.

Amy Eye says

Have you been waiting on a series that will knock your socks off? How about a series that leaves you breathless, excited, and ready for more? If you think you are ready for something like that, then you can now go to your nearest book retailer and pick up your copy of Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift. But make sure you are properly prepared. If you don't have your Sasquatch hunting gear, you may be a bit outgunned...Just a warning!

This is the second book in Elise Stokes' Cassidy Jones series. Cassidy is too much for one book to handle, Stokes had to unleash her again for a second book. If you thought she and her friends took you on a wild ride before, you have no idea what you are in for when you crack open Vulcan's Gift.

We get to see all of our favorite characters from the first book, and of course, we can't have new adventures

without new and eccentric characters. What kind of fun would that be? Did I mention there was a Sasquatch? I think that was a personal favorite of mine.

Poor Cassidy had some “stuff” happen to her in the first book that took her from regular high school student to maiden extraordinaire! Just when she started to get used to that, life gets a bit more interesting for Cassidy. Her hard-as-nails personality takes on a whole new meaning in this book – just wait until you read this one! I’m not sure how would handle the things that she goes through. But she handles it with grace (usually) and a fierce attitude that would make a lady proud. Any young girl looking for a new role model can find one in Cassidy. Any mom would be proud to have their daughter look up to Cassidy Jones.

This story will take you on a ride that you really will be thrilled to be on. The evil is new, but just as enthralling, and Cassidy handles it the only way she knows how: full-steam ahead. Along the way, Cassidy discovers she has a few new things up her “sleeves.” She and Emery will do what they can as a team – even if it isn’t always the best teamwork. Emery and Cassidy have a few, shall we say, issues?

I am a Cassidy Jones fan for life. I am already getting antsy to read the next one!

Javier Robayo says

Elise Stokes has the most wholesome voice of teenage America. Cassie and the gang deliver an amazing sequel full of action, humor, and several moments that **YOU WANT YOUR KIDS TO READ!** As the father of a pre-teener, I can't wait for her to read these terrific stories in the hopes that she learns, not only what to expect in the years of middle school and beyond, but also, that it's cool to be strong, truthful and humble. Cassie is a terrific role model in every way. Emery returns to reveal more layers that make him quite possibly the very best character I've ever read, and I can't get enough of him. There was a historical element to the novel that will appeal to the mystery reader in all of us. Don't let the teen characters fool you, Cassidy Jones Adventures has no age in mind, and Vulcan's Gift is a fulfilling sequel in an age where follow ups fail miserably. Within the adventure, we are treated to an emotional element that will evoke memories of our own kid days, every insecurity, fear, and longing we'd felt. It'll make you connect with Cassie, Myriam, Emery, Nate, and strike a real chord in our inner child. Great, great work, I'm blown away, eagerly waiting for more!

Kat says

If you liked Cassidy Jones and the Secret Formula, than this one you will love.

Elise has really developed the characters and their relationship well. She all introduces more of Cassidy friends and a new enemy for Cassidy. Twice the action, twice the drama, twice the fun. She also kept her crazy, out of the world villain signature for this book. The plot was action-packed and kept me reading with a table lamp. And that plot kept Cassidy up all night, too. Big surprise at the end, one that she kept hinting, but not telling it directly. So, to keep you predicting while waiting it to come in the mail or for you to find or Kindle... It all started when Cassidy signs up for the SnOOZe at the zoo, seemed like a normal day, until night feel over them...

Take a video of a bunch of maniacs and dip it in chocolate and you have this book!

Kitty Austin says

Book Title: "Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift"

Author: Elise Stokes

Published By: Jace Publishing

Age Recommended: 10 +

Reviewed By: Kitty Bullard

Raven Rating: 5

Review: Elise Stokes has done it again, and this time she has truly gone above and beyond. After reading her first 'Cassidy Jones' book I had already fallen in love with the characters and their ability to amuse and delight me. I can say now with acute honesty that I look forward to Cassidy's adventures to continue for years to come. This is by far turning out to be one of the most amazing and well-written, middle grade to young adult series I have ever read.

Elise's execution of character development carries a perfection that is not easy for a lot of writers to obtain within two books alone. She writes in such a way that allows her characters to grow at the perfect pace. I can't imagine anyone young or old not falling for this rewarding series. There is never a dull moment in the world of Cassidy Jones. If you truly want to buy a book series you and your kids will enjoy I encourage you to pick up both Elise Stokes' books. "Cassidy Jones and the Secret Formula" and "Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift." You will not want to miss out on a single moment of this magnificent series.

In this dynamic sequel, Cassidy and her ever-present bodyguard/best friend, Emery, are on the trail of a person that could be supremely dangerous having found an item of great power. When what should be a quiet and fun sleepover at the Catamount Zoo turns into a frightening and potentially deadly evening, Cassidy and Emery begin to suspect that the well-to-do family that owns the place may have more secrets than animals in cages.

This book has it all, wild adventure, non-stop action, hilarious banter, family value and love, teenage angst, and excitement at every turn! Even an old urban legend makes an appearance in this delightful sequel about a fourteen year old girl that accidentally gains abilities most adults would have a hard time coping with. I cannot praise Elise Stokes or her creation enough, simply stunning and beyond superb!

Robert Morrow says

I love an intense experience: a rich cup of espresso, a fine Malbec, a taut and well-played game of baseball. Intensity is a state that occurs when a stimulus is powerful enough to remove you from current time and place and immerse you in an alternative world where senses, emotions and thoughts become more vivid and alive.

That pretty much describes what it's like to read Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift.

The second installment in the Cassidy Jones Adventures series does not let up for a moment, from the exceptionally well-written prologue to the end of the book. Even the relatively quiet and "normal" parts

(when superhero Cassidy exists in the context of teenage reality) turn out to be fascinating vignettes of the teenage experience, with all the wild-card emotions coming into play. Plot development is tight, the story is well-told and the characters surprisingly authentic for a fantasy adventure.

As I pointed out in my review of *Cassidy Jones and the Secret Formula*, Cassidy is an exceptional character who would still be exceptional if she were cured of her super powers. At times mature and perceptive, at other times hopelessly adolescent, Elise Stokes has developed a character that is anything but a caricature. This foundational strength is even more apparent in this second book as Cassidy becomes more comfortable with her accidental capabilities while becoming less comfortable with the simmering conflict inside her. She is a very competent superhero but also a teenager with shaky confidence, and it is this combination of strength and vulnerability that makes you want to cheer her on. We never forget that Cassidy, albeit in the exaggerated transformation to superhero, is a young girl always in danger of losing control, which also happens to be what it feels like to be a teenager.

Ms. Stokes has also strengthened the supporting cast, with Emery Phillips (Cassidy's partner in adventure) also serving as something of a role model who tries to temper Cassidy's typically teenage tendency to unfairly judge other people. We see this as Emery enlists the help of a chain-smoking layabout named Jason, whom Cassidy immediately rejects as a colleague and whom Emery calmly defends for his virtues and unique moral code. Emery's dispassionate and open-minded view of human nature contrasts nicely with the labeling tendency we all have in our teenage years (and which some of us cling to through adulthood).

Cassidy also befriends a homeless fellow named (appropriately) Joe, the kind of person who rarely appears on anyone's radar, much less that of a fourteen-year old girl. Her defense of Joe, who is being attacked by the typical gang of teenagers looking for kicks, tells us a lot about Cassidy's fundamental sense of decency and fair play. The only problem I had with the book was that there was no final scene with Joe, as I think he could serve as a good friend and mentor for Cassidy; sort of an ironic version of Dumbledore.

I should also mention the forces of evil against whom Cassidy and Emery do battle. The initial encounter with Metal Man was so well-written that I felt like I was there. The final battle against the evil Lily White (a perfect name if there ever was one!) is more tightly-written than the climax in the first book. Ms. Stokes has not spent much time developing the characters on the dark side, which I feel at this stage of the series is a good choice (Voldemort was hardly real until the end of Book 4). However, at some point in the series, we will have to have a better understanding of Cassidy's definition of evil so that we better understand Cassidy herself.

In my earlier review, I compared the first installment to Ms. Rowling's efforts and certainly felt that Cassidy Jones held up well. In this second installment, Cassidy takes the lead. I never felt that *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* added much to the series; Rowling really didn't get moving until Book 3. With *Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift*, Ms. Stokes has taken the series to a higher level and the path forward is full of intriguing possibilities.

I will now exist in that exquisitely agonizing space of having to wait a whole year for those possibilities to play out in the next installment.

See the [Cassidy Jones Adventures website](#) for more information about the books and the author.

Stacey Urhammer says

So often sequels pale in comparison to the first book, but not so with Cassidy Jones! Instead our heroine learns to control her powers more fully and even discovers some surprising new talents in her transformation from shy school girl to superhuman mutant--running faster, flinging full grown men aside as if they were rag dolls, and even scaling Seattle's iconic Space Needle. In *Vulcan's Gift*, Cassidy Jones still struggles with typical teen social issues--bullying, angst, awkwardness, and unrequited romance--all of which makes her very relatable, but author Elise Stokes manages to seamlessly weave them throughout a compelling mystery/adventure that kept my interest piqued until the very end. Cassidy's continued friendship with her extremely resourceful young neighbor adds romantic tension throughout and is sure to create legions of Team Emery's or Team Jared's. (Team Emery, of course ;) All in all, Stokes delivers another classic comic book style tale, embellished with many fine examples of courage, compassion, kindness, and doing the right thing, even when it's not the easiest course of action. Kudos to Cassidy! I can't wait for the next installment.

Michelle Isenhoff says

I'm excited about the release of Elise Stokes' second novel, *Cassidy Jones and Vulcan's Gift*. This fast-paced series is reminiscent of the adventures of comic book superheroes, except Cassidy Jones happens to be a totally hip, totally stubborn, totally modern fifteen-year-old girl. A freak accident left her with enhanced senses and superhuman strength that she struggles mightily to adjust to. She may be saving the Seattle suburbs by night, but by day she must try to fit into Queen Anne High School, navigate those tricky guy-girl relationships, and make sure none of her friends figure out her secret. Such a rumor whispered to the wrong individual would put her loved ones at serious risk.

In *Vulcan's Gift*, a top-secret weapon leftover from Nazi German, long considered a myth, surfaces on Catamount Mountain. It's up to Cassidy and her brilliant sidekick, Emery, to figure out and muscle down this new threat. Throw in a missing Siberian tiger, multiple Sasquatch sightings (not to mention the gaggle of faithful Sasquatch followers), family wealth, and a shiny new villain, and you have the recipe for a teen-pleasing page-turner.

Let's backtrack to Emery for a moment. Son of the scientist connected to Cassidy's enhancement, Emery has some impressive credentials of his own. At age fifteen, he's already earned a college degree and put off graduate school to guard and guide Cassidy. Unrealistic? Of course! As you recall, we're talking comic book superheroes here. Anyway, Emery is light years ahead of the pack in maturity and intellect, and his perfection can get downright obnoxious. Yet, there's a warmth and genuine affection to his character that makes me hope Cassidy will finally be done with her high school crush, Jared, once and for all. Aside from Cassidy and her wonderful physical dilemma, Emery is by far the most complex character of the series.

There are many things I appreciate about *Vulcan's Gift*, not the least of which is Ms. Stokes' polished writing style. While it isn't poetic or abundant in creative word pictures (which I have a real penchant for) it IS solid, smooth, and so easy to read - perfect for a high-flying adventure. I also applaud Ms. Stokes for leaving out the language and content so many of us find objectionable in children's literature. I didn't miss it! Her imagination for thinking up a superb plot is better than most and packaged air-tight, and colorful, bigger-than-life characters are becoming her trademark. No, this series isn't particularly deep or beautiful, or even witty, but it sure is fun to read!

Once again, the end of the book leaves lots of wiggle room for a new adventure. Questions from the first book remain, and now we've left a psychotic new villain on the loose, last seen laughing maniacally. I'll be eagerly awaiting book three, Ms. Stokes!

Lisa Davis says

As a writer, I am in awe of Elise Stokes' ability to tell a compelling and riveting story. As a fan of fantasy and comic book genres I am in heaven. This series continues to reel me in. I am all about strong female characters and Cassidy is the essence of strength with equal parts vulnerability, with everyday (or every-girl) female interests, and insecurities. I can easily picture my teenage self as I read Cassidy's thoughts and follow her through countless crazy, unreal episodes with unexpected bad guys (and girls). Now... on to the next book! Keep 'em coming Ms. Stokes!

Katie Bridges says

Cassidy Jones and the Vulcun's Gift reels you in with the very first scene and doesn't let go until you reach the last page. And even then, it makes you want to keep reading. With fascinating characters who come to life on the page and a storyline that is deeply meaningful, Elise Stokes tells a unique story you won't read anywhere else. There's enough going on to keep you on your toes, wondering what comes next. The complexity of the writing makes it an entertaining read for more seasoned readers, while the innocence portrayed by the main characters makes it perfect for younger readers. The best writers can make you "feel" what's happening from scene to scene and this author certainly delivers that kind of realism. I found myself gasping for breath when Cassidy scaled the Space Needle. The superb writing made that a little too real for me, so much so that I will never look at the Space Needle in the same way again. A brilliant sequel to a great first story, it will keep Cassidy Jones' fans coming back for more. Katie Bridges, author of Warriors of the Edge
