

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Finisher by David Baldacci

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Jasmine Randall, age 12

A brilliant book, that I would highly recommend to anybody interested in adventure.

'The Finisher' is an absolutely amazing book, the whole story line is extremely clever and it was unlike any book I had ever read before. I loved the fact that it was situated in another world, in some ways it was completely different from ours, but in other ways it was very similar.

The front cover was intriguing and really stood out on my bookshelf. There was never a dull moment in this book, whether it was a wrestling match, a dire injury when building a wall, or a terrifying monster, I just couldn't put it down.

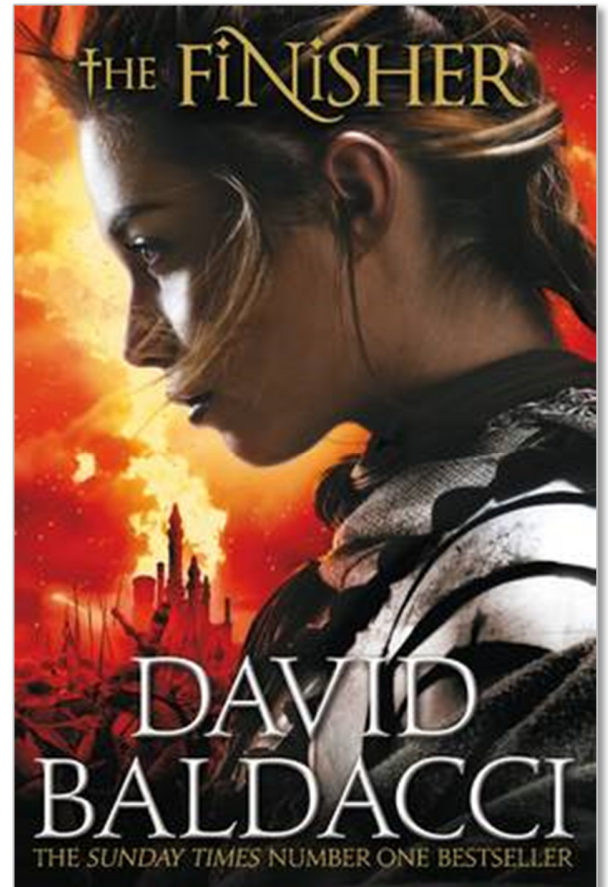
I hope there will be another book in the series because I felt there was so much more to know about this other world. Also I thought it would make a good movie, it would be action packed and an excellent watch.

I would recommend this book to girls and boys of about 12 years old, it is an outstanding read and I really suggest you read it.

Bryony Davies, age 12

This book was fabulous! Baldacci has created an exciting world full of surprises and mysteries. Everything that happened was so unexpected that it was impossible to stop reading it.

There were many imaginative animals and monsters, which really helped to



demonstrate how different the town was from present day towns. Wormwood was entirely unpredictable and different to the world we know today. It was described vividly and Baldacci was able to paint a picture of the town and its unusual inhabitants.

The main character, Vega, is brave and determined. She stood up against Wormwood's unchanging and strict ways, and was very inspirational. This book would appeal to anyone who likes books about adventure and fantasy worlds. I loved reading and would really recommend this amazing book!

Amy Cleary, age 13

'The Finisher' is the first young adult book from number one best selling David Baldacci.

'The Finisher' is about a teenage girl Vega Jane who's life has just been turned upside down as she discovers beneath the walls of the village in which no one has ever left. After finding a curious map and a ring which leads her to this unknown world filled with possibilities, and creatures beyond her imagination can she fight for her freedom? As she tries to unravell the truth of what exists beyond the confines of her village she is taking a big risk which may cost her her life.....

Maisie Sansom, age 14

'The Finisher' is **a thrilling adventure novel, full of mysterious beasts and secrets.** The story is centred on Vega Jane, a young 'Finisher' at the Stacks. The story follows her as she makes some startling discoveries about her hometown, her relations and the other occupants of Wormwood.

I really liked the character of Delph, as although he started off shy and timid, after sharing his traumas he lost his stutter. However this stutter returned after his father was in an accident, which made him seem more of a real person. I also liked the feminism in this book because it made the book seem more related to the modern world. The imagination put into this book toward the 'beasts' was great as they were very inventive and seemed very lifelike.

However, although I enjoyed this book, I could not help noticing many similarities to the worldwide phenomenon 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins- such as the Duelem (and the Hunger Games) and the Quag (and District 13). This greatly annoyed me throughout the book and made it feel really unoriginal.

Consequently although I did enjoy many aspects of the book and I will not be reading anymore books in this series. **Although I am sure many people will find this book thrilling, I found it too similar to the 'Hunger Games'.**

Ciara McIlvenna, age 16

An enigmatic, enthralling read that'll have you staying up into the small hours desperate to find out what happens next.

A thrilling fast paced fantasy read that never lets up. Throws you into a world full of magical yet dangerous creatures and of magic and mystery. And one girls struggle to find the answers about her small town shrouded in an enigma.

Liam Pickering, age 11

'The Finisher' was a fantastic book with a storyline which had me hooked from the start and still wanting more when the book was finished.

I really enjoyed reading this book, many things in Wormwood were similar to our daily lives but had their own unique name in 'The Finisher' (time/slivers). David Baldacci has a brilliant way of describing everything in the book so even these new words have instant meaning to the reader.

The storyline was also very good, with Vega Jane learning lots of information about herself and her family. Also throughout the book she has an ongoing battle with Morigone whom at the start she fears and respects but as time goes on Vega turns out to be a stronger more powerful wug.

The book is very readable and although a little sad at times I found I connected with Vega Jane and was willing her on to do things in my head even before I had read them.

So in conclusion I would recommend this book to anyone my age as long as they didn't find Harry Potter scary as there are similar theoretical beasts in this story too.

Sam Harper, age 10

'The Finisher' is an exciting adventure set in another world. Vega Jane is a tough young girl taking care of her younger brother John and friend Delph.

They live in the village of Wormwood and no one they know has ever left.

Their world is similar to ours in some ways with learning instead of school and sessions instead of years, but it also has terrifying beasts like Jabbits, massive 250 headed serpents with poisoned fangs, and Garms which have four eyes and can breath fire.

The village is run by the council. They make all the rules but are they really doing all they can to keep the villagers safe and can Vega Jane trust them? The village is surrounded by the Quag, a land full of murderous beasts in which no one can survive and all are forbidden to enter. So what was Quentin Herms doing when Vega Jane saw him run into the Quag? Why has he left her a map of the Quag? Where will his clues lead her and will she be able to discover the truth?

Vega Jane's world is exciting and mysterious. The strange language they use takes a while to get used to but it's easy to understand and it helped me to imagine Wormwood as a strange and dangerous place. If you like magic, fantasy, adventure and terrifying beasts you'll love this!

Karianne Turner, age 11 - Thomas Cowley School

*'The Finisher' by David Baldocci was a very enthralling book. **I loved every second of it, it was fantastic.** To start off with I didn't know what some of the words meant like Wugmorts and Slivers but as you read more and more it becomes clear what they are. It was such a lovely book to read and at some points my heart pounded wondering what was going to happen. I hope there is another book that carries on the story, but I am sure all his books are as fabulous as this one. **Well done David, you deserve a medal!***

Shauna Cullinan - St. Colm's High School

*'The Finisher' is **a thrilling, fantasy adventure story that follows a girl's quest beyond her known world and into a dangerous world full of magical beasts.***

The book tells the story of a 14 year old girl named Vega Jane who lives in a village called Wormwood. The village is a place where curiosity is not allowed and no-one has ever left.

Vega Jane discovers a map on the steps of her tree house that suggests a mysterious world outside the walls of the village. The villagers have been told

that the forest around them is full of monsters, so no-one ventures outside. Their fear of the outside is very real.

The excitement really takes off when Vega Jane's mentor, Quentin Hermm, disappears leaving behind a secret message. Vega Jane begins to realise that Wormwood is a village built on dangerous lies. She is forced to fight for her freedom and telling the truth may cost her her life.

This is a really fast moving and exciting read. I loved it.

Sammy-Jo Conway - St. Colm's High School

This is the first teenage book that David has written. This is a book about Vega Jane, a wug, who lives in Wormwood, she lives with her brother John. Her mother and father have suffered an Event. Vega works at the stacks and was taught by Quenin Herm until he has gone missing. Some people think he has gone beyond the walls of Wormwood and has ventured through the Quag where no one is allowed to go. The villagers have been told not to venture outside the walls, they are also not allowed to be curious. But why have they been told this and what is so scary in the surrounding forest that keeps them all from investigating the outside?

Will Vega Jane save the village from disaster? Read this novel to find out....

It was a very good book and I would like David to write more books.

Sean Keaveny, age 11

I found this a bit confusing to start with as there were made up words for things. This made it quite hard to get into but once I did it was good.

Vega Jane has always lived in Wormwood. They are told that noone leaves and it has always been that way. A series of events leads Vega Jane to question this. This book is filled with mythical creatures and adventures. However, I was just a little disappointed that it took until the end for her to try and leave Wormwood. I am still desperate to know what lies beyond The Quag.

Poppy Jeavons, age 15

I found it difficult to get into at first, but when I did, I couldn't put it down. I thought that the creatures, world and people were very

imaginative and creative, but I found parts quite confusing.

At first it was difficult to get into, but the more I read, the more gripped I became, I couldn't put it down. All of the places, creatures, people and plots were very imaginative and creative, but because it wasn't set in our world, at some points it could get quite confusing. I felt that the ending left a few too many loose ends, but I enjoyed it very much.