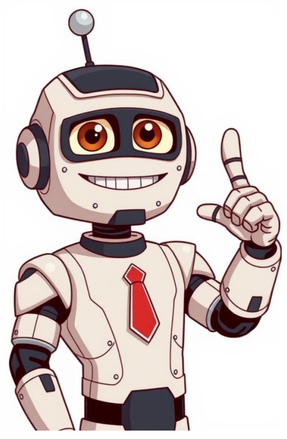
Continue



========== The Reading List, established by the CODES section of RUSA in 2007, aims to highlight exceptional genre fiction that deserves attention from general adult readers and librarians. The Council, comprising experts in readers' advisory and collection development, selects one book per year from eight categories: adrenaline titles, fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction, and relationship fiction. The council's adaptable structure allows for new genres and changing reading interests. Every January, the RUSA Book and Media Awards Reception at ALA LibLearnX announces the winning titles, along with a short list of honor titles in each genre. All selected titles are published on the RUSA website afterwards. One notable winner is Vicious by V. E. Schwab, which garnered widespread acclaim for its gripping narrative and well-crafted characters. The novel tells the story of Victor and Eli, two individuals with extraordinary abilities, as they navigate a complex web of power struggles and revenge. Schwab's writing style, characterized by addictive prose and fluid storytelling, drew readers into this world of superpowers and moral ambiguity. Critics praised Vicious for its masterful tale of ambition, jealousy, desire, and the blurred lines between heroism and villainy.In a world where absurdity poses more questions than answers, Vicious masterfully weaves a complex web of ambition, betrayal, and jealousy, leaving readers questioning who's truly at fault. The story delves into the darker aspects of human nature, where friendships are forged in the pursuit of power but can quickly turn toxic. A non-linear narrative structure adds depth to the tale, jumping between 10 years prior and present-day events. Victor, an escaped convict driven by a thirst for revenge, navigates the treacherous landscape of his past with a determined ferocity. His journey is intertwined with that of Eli, a former friend turned arch-nemesis, who harbors secrets and motivations that blur the lines between heroism and villainy. The characters' dualities are expertly crafted, with each possessing a "dark side" hidden beneath their polished exteriors. As the narrative unfolds, it becomes increasingly clear that Vicious is not just a tale of revenge, but a nuanced exploration of morality, friendship, and the human condition. ========== A near-death experience was indeed fascinating to read about, with the found family aspect between Victor, Mitch, Sydney, and Dol being particularly compelling. The story's complexity, as neither of the main characters are inherently good people, made it intriguing and difficult to predict who to root for. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, which explored the themes of Create-A-Superhero elements and the morally ambiguous nature of its protagonists. The narrative unfolded through flashbacks, with Victor and Eli's college roommates' experiment being a pivotal moment in their transformation. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Victor's process didn't proceed as smoothly as Eli's, leading to a decade-long prison stay. During this time, he plotted his revenge, setting the stage for a captivating story. Although neither character is sympathetic, I found myself drawn to Victor's narrative, despite both being anti-heroes. The ending may have been underwhelming for some readers, but it didn't detract from my overall appreciation for the book. I recently finished listening to the audiobook version narrated by Jeremy Arthur and was impressed by its excellence. The author's writing style evokes a sense of nostalgia, drawing the reader into the world and its complex characters. It's clear that V.E. Schwab has crafted a masterful story that explores themes of morality, heroism, and identity. This book's unique blend of darkness, atmosphere, and complexity captivated me from the beginning, making it impossible to put down. The author's use of multiple time periods and perspectives creates a sense of urgency, as if the reader is unraveling a puzzle alongside the characters. The writing style is indeed distinctive, with a touch of macabre and psychological depth that makes for a compelling read. Overall, I highly recommend this book, which delves into the complexities of human nature and the blurred lines between good and evil.The morality of being good or bad is subjective and needs a catalyst to keep it revolving. Sometimes, what's considered good can be twisted into something else, making it more complex. The characters in this book are stereotypes, yet they're unique due to their well-crafted character development. I'm deeply invested in Victor Vale's character, who possesses a mix of cruelty and an urge to do the right thing. His inner struggle is fascinating, as he navigates between being a predator and trying to meet his moral obligations. Victor is complex, with a depth that makes him intriguing. On the other hand, Eli Ever doesn't resonate with me; he's more of a hypocrite who fails at being bad. His downfall stems from being crafted to be the "all-American" hero, making it difficult for him to maintain his morals. Power corrupts, and when individuals possess incredible abilities, their moral boundaries become blurred. Betrayal, revenge, and hatred are closely tied with power, dehumanizing its wielders. This is evident in the complicated friendship between Victor and Eli, who were once friends but became adversaries due to the immense power they shared. The story features a diverse cast of characters, including a giant with incredible abilities and a girl with morbid powers. Even Serena is portrayed as a baddie, adding complexity to the narrative. This book expertly navigates the gray areas between good and evil, making it an unforgettable read. ==========games. *lol* Let me explain a little bit more: There are folks who write short posts covering the basics, while others craft entire characters with their background stories, playing them out in 900–1,000 word posts that span years, sometimes even decades. Yep, you guessed it—I’m the latter. ;-) So it’s no surprise I was hooked by V.E. Schwab’s work. Her characters have a depth you don’t see on the pages, but it’s all there in their actions, how they behave, the way they talk and interact. There’s a full backstory, revealed piece by piece, little by little, but never all at once. Saying I was captivated would be an understatement. XD I lived and breathed every moment of it, tasted blood, and crave more!!!