



# Masters of the Veil

*Daniel A. Cohen*

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## **Masters of the Veil** Daniel A. Cohen

Life can't get much better for Sam Lock. Popular, good-looking, and with a future as a professional football player, every guy at Stanton High School wishes he were Sam. That is, until his championship football game, when Sam accidentally links with an ancient source of energy known as the Veil and reveals his potential to become a powerful sorcerer. Sam is whisked off to Atlas Crown, a community of sorcerers who utilize the Veil as a part of everyday life. Once there, he trains beside a mute boy who speaks through music, an eternal sage who's the eyes and ears of the Veil, and a beautiful girl who's pretty sure Sam's an idiot. As it becomes clear Sam's meant for power magic-the most feared and misunderstood form of sorcery-people beyond Atlas Crown learn of his dangerous potential. An exiled group of power sorcerers are eager to recruit Sam, believing that he is destined to help them achieve their long-held goal. If they succeed, they could bring about the downfall of not only Atlas Crown. but all humankind.

## **Masters of the Veil Details**

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Author : Daniel A. Cohen

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## From Reader Review Masters of the Veil for online ebook

### Avery says

I am the sort of person who can finish at least one book a day- once I start a book it is near impossible to tear me away from it, essentially I will neglect EVERYTHING once I start reading a book. Furthermore, it is EXTREMELY uncommon for me to not finish a book (since I started reviewing books, almost two years ago, I have read and reviewed EVERY book which has come my way- in fact, I can't recall the last DNF I had). So how do those little facts relate to this book? This book was BY FAR the biggest struggle I have experienced since I started blogging- with every fiber of my being I wanted to not finish this book but I forced myself to (in all honesty I only finished it because I requested the book from the publisher and I would have felt guilty for not having read and reviewed it). This book took me almost two months to finish as I could only read ten or so pages before I would become overwhelmed and would have to set it down for the day. There were a large accumulation of reasons why I struggled so much with this book which I will elaborate upon below.

I must admit that I never fully understood what people meant when they said that in a book an author "showed rather than told", that is, until I read this book. I found the writing of this book to be too, "He did this and then he did this and then he did this", there to be very little description and depth to the dialogue and little to no emotion to the storyline of the book, nor the characters. I never experienced that heart-pounding feeling you get when one of a book's characters is about to experience something horrific or that "Awwwwwww" moment when two characters you have been rooting for the entire novel FINALLY come together- essentially everything was EXTREMELY flat and one-dimensional.

Furthermore, I found all of the characters to be quite undeveloped- after reading the book I don't feel like I truly know any of them. What I do know is that the main character, Sam, and the love interest, Daphne, are quite unlikeable- Sam being not only quite close-minded but oblivious and gullible the entire novel and Daphne who, in my opinion, showed very few, if any, redeeming qualities (I am seriously baffled by what Sam saw in her. Oh wait, her looks. But seriously, can looks balance out being a big booger?).

And as for the storyline itself, I found that there was WAY too much stuff going on (someone asked me to describe this book to them and I told them that it was "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" meets "Harry Potter". On acid)- from the zigzag trees, which moved when people walked by them, to the echo flies, which mimicked a person physically and determined their worthiness, to gumptius, a game not unlike arm wrestling, though which magic is used, to baubles which would come out of a fish's mouth to be used as mouth wash, to sheep-like creatures whose wool would be consumed not unlike cotton candy- plus all of the magical stuff going on like the Veil, second-skins, etc. That being said, I do applaud author Daniel Cohen for his originality- as become evident from the aforementioned examples he has one of the most creative minds I have encountered in quite some time.

All in all, while I REALLY wanted to like this book, I was unable to. Furthermore, I unfortunately will not be continuing on with this series (which is uncharacteristic of me as I am the sort of person who NEEDS to finish a series, no matter how much I may dislike myself for doing so \*Cough, cough, "House of Night" series and "Morganville Vampires"). That being said, if you are looking for a book that which has amazing world-building then this might be right up your alley!

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### InkBitten says

## Julia's review of Masters of the Veil by Daniel Cohen

### Judged By Cover: Magical

The cover for this book can only be described as stunning. The black scales in the back round of the stars is a beautiful and magical contrast that is absolutely lovely. now I know what you are all thinking, "Julia, why the heck are there scales in space?" well This makes much more sense when you read the book. Also the font that is on the cover is like my favorite font, I think it's called bleeding cowboys, but it is so pretty and definitely fits the magical mood of the novel, five theoretical stars!

### What's up?

Sam has a seemingly perfect life, he's the star of the football team, Every girl wants to date him, and ever guy wishes that they could be him, that is until the championship game. It shouldn't have been possible, and no one believed him, but Sam knew that what had happened was not him choking. Sam had accidentally used an ancient form of magic, called The Veil...and now his life would never be the same. He is taken to the wonderful world of Atlas Crown by May, a long time sorcerer who is there to guide him. But nothing can ever be perfect, not even here, in this seemingly perfect world, Sam is spotted as powerful by a cast out group of sorcerers whose goal is to take down Atlas Crown, and they try to bring them to their side of the fight. Will Sam make the right decision?

### Time Of Day: Who Wouldn't?!

Sam Lock was one of the most relate-able characters that I have ever read about, he was written amazingly. When he first arrived at Atlas Crown, he didn't want to be there, he just wanted to return home and get his Football scholarship. This was a completely relate-able factor in every single teenager, we go to school an learn things that may not seem use-full later on in life, for instance, if someone were to be a striving musician, why would they have to know science? Sam was so down to earth too, he wasn't like the perfect character that never did wrong and everyone loved him, he was like a real teenage athlete and I LOVED that about him, if this section had a numerical rating system, it would have a 12 out of 10 right now, this was just an amazingly written character.

### Head Over Heels: Can I just say that there wasn't much?

Okay, so Sam did like two girls in this book, the one mentioned in the summary on the back of the novel, Daphne who I would much rather him be with because I am a huge fan of the love/hate relationship. Daphne really did think Sam was a moron, and that all he thought about was football, and Sam thought she was the prettiest girl he had ever seen. Then there was Cassiella, Who I didn't hate but I just didn't want her to be with Sam. She was described as Mousy and Frail, and was very sweet and always took his side in all of the arguments he had with the rest of the students (Especially Petir) But the novel wasn't really focused on romance and more on magic so even though there was some romance mentioned, it wasn't really a main factor.

### Bonus Features

#### The Power Of Music

Glissandro was probably one of my favorite characters in any book I have read in a while, the reason being he was mute and could only speak through his music. How you ask, well in the wonderful world of Atlas crown anything is possible! Really, every time he was to play his horn, Sam would automatically understand what he was saying in full sentences...I LOVE IT!!

#### A Whole New World

The way that Atlas Crown was described was beautiful, I sort of thought of it as like a mixture of Pandora from the movie Avatar(Shown in the picture above) and New York City, which is an odd combination but

my mind is an odd place. It was amazing and creative and I absolutely fell in love! Man, I wish I could live in Atlas Crown...

#### Magic

Alright Harry Potter fans...I have found you a new obsession. This book was filled with all sorts of magic, The creatures were brilliant, and the way that Cohen Describes their ability was amazing, unique, and something that can definitely get you hooked within the first few chapters. Also the fact that the Veil was the main source of their power was brilliant. Go Read Masters Of the Veil, All you Magic Fans won't regret it!

#### Final Flavor: Delicious

Oh. My. Gosh. I think I am an official fan-girl of the Veil trilogy, this book was brilliant. Daniel Cohen had such an amazing way of describing Atlas Crown and all of its strange and magical features that I instantly fell in love. There was so much creativity involved in this book that I was absolutely mesmerized, it was like I was in an entirely different world when I was reading this novel. The writing style was magnificent and the characters were so relate able and just downright awesome! I mean come on, How could you not love a guy who speaks through his music? This Book was brilliant, creative, and completely magical. If you want an amazing book to read in 2012, I would suggest you go to the bookstore and pick up a copy of Masters of the Veil, because you most definitely wont regret it.

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### Chrislives4books says

I won, thank you for me receiving the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

First off all Sam is amazing and a real character. I liked the conflict that led the people from Atlas Crown and Tembrath Elite to find Sam it was very interesting. I think the Author, Daniel A. Cohen, has an amazing imagination and the detail explaining Atlas Crown is just wonderful. I can see many science fiction lovers will like this book for the wild things that come from the Veil.

\*(the names are kind of a secret for now) \*

#### The Characters

The mute boy- I love the part he plays in this book. Seriously , talking through music....amazing. He was my personal favorite after Sam.

The woman to save Sam- she is a real mystery right until the end. she is always all over the place helping everybody especially Sam (since he is so important).BUT I can't really believe that to Sam she only looks like she is only in her thirties after she has lived for so long.

\*\*I don't want to say too much\*\*

I also like the mysterious Serpent and the veils eyes and ears. And the story of behind both of them

I can't wait for the next installment of the Veil trilogy

#### Thank You

I won, thank you for me receiving the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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## **Heather Robbins says**

Review to come

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## **Darby Karchut says**

My Thoughts:

What a world Daniel A. Cohen has created in this first book of the Veil trilogy. From the day-to-day life of the citizens of Atlas Crown to the history of how the Veil came into being, Cohen takes the reader on a fantastical journey.

Sam Lock is a wonderful mix of confused teen and stalwart hero. His first days exploring this magical world are as rich as any fantasy book I've read. Sam not only learns about his magical abilities, but he also starts to learn about his own strengths and weakness.

But all of the characters (and there is a wonderful cast, you can be sure), my favorite is Glissandro Thicket. Sweet natured, but with a core of strength, he is a young Gabriel with his horn. He is Sam's best friend and alter ego.

I am looking forward to the next book in the series, Children of the Veil, which will be out next year. And I must say it was heavenly to read a YA novel with a male protagonist and written in the third person. Let's hear it for the boys!

Favorite Quote:

"Against all better judgment, he kept going. Normally, millions of years of instinctual evolution would tell him to run away from the giant man-eating predator, but then again, he normally wouldn't be in the middle of Magictown, trying to learn sorcery from someone not tall enough to ride most roller coasters."

- Masters of the Veil, page 65

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## **Bonnie (A Backwards Story) says**

As excited as I was when I first heard about MASTERS OF THE VEIL, it still took me a while to pick this one up. I have to be in just the right mood to read about magic, or I don't get swept away. I'm weird like that. While main character Sam Lock's arrogance in the early chapters did keep me from connecting with the story right away, by the time we reached Atlas Crown and discovered alongside Sam that magic is real, I became much more immersed. Daniel A. Cohen excels at descriptive prose, creating concoctions I only wish could actually be real. From delicious-sounding food to creatures that don't naturally exist such as rinsefish, symflowes, and echo flies, Atlas Crown is brimming with magic in a way I haven't seen in other fantasy novels.

Like many other books in the genre, Sam doesn't realize that magic is real, or that he's gifted. At the championship football game, everyone around him freezes, making it look like Sam choked. His magic comes into being on such a grand scale that magical beings across the globe can feel it, and two different factions want to train him to use his new powers. The sorcerers at Atlas Crown get to him first, which is a good thing, because the Tembrath Elite want to use Sam's powers for nefarious reasons. Sam has trouble believing magic is real, and it takes him a while to accept his new life. Even as he does, he wants nothing more than to return home and play football, where scholarships and pro-ball wait for him. In Cohen's world, there are three types of magic, and Sam is gifted with the most powerful--and most deadly. Sam has the potential to become one of the most powerful sorcerers, yet he also struggles to be a normal teenager and easily falls prey to a dangerous game that could ruin the magical Veil--and life as everyone knows it.

In addition to creating a lush, beautiful world, Cohen is also deft at developing secondary characters. Too often, anyone who isn't the "hero" or the "hero's love interest" falls to the wayside. In MASTERS OF THE VEIL, there are so many characters I loved reading about, from teachers to friends. In particular, I love Glissandro Thicket, a boy who spent most of his life mute. He managed to manipulate his magic in such a way that when he plays his horn, he can be understood. His music is his voice. It was fun to see the creative ways Cohen had him "speak" without ever using the words "said," "spoke," etc. Glissandro stole many scenes and is one of the most unique characters I've come across. I also really enjoyed the fact that Cohen focuses on the magic. It's a refreshing change from all of the YA novels seeped in insta-love revolving around romance, as though the story is just thrown in to get two characters together. Additionally, I was glad to see a YA novel from a male POV, because these are too few and far between.

If you're still on the fence, consider this: the ebook version of all Spencer Hill Press' ebooks are very reasonably priced. MASTERS OF THE VEIL is \$5.99, which makes it easier to blind-buy than something \$9.99+. I have yet to be led astray by this up-and-coming publisher!

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## **Kristin Aragon says**

Originally reviewed at Better Read Than Dead

I absolutely adored Masters of the Veil. It is a unique and creative read in today's sometimes overwhelming YA market. Daniel is taking JK Rowling's lead and putting a whole new twist on fantasy. I love that this book starts in Texas...being a Texas girl myself. When you combine Texas and Football...well, you can't go wrong. Then you throw in a heaping spoonful of magic and POW...you have the makings for an extraordinary novel. Congrats Daniel...you brought your A game. Ok...enough fan-girling. Let me tell you a little about this book.

Sam, the All-American hero - popular, talented, and a bit cocky - finds himself in a whole new world after a disastrous football game. Somehow he managed to freeze time and that, my friend, has consequences. Not to mention, from that point forward, things just continue to get weirder for Sam. He finds himself kidnapped

and shuffled off for the Atlas Crown. Here he is expected to learn about his magic and how to control his powers. Hopefully Sam can return to his normal life...sooner, rather than later. At least this is what Sam believes he wants.

Sam is a very real character. He faces doubts, temptations, mistakes, and eventually success. He does so in a very teenagerish way - impulsive, angry, and with the finesse of a...well, football player in a china shop - so to speak. He's not happy with what seems to be his destiny...he wants to return to his hometown, play some football and possibly go pro. He wants to flirt, date, and worry about everything else later. He finds magic difficult and doesn't really have the temperament to work through it patiently. This will be his ultimate downfall. What teenager doesn't get frustrated and temperamental from time-to-time.

Daniel's writing is creative in ways I can only dream about. He invents foods that I'm dying to taste, animals that shouldn't exist (but I love that they do), and characters who make you feel. Daniel did a guest post about a character, Glissandro Thicket, who could only speak by playing his horn. I loved Glissandro. Born without the ability to speak, he was lucky enough to be a part of the magical realm. He acquired a horn...which you can read about [HERE](#)...and through sorcery, the horn now speaks for him. He is a strong but shy character who you can't help but fall for. Even the girls have a hard time keeping their hands off him.

Now...for those of you looking for heaps of romance...this isn't one of those books. There is flirtation and hints of relationships to come. Some girls are vying for Sam's attention, others are not so impressed with his cavalier and sometimes downright hostile attitude. With all this said, I highly recommend picking up Masters of the Veil...especially if you are looking for something off the beaten path. I doubt you will be disappointed.

The only problem I had was interpreting the different terminology. This is a high-fantasy book with many author-created terms. Other than that...a perfect diversion from my everyday life.

Masters of the Veil is an action-packed and thrilling ride through a magical land. The twists and turns will hold your attention and keep you on the edge of your seat the entire time.

Other Masters of the Veil related posts:

~Guest Post: Glissandro Thicket

~Interview with Daniel Cohen

\*Thank you to Kate Kaynak, Daniel Cohen, and Spencer Hill Press for providing me with a free uncorrected ARC in exchange for my honest review. You guys are wonderful!

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## Aeicha says

**THREE WORDS:** Original & Great World-Building

**MY REVIEW:** Daniel Cohen's Masters of the Veil is an enjoyable YA Fantasy with captivating world-building and original fantasy elements.

Sam Lock as it all- looks, popularity, the envy of his classmates and an almost guaranteed career has a pro-football player. But at the big championship game Scott taps into some intense power and literally freezes his surroundings and costs his team the game. A mysterious beautiful woman, May, shows up and tells Scott that he has the ability to connect with the Veil (magic) and the potential to become a powerful sorcerer. May whisk Scott off to Atlas Crown, a magical community of sorcerers, where he must learn to control and harness his power. Scott trains with a mute boy who becomes his friend and a hot girl who won't give him

the time of day...but his biggest problem is a group of evil sorcerers who want all the Veil's power to themselves and plan on using Scott to get it.

On the surface Masters of the Veil has a rather well used premise- young character learns he/she has magical abilities, is whisked off to a school/community/camp to train and must go up against the villain-but Daniel Cohen has taken this premise and infused it with his own original and fantastic fantasy elements and well-developed world to create a story that is new and refreshing.

The book starts off a bit slow and it did take me a couple of chapters to really "get into" the story, but once I was in, I did enjoy it. The world-building is really wonderful. Cohen has created a magical world that is vivid, enchanting and whimsical, yet dark at the same time. From flowers that make music to trees that bend and move to bushes that change colors depending on the mood of the person passing by to all the wondrous magical abilities the characters possess, the world of Atlas Crown is as fun to explore and discover as Wonderland or Narnia.

The main character Scott is likable enough, but I did find it hard to connect with him. I suppose I just don't have a great deal in common with a football obsessed, slightly cocky, teenage boy. However, I do think his character grows a great deal throughout the book, which I liked a lot and by the end of the book I was definitely invested in Scott's journey. I really liked Glissandro, the mute boy who communicates with music; he's an intriguing character and I feel like there's a lot more to his backstory and I look forward to learning more about him. At this point I don't really like Daphne, Scott's crush and potential love interest. I found her arrogance and superiority complex quite annoying and I wasn't thrilled by her and Scott's chemistry...but I'm interested to see where this relationship goes.

The story itself contains a great deal of backstory and introduction; Cohen really seems to spend most of book one setting up the trilogy as a whole. This has both positive and negative effects on the story. On the positive side, I feel like all the backstory and history allowed me to be really immersed in the story and has me intrigued about where the story is going. But, on the negative side, this book lacks enough exciting action or captivating conflict. There is action and conflict toward the end of the book that involves the well developed villains...I just wish there had been more.

The ending is both sad and hopeful and will leave readers wanting more.

**MY FINAL THOUGHTS:** Masters of the Veil is a fun, fresh fantasy that delivers an intriguing story and fantastic world-building, and is a great first volume in what is sure to be an excellent trilogy.

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## Sharon says

More of my reviews @ [www.obsessionwithbooks.blogspot.com](http://www.obsessionwithbooks.blogspot.com)

**Masters of the Veil** is a book which synopsis captured me from the moment I first read it and I knew I just had to get hold of it. Thankfully it lived up to all of my expectations.

Mr. Cohen has weaved a fantasy story in a wonderfully detailed setting with characters that are so likeable that you can't help but be engrossed by the story he is telling.

All popular, good-looking Samuel 'Sam' Lock wants to do is play football, it has been his lifelong dream to go pro but during the championship game everything goes wrong – time freezes and his team lose the game at the last moment and if that isn't bad enough he realizes he is to blame as he has linked into the Veil, a

magical world he had no idea even existed.

Sam finds himself whisked off to Atlas Crown, a place he could only imagine in his dreams and it is here he finds out who and what he actually is – a sorcerer and a very powerful one at that. He will train with other sorcerers to harness his powers and learn to wield his magic.

Sam to me was a typical teen, at times he came across as cocky, arrogant and self-centered but at others there was vulnerability about him. I felt for him and how his world and dreams had virtually been turned upside down in a single moment – he had been taken to a place he wouldn't have thought existed or where he belonged but he adapted and trained with his sole purpose of hopefully returning home and having things return back to 'normal'. I liked him as a character and appreciated his handling of the unusual circumstances.

The world Mr. Cohen has created is fascinating and unique; I felt it took a while to get clear answers and an understanding of what was going on but it was a nice journey to get to the point where Sam's true purpose was outlined and understood. Each of the 'bad guys' were also fleshed out well with their sole purpose to take down Atlas Crown and use Sam to help do this.

**Masters of the Veil** is filled with adventure, intrigue, magic and mystery. Each of the characters were wonderful, I especially enjoyed mysterious Bariv, knowledgeable May, Master Rona and Glissandro Thicket who is mute and communicates through his horn.

There is a possible relationship in the works between Sam and Daphne but it is definitely not at the forefront of this story, we also have Cassiella vying for his attention.

Overall, the delightful world Mr. Cohen has created kept me riveted and wanting to know so much more. The writing was wonderful and each of the characters likeable, they are people I wanted to get to know more about and the setting was truly wonderful. If you are after a fun, adventure filled ride with action, magic and intrigue then **Masters of the Veil** will be for you.

**Masters of the Veil** is part of a trilogy; I'll definitely be picking up the next book in this series.

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## Liz says

3.75/5

Masters of the Veil was a great start to a new series. I loved the magical world the author had created, and was fascinated by the different branches of magic and how each person was suited to a different type. Definitely a page-turning read – I'm already excited for the sequel!

Sam Locke, our main character, was a pretty likeable guy. He was a bit arrogant and self-involved, and obsessed with football, but he was also absolutely hilarious and I loved reading about him (his conversations with Daphne were particularly amusing, especially when he crashed and burned trying to get her to like him). I sort of felt bad for him too, because before he found out about all the magic stuff, he was under huge amounts of pressure to perform well in this football game, which basically was going to decide his future. Anyone can understand how stressful moments like that can be – if you mess up one thing, that's it, your future is over. Competitive sports, music, academia - the system is so unfair! One mistake can ruin everything - and Sam had to go through the horrible pain of making that mistake. Of course, it was all due to magic. And Sam soon realised that maybe he was destined for greater things than football. Whisked away to

Atlas Crown, a place where other magic (or Veil) users like him resided, Sam learnt that he was one of the few people in the world with the power to use the Veil. It was definitely a lot to take in, and he didn't really believe it at first (I don't think I would have either). But eventually, he got used to the idea. Things were hard for him though, being a beginner and struggling to grasp just the basics. I could understand why he was frustrated, but I also do think he was a bit naive at some points in the book, believing things that were clearly a bit dodgy.

Glissandro was another character I really liked. He was Sam's first friend at Atlas Crown and I think he was definitely a good friend to Sam. He was mute, and communicated through magic by playing a horn. He seemed quite shy, but got along with Sam quite well, and the two had a great camaraderie. Glissandro was a mystical magic user and I think there was definitely a lot more to him than you'd first expect. Looking forward to seeing more of him in the sequel!

My favourite part of the book was probably learning about the different types of magic, and meeting the different magic users. There were three main types: natural, mystical and power. Mystical magic definitely intrigued me most – not a lot was known about it, and the ones who were gifted in it often spent time studying it and it was all very...well, mystical :P. Natural magic seemed the most common, and power magic was sort of regarded as the worst kind, because most power magic users turned to the dark side. People took advantage of magic by using the Veil – the sort of personification of magic that existed as being. My favourite Veil user was probably Bariv. He was this mysterious guy, with the outward appearance of a young boy, but in actuality he was hundreds of years old. He was Sam's mentor for a while, when he first arrived, and definitely got me curious. I liked reading about him and want to find out more, hopefully in the sequel! I also really liked May, the one who first found Sam, as well; she seemed so lovely and chatty and always willing to help anyone in trouble. Rona was definitely cool too – and old tribe king, he knew a lot about magic and what it could do, and his backstory was an interesting one. Thought there was a little info-dumping at parts, the story was interesting enough that I could overlook it.

Masters of the Veil had a great plot, and while there was a lot going on, it didn't get too confusing or difficult to understand. Some things I guessed (there were chapters told from another point of view that sort of gave hints as to what was going to happen), but I still really enjoyed the story. I felt that things were resolved a little too quickly and easily at the end, but it did set up the next book nice and I'm definitely intrigued about what will happen next. And as I've said before, this was a very, very funny book. I was reading it in the library, and it was hard to stay silent and stop myself from laughing.

Overall, Masters of the Veil was an excellent intro to the Masters of the Veil trilogy, and I enjoyed it a lot. I recommend it to fans of books about sorcerers and magic with fun characters.

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### **Kate Kaynak says**

This is a great start to the Veil Trilogy! A funny, imaginative, and delightful read! I'm delighted that we were able to get this manuscript for Spencer Hill Press. The main character, Sam, is like an American Harry Potter. Check it out--you won't be disappointed!

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### **Keshia Swaim says**

Another awesome fantasy read from Spencer Hill Press. Incredibly vivid, believable characters, and a well-constructed plot. For a full review, see [1bookaddict.blogspot.com](http://1bookaddict.blogspot.com)

## Savannah (Books With Bite) says

Magic. Imagine you coming into a power you never known. Coming into a whole new world, people, and culture. Fast-paced from the beginning, The Veil unravels magic from your fingertips!

What I enjoyed most about this book are the characters. Sam is unknowing coming in to power. I loved his reactions to unknown coincidences that are happening around him. Sam is smart and takes the news better than what I thought. Sam's voice is mature yet growing. I loved his interest in his new people and who he is to become.

What I also enjoyed is the great culture and dialogue in this book. It sort or reminded me of Avatar. You know, like stepping in a whole new world of rules, traditions and crazy ways of getting married. Still, all of these concepts kept the reader entertain and intrigued through out the whole book.

Masters of the Veil is filled with life and magic. This great sorcery tale of unknown magic is good for anyone who seeks a good thrill.

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## Kayleigh {K-Books} says

Masters of the Veil Review on K-Books

It's no surprise to anyone how much of an enormous fan of *Spencer Hill Press* books I am, so when this book was released I instantly downloaded it to my kindle without even reading the blurb. I adore the cover and... well it's from SHP I knew I was going to love it and I wasn't wrong. This is an incredible book. However, I was kind of expecting something different based on the cover. Before reading the book the cover gives off, to me at least, a science-fiction kind of feel. The stars just reminded me of the sky and space but *Masters of the Veil* is an incredible Fantasy book. So if you thought like I did it was going to be a sci-fi novel do not be deceived, it is an amazing original Fantasy novel and the cover makes a lot more sense after reading the book.

Sam is a jock, with the hopes and dreams of being a professional football player all he looks forward to is getting on the field and playing to the best of his ability. But when during the most important game of his high-school he mysteriously freezes the entire field, players, coaches and audience and all. Suddenly Sam is thrown into this world he never knew existed. A world of magic and sorcerers. But all Sam wants is his old life back. But when he is pulled into a power-play between the good and the evil will he be able to keep a clear mind and choose the right path or is his old life just too tempting?

I really enjoyed this book. It took me a while to read but this is nothing to do with the book as much to do with my crazy hectic life right now. I could have easily have sat and read this book in one sitting if I had time. Dan has an incredible talent of hooking the reader right from the start and I was completely sucked into this magical world and was left on the edge of my seat dying to know what was going to happen next. I don't actually read a lot of pure fantasy novels, I've read and enjoyed a couple but it's not my usual genre of book to go to but Dan's *Veil Trilogy* just may be the series to change my mind and make me a big fan of Fantasy novels. I really loved this story.

Sam is our main character and we see the story (for the most part) from his perspective. I haven't really read

a whole lot of books with the lead male being the lead character, they are usually told from the female's point of view so this book for me was really refreshing. I really loved seeing the story from his perspective. He is such a great character who is thrown into this crazy magical world that would be hard for anyone to accept exists. I really loved his reaction to it all... mainly because he had a reaction. A lot of YA fantasy/magic books have the characters finding out that something magical or supernatural exists and not having any reaction and just accepting it straight away and to me that is just not realistic. In this book Sam needs proof before he will start believing it and I loved that about him. I loved that he wouldn't just believe it and he makes mistakes but he learns from them. I just think he is such a realistic character that everyone can identify with and that to me is what makes this book such a strong and powerful story.

I really loved this book. I am dying to find out what is going to happen next. Though there is one little tiny thing that bothered me and that was the ending. I personally felt that it was kind of abrupt. I was expecting there to be more to read when I turned the page, but it was the end. I was kind of like 'Oh it's finished? really?' I don't know whether that was just me loving the book so much I was dying to read more but I felt like the ending was kind of abrupt.

Overall I loved this book and I can't wait to see what happens next. It is definitely one of my favourite Fantasy novels. Dan is such a powerful storyteller. I was left gasping at one point unable to believe what on earth was happening and the next I had tears in my eyes. This is one book that you do not want to miss out on, especially if you love Fantasy novels. This is such a fantastic start to a series and I cannot wait to get my hands on book 2, *Children of the Veil*, to follow Sam's story further and find out what happens next. *Masters of the Veil* is one book not to be missed.

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## Annabelle says

\*\*\*\*FINAL RATING: 4.35 STARS\*\*\*\*

### CATCHALL

So, this was an enjoyable book. A really, really enjoyable book. I loved it, even. However, I also have some issues with it. I do think it was a very good book, but it definitely wasn't perfect. I would definitely read it again if given the choice, despite the fact that not too many of the characters save for one appealed to me. (YET.) Another thing this book has going for it is that it will appeal to both boys and girls.

### THE HERO

#### SAM

I'm trying to think of someone I've wanted to punch as much as I wanted to punch Sam. He was, basically, a jerk and the living, breathing example of why I date dancers and not jocks. I am not a violent person but if I could've slapped him...well, I would've. He didn't even get less annoying until near the very end, which further ticked me off. I tried to understand his behavior to a point, but really there was no excuse for it. So I didn't like him. There. BUT! He really redeemed himself at the end and I think that I'll like him a lot more in the next books. He had real potential, and I honestly believe that I can learn to love him. (My first words to my boyfriend were, "Don't talk to me, jerk," so I obviously am not the best judge of character from first impressions.)

### THE LOVE INTERESTS

#### DAPHNE

I didn't care for Daphne too much either, honestly. She had this attitude like she was so much better than

Sam but he says like ten words to her and suddenly it doesn't matter. Ugh. This annoyed me to no end. I didn't hate her, because I think she does have an inner strength that is really admirable, but I really don't like at all the way she acted. Still, I think she could be a really awesome character later on, and I really can't blame some of her prejudices and opinions.

### CASSIELLA

I was...okay with her. I liked her at first because she seemed sweet and very innocent, but then she did something that majorly ticked me off and struck me as incredibly weak. Instead of relying on herself, she used something else to try and get what she wanted, which is never okay with me. If you're not strong enough to get something by yourself, you don't deserve it anyway. So, I started to resent her and my liking of her was dwindling by the end of the book. However, once I realized a certain fact, I started to like her again, after learning something major wasn't really her fault and out of her control. (Although I do love her name.)

### THE LOYAL AND MAGICAL FRIEND

#### GLISSANDRO

That is possibly the best header ever. Anyway, he was pretty much the only character I ever felt a real connection to. He was sweet but strong, and wasn't afraid to say what he felt. He had a good heart that is reflected in the fact that Sam actually treated him like grass as opposed to dirt. Plus, music is wonderful. He was the only character I really connected to and understood fully. But like I said, the other characters have a ton of bubbling potential and I think in the next book I will learn to love them all.

### THE PLOT

This was pretty impressive, actually.

It was exciting and full of anticipation.

It was concise enough to keep my attention yet had enough information that I felt entertained and not lost. Which, in my world, is always a good thing.

The world building is fantastic, if a little much at times. I have a clear picture of Atlas Crown in my head, and it's lovely, if I do say so myself!

Everything falls into place smoothly, if a bit too conveniently.

Also, there was both just the right amount of magic and too much at the same time. For example, I loved how people just couldn't go around flying any time they felt like it, but I was also annoyed by some irrelevant, unnecessary magic. \*cough\*thefood\*cough\*

Yet this didn't significantly detract from the story for me. It was awesome!

Still, the plot is fast-paced and enjoyable and I loved every bit of it.

### THE ROMANCE

I wasn't too big a fan of this. I thought Sam and Daphne moved way too fast. I mean, the woman goes from practically hating him to diving for his hand! It was definitely instalove, and instalove is never cool. Almost, it was kind of boring and there really wasn't a whole lot of chemistry going on. I also thought Cassiella's jealousy was way too extreme considering she barely knew Sam at all. Still, I've read about a lot of worse romances and I think that given time, Sam's relationships with both Daphne and Cassiella will bloom and even flourish.

### THE WRITING

This was the saving grace of the novel. Daniel's writing is beyond gorgeous and so descriptive and beautiful

the tit was impossible not to be pulled in. It's simple, but somehow still retains an absolute loveliness that really showcases the beauty of the world and everything about it. I admired it SO MUCH and really feel like it contributed so much to the book.

### **THE ENDING**

I honestly didn't care too much for this. I thought it was rather too convenient and far too clean and neat. I did appreciate one detail, however, that did make up for some things. It was painfully realistic and I appreciated that very much. It wasn't all roses and happiness, which was definitely nice to see and highly appreciated. It left a little bit of a cliffhanger but not really, and that was nice too.

### **WRAPUP**

Did I enjoy this book? Yes! Would I highly recommend it? Yes! It is one of my favorite books that I've read this year so far! I really think a lot of people would really fall in love with this book. Despite its problems, I loved it SO ridiculously much, and will probably reread it before the year is out to relive the magic (I am so clever). I will most definitely be reading the next book, and that should say something!

FINE.

Read more of my review on Sparkles and Lightning!

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