



The Accidental Siren

Jake Vander-Ark

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Mara Lynn is the most beautiful girl in the world. James Parker is the ordinary boy who discovers her power.

James had his summer all planned out. He would enjoy the carefree days in the woods behind his castle home, avoid the maniacal Danny Bompensaro, and shoot an epic movie with his best friend Whit. But when he rescues a mysterious girl chained inside a normal suburban home, his summer collapses into a beautiful nightmare he'll never forget.

Told from the perspective of a man recalling his youth, *The Accidental Siren* is a twisted fairytale about young love, growing up in the 90s, and the frightening potential of infinite beauty.

The Accidental Siren Details

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Author : Jake Vander-Ark

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From Reader Review The Accidental Siren for online ebook

Lee Thompson says

A great coming-of-age story that is amusing in some sections and serious as all hell in others. It strikes a nice balance and the climax is vivid. There are also a lot of nice little surprises along the way. Looking forward to more from Jake Vander Ark.

Anna says

This was absolutely creative and intriguing. When you think one thing is going to happen, something else does. The fun of reading is not knowing what is going to happen. It's unpredictable and original. I could read this story over and over again no matter what.

You can really connect to the characters in the story. It made me feel all kinds of things. I would recommend this to anyone no matter what kind of books they read because honestly.. It's hard not to love this story! Reading this was possibly the best choice I ever made.

TheJadedTeen says

Wow.

There are honestly no words to describe the genius that is "The Accidental Siren." It's one of the best, most original books I've read in so long, with a hooking premise, memorable characters, and the perfect ending that you won't see coming from a mile off...and yet when you stop to think about it, you'll realise it couldn't have rounded off any other way. Jake Vander Ark manages to recreate the summer of '94 so well with his enchanting prose that you'll actually feel as though you're there in the moment with the main character, twelve-year-old James Parker.

This book is a must-have for anyone, regardless of what genres you usually read. There's something for everyone here - from humour to suspense to romance in the form of young love. It's mind-blowing and haunting, and it'll leave you wondering about the true nature of certain characters long after you turn the last page.

Mairéad (is roaming the Undying Lands) says

HOLY. CRAP.

That was just.....just.....JUST WHAT THE HELL DID I JUST READ?????????

HOLY HELLISKI THAT WAS MIND-BLOWING.

I was like, "It's an okay book" but when it hit a certain part in it, I was like...a Zomb Ferret too lol. I just needed to know what happened. And it was DEEPLY rewarding. Like holy cow. What a climax of an

ending. It was certainly edgy and something remarkable to read. I'm honored to have stumbled upon Jake Vander Ark's work. And I'll certainly be picking up a paper copy once I stumble upon it. I want to read the prologue and epilogue -- yes I read this on wattpad, mainly because I was curious and deeply amused how every review was like 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5, etc etc.

And where to start?

The characters were quite something. Each alive and a faithful reminder that kids can get like that. It was crazy. And it was played rather honestly. For those of you who read it will probably be going, "ARE YOU INSANE?" but I am right. I've seen such cruel sick actions depicted in this story. Oh it was just endearing. Vander Ark has a talent of allowing readers into loving a character SO much then twisting your heart to hate the living guts of the said character lol.

And the plot, while at first it was a bit hard to get into at first for me. It's probably because I've been doing NOTHING but essays as of late, so that's probably screwing with my feelings for this story. But honestly it was so honest. Well it played honest. Everything depicted in the story certainly felt real, like a mind-trip back to my own childhood when I was that age. It was crazy. It was hormones GALORE. It had sickening INSANITY. Most of all it was something that made you think about and reflect.

And good god the climax just left me breathless. Speechless even, as you saw at the beginning of this review. I was just stunned as the story transformed me along with its twists and turns. It was just amazing. I honestly thought I knew how something was going to happen and yet it turns completely upside-down.

ARGH YOU VANDER ARK AND YOUR AMAZING PLOT UNSEEABLE TWISTS.

But in all it was certainly a blast. I'm quite glad I read it. And I see hope in the writing world once more. It was new, dark, vibrant, edgy, stunning piece of work. I truthfully don't know how to describe or express it anymore but WOW.

Keep on writing Jake Vander Ark!

I look forward to reading the others you have on wattpad and adding them to my ever-growing book collection in the flesh....or rather in the paper. o3o

Thank you for an exciting new read! <3

Just.....WOW.

Dayla says

Article first published as Book Review: *The Accidental Siren* by Jake Vander Ark on Blogcritics.

Review also posted on my blog: Book Addict 24-7

I received a free copy of *The Accidental Siren* for review purposes.

The Accidental Siren by Jake Vander Ark is a young adult debut set in Lake Michigan that follows twelve year-old James during the summer of 1994. This particular summer is unforgettable for young James since it is the year he experiences his first love. Beautiful and surreal, twelve year-old Mara is the object of every

boy's dream, yet her attraction goes beyond reality and touches on the supernatural.

Vander Ark successfully recreates 1994 for the reader by using references to popular artists, films, and trends of the time. He openly warns the reader of the prejudices that were still active in the early nineties; racial discrimination being an important subject in this novel. *The Accidental Siren* also explores the difficulties of growing up. James, a prepubescent boy when we meet him, struggles with his weight, hormones, and changing body as the summer progresses.

James, as a protagonist, is unreliable. As the frightening conclusion approaches, he does nothing to show us that he is affected by what he's learned about Mara. At times, as is pointed out within the story, the reader is left wondering if James is in fact relaying the truth, or if everything we've learned from him is all an illusion caused by obsession.

There are moments where Vander Ark's characters appear unrealistic. However, an older version of James reflects on particular events in certain chapters, reminding the reader that this is an adult's retelling of a childhood memory.

Written in beautiful prose, Vander Ark's tale warns of the perils of obsession. The setting is described using flawless metaphors that paint James's world in the reader's mind. The plot becomes more haunting with every chapter, effectively dragging the reader deeper into the story with every twist and turn.

Jake Vander Ark's debut is a wonderful book to read not just because of how original it is, but because the writing in itself is something magical that the reader can't detach him/herself away from.

Amy Dargis says

Let me be the first to say (or I don't know if I'm the first, I actually didn't read any of the other reviews from this site), that I didn't expect to love this book as much as I do. There's a certain characteristic that the good authors have, and though I haven't figured out their secret power yet, it's rare. It lets the readers get sucked into the story, and it does not ease up until you have finished completely, and after you've told the author and your family and friends and anyone who will listen to you about these characters who are suddenly so real, you don't know what to do.

This book has been so fantastic, and I'll surely be buying it soon enough.

Catherine says

BRILLIANT

I'm not much for reviews (as you'll find this one is disappointingly short) but this is such a wonderful book and deserves the highest form of praise. I mean wow. I'm so glad I stumbled upon this novel. It's fantastically written, has an excellent plot, and is a real page-turner (I literally didn't put it down for like 50gazillion hours, lol). After reading this book I just had to sit down and think and breathe and take it all in because my mind was blown (patiently waiting on the sequel *wink* *wink* Jake). One statement of advice before reading (and you should read it. you won't regret it, I promise.): expect the unexpected.

(Oh and congratulations Jake, I first read this book on wattpad and I had to buy it. I wish you all the success

in the world! This is truly a fantastic story and I'll be looking out for the rest of your work in the future. I'm positive you won't disappoint ;) Best of luck my friend, you truly deserve it.)

Faisal says

I won this novel from the Goodreads giveaway and thank you for that.

The Accidental Siren Jake Vander-Ark

It is a great read. It reminds me of watching *The Goonies* or *Stand by Me* or perhaps *Stranger Things*. I enjoyed it mostly because it interests me and reminds me about growing up in many instances. However, a few things at the end threw me off. It is a good teenage love story.

Phaedra Seabolt says

We all have either met girls or heard of girls that are so gorgeous that every girl wants to be just like her and every boy wants to own her. I am very serious about the word "own". She is the epitome of sweetness and beauty that you can't help but want to keep all to yourself. I have actually known two girls like this. As kids they always looked like they were ten years older than they were. They weren't developed like a woman, but it was like a woman was trapped in this angelic body. The Accidental Siren is about a girl just like this. Every boy that sees her is instantly in love and it is rather obvious that adult males feel her allure as well. All the young girls want to be her best friend. Girls tend to have a little more resistance to her power, but even the strong fall.

Mara had lived a rough twelve years. James meets her when he tries to purchase a video camera from her "aunt" whom you will learn has a very interesting past. Upon their first meeting, James discovers boys watching her from nearby trees and videotaping as well. The reason for their leering? Mara has a voice that entrances everyone, young and old, when she sings. Hearing her songs once will leave you craving more like a cocaine addict. James finds this very interesting, but is even more shocked when Mara sends a note flying from her bedroom window to him asking to meet later in secret. He literally gets in a fist fight over the note from one of the stalkers. This is just the beginning of things to come during one of the craziest summers of James's life.

I must say that this was a very strange story, but I couldn't put it down. I, like the characters in the book, was entranced with Mara's seemingly supernatural abilities. I kept reading out of a kind of morbid curiosity of what would happen next and how Mara may have caused it. I felt a sort of jealousy over this girl because I always wanted to be like her. Of course when you get to the ending, you will understand why I am actually happy not to have been like Mara.

Read more reviews at [Identity Discovery Blog](#).

Theresa says

The best books are the ones you can't stop reading. You just have to know what is going to happen next. The Accidental Siren is all of that. Vander Ark has created a story that you can't stop reading with characters that

you love and hate. James, the leading character, is adorable and you just want to hug him. Mara is alluring and psychotic all at the same time. I love complex characters and all of these were point on in their multi-layered personalities.

I have to admit I was reluctant to read this story. I don't enjoy pubescent love stories. They don't call to me even though I do enjoy a good adolescent sci-fi or fantasy story. I guess the throw back to romance in those awkward days are just too much for my damaged teenage psyche. This story is different in that you can relate to difficulties of the young people in a way that reminds you it wasn't just you that had troubles in your teens.

Vander Ark is a talented writer with a wonderful gift for crafting with the written word. I am excited that he has chosen to write as a means for his passion. I look forward to reading his other books and finding more great gems from this young man.

Jennifer Zuna says

I was astonished by this book! (Cool word huh? lol) I was asked to review this book by the author and in exchange I received an Ebook copy and a paperback copy. This book will stay at the top of my pile of books I love for a very long time. The Accidental Siren is a great coming of age story that has so many great characters and plot twists that your breath will be stolen. James's life is turned upside down in the summer of '94 by Mara, a sweet but troubled girl who is so much as he discovers. I was a tomboy when I was the main characters age and I could relate so much to the summer of fun in this book. My favorite character in the whole story is James's best friend Whit, I had an uncle that was paraplegic due to spina bifida. Reading about Whit brought back so many good memories. His outlook and love of life affected everyone he came in contact with. Whit is a very cool kid and he's how I imagine my uncle was at that age. Love, lust, obsession and teenage insecurity combine in this story that crescendos in a conclusion that...well...no spoilers sorry lol. This is a **MUST READ** for everyone. I can't imagine a single person that wouldn't find something to relate to and laugh about in The Accidental Siren.

Richard says

Jake Vander Ark is one of the only self-published authors that I've read that I believe truly deserves to see a wide release. I've read his books and for the life of me, I can't see why he's not signed to a major publisher. Don't be fooled by this book's YA-ish ebook cover. It has definitely attracted readers, but to me this book is darker than any young adult fiction I've ever come across.

The story takes place during the eventful summer of 1994 in western Michigan as young James Parker just wants to make an awesome movie with his buddies. Everything changes when they meet Mara, the most beautiful girl in the world, who not only changes the course of their summer, but changes their lives forever. The book begins as your usual coming-of-age tale, but as each chapter rolls along, and the atmosphere builds, you slowly begin to realize that you are reading something much more twisted and extraordinary than you originally expected.

Vander Ark's prose is a huge part of why the book works so well. It's gorgeous and really carries you through this ultimately haunting story of obsession and growing-up the way a great book can. When he details the awesome scene where James and the other neighborhood boys are listening silently in the trees one night as the mysterious girl finishes her hypnotic singing lessons at home, he writes **THIS** magnificent line:

“The night seemed suddenly defiled by the absence of music, as if the silence itself was injecting a sickness that only another song could cure.”

The book ultimately feels like something that Stephen King would be proud to write these days. You can find the ebook for free and if this review doesn't convince you to read the novel, then check out the plethora of 5-star reviews on its page. I can't wait to read more by this author! Check out his other novels as well: The Brandywine Prophet and Lighthouse Nights.

Melissa says

I gave this book a 5 star rating, and here is why...

You know the part in Aladdin where the Genie says,

"PHEEEEEEEEE - NOMEEEEEEE - NALLLLLLL COOOOOOOSMIC POWWWWWWAHS!" ??

Well that's the only explanation that I could come up with as to how this book was that friggin good. lol He either laced the watering hole with the ceremonial kool-aid, or he was blessed by the gods with a ridiculously amazing talent for writing. I'm thinking both. haha (I don't give out a five star rating lightly so it must have been hoodoo. lol)

I won't lie though, I was beyond hesitant to pick up this book. I dislike stories about pubescent young love. They do nothing for me because I have a hard time relating to the characters and everything seems rather perverse because it's an adult story that comes from the mouths of babes. I have a total disconnect and I just move on. However, a friend of mine read and reviewed the book and was falling all over her blog about it. And while I still had reservations, I scurried over and stalked out the author and decided it would be unfair of me, not to give it a shot. Now I can say that without a doubt, it was the best move I have made so far.

Right from the very first page I was intrigued. My fingers had a mind of their own and kept thumbing through the pages to absorb more. It felt as if I honestly couldn't get enough. Not only was I reading this twisted epic re telling of adolescence, but I was IN it. I wasn't in it in the traditional sense, but my whole reality was transformed into this world and I felt like part of it. It's an amazing feat for a writer to accomplish that level of intensity and he pulled it off. I applaud Jake Vander Ark for his abilities and his passion.

As I continued on with the book, I thought to myself, "What is it about Mara that makes her so desirable? Why is this girl so significant?". The only answer I could come up with, was that it felt like he was using Mara as a symbol of obsession to convey to the masses that there is always that one person/love that is our Achilles heel. The one we sacrifice everyone and everything for and we are too blinded with tunnel vision to realize how badly it's affecting the world around us.

I'm curious to know if when he was writing Mara, if he actually had a 12 yr old girl in mind. She was adolescent in the sense that she had whimsical female traits that are indicative to a young girl, but her mind was this cavernous hole of darkness and deceit. There were no bounds to her manipulation. Talk about chilling! She may have only been 12, but the experiences she had up to that point in her life were abusive and sick and when you experience things like that, you are forced to mature mentally. Your frontal lobe is drenched in steroids and your innocence is left struggling and weak. This turns you into a potentially lethal individual, and although Mara was sweet and adorable and fun, she was indeed what Vander Ark painted her as; a siren. At least that's my humble opinion anyway.

If Mara had a mantra, I believe this would be it. lol

"Bound in darkness you will hear my cry,
and long you shall till the day you die."

Those poor people didn't stand a chance!

The rest of the cast did amazing things for me. He nailed the bullies and the crazies. The jocks were typical. Whit, the best friend, was great! James - our leading man - was adorable and I just wanted to hug him. I could gush for hours about Livy, and Age, and the twins. but then it wouldn't be fun for you to discover them for yourself, so I digress. Vander Ark painted everyone so beautifully, that it felt like more than just his imagination. Almost as if they were actual memories and not fiction. I think the reason it felt so authentic and real, is because there was no holding back. A lot of people try to be politically correct in their writing so as not to offend anyone, but not him. He pulled out all the stops and it was as believable as an autobiography.

The scenes in the book were laid out perfectly too. I could see, hear, smell, and taste everything. I felt like I was in the middle of a movie. Literally. At one point, I was on set, in the middle of the creepiest action scene ever. I actually shivered and attempted to close my eyes because I didn't want to witness what I knew was coming. It was righteous! I like to think that I partook in the greatest movie never made. lol Think Carrie meets Final Destination meets The Pied Piper, and you have Mara wrapped in a beautifully horrific bow. Creepy, right?

I fell in love with this book because it achieved every goal that we as readers have for our beloved authors. I laughed, I cried, I contemplated, I cringed, and I questioned. Most importantly, I felt. I was an emotional roller coaster till the very end. No matter what page I was on, or what scene I was in, I felt everything. The lust and betrayal alone are enough to satiate your palate, but there is just so much more to experience. You can't read this book and tell me that you didn't feel something when you read it. It's highly improbable that anyone could.

Vada says

I feel like it's been a while since I've read a book that really sucked me into the story and made me feel something. This book did just that, though, and I already know I'll have trouble putting my thoughts about it into words.

It was beautifully written, with a creepy vibe that builds upon itself in a subtle way. I love how everything sort of ends ambiguously - some reasons are never explained, and I think that they work pretty well when left to the imagination.

I'll probably end up picking this one up in physical format, because I really want to support this author and I'm looking forward to reading the other books they've already written.

Alli says

Absolutely incredible. From the very first page it's deeply engaging, exciting, fun, mystical and whimsical. It's contemplative and introspective (even long after it's done.) The book is deftly eerie and beautifully twisted; there is a perfect mesh of serenity and hysteria. Every detail of every character has a purpose, every theme and motif is so effortlessly intertwined in the rope that is this book-- every fiber of that rope is one whole piece that can be traced back; not one string is cut or frayed.

In other words, this book is brilliant and it took my breath away. If you don't read it, you're really missing out on something great.

Jake Vander Ark
