

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of A Dark Inheritance by Chris D'Lacey Part of The Unicorn Files series

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Rachel Ilsley, age 11

It starts when Michael, a normal school boy, saves Trace, Mr and Mrs Nolan's Husky, from jumping off a cliff, from then on people notice him more. UNICORNE, a very strange organisation, he is not allowed to talk about, also notice him and encourage him to become one of them, like his father, they give him his first mission and from then on his life changes.

Michael seems to be a very ordinary schoolboy, although he doesn't know it at the start of this book, he has a secret power which he has inherited from his father. His father disappeared when he was younger and has never been seen again.

Freya is the school Goth, when Michael is given the mission of finding out about Trace, he also finds out about Freya. Freya is my favourite character, she pretends to be mean but really she is kind and caring.

I really liked this book, I thought it was very exciting and it was an enjoyable to read. I would advise other people to read it and I hope there is another book coming out soon!

James Lawrence Griffith, age 11

This enticing modern day story would suit all adventure lovers. I loved it and found it similar to the James Bond books.



'A Dark Inheritance' is a gripping adventure story set in the modern day. It features: Michael, a teen; his sister Josie; his ghoulish girlfriend, Freya; his dad who is missing and Chantelle, Michael's au pair.

Flooding in Holton causes Michael's mum to take the coast road. Suddenly a vast husky, which immediately prior was bounding along the cliffs, gets on its suicidal haunches and prepares to jump off the cliff! Michael senses the dog's distress and in a couple of seconds he is at the cliff top and on the husky. When the Holton news goes out, the Police strangely describe the event as if Michael had teleported 100 metres.

The following day a French accented girl arrives on a scooter and takes Michael to the cliffs. Michael lies to his friends that she is his au pair. Once on the cliff top he is introduced to a strange man from an organisation called UNICORNE who tells him he knows his dad and gives him an assignment to find out about the husky. The man also tells Michael to be careful what you wish for. Why is the husky important? Who is the UNICORNE organisation and will it help him find his dad? And why does the strange man tell Michael to be careful what you wish for?

Chris D'Lacey's book is one of my favourites as he uses suspense and describes the setting so well you feel that are part of the book! In addition I love adventure genre!

Liam, age 12

'A Dark Inheritance' was very thrilling, captivating and a bit surreal. However, it was a bit confusing at times. Overall it is good to persevere because all of your questions will be answered.

At first glance, this book seemed interesting and as I read it the book reminded me of 'Alex Rider' because they have pretty similar things happen to Alex Rider and Michael Malone. But as I got deeper into the book I realised this was taking it a step further and going into lots more detail. I struggled to put this book down as I was slowly pulled into the world of Michael Malone and all the excitement and terror surrounding it. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone over the age of eleven maybe not any lower though because it gets a bit scary. Maybe not a night time read! I am definitely going to try to read the second book.

Ross Dawson, age 11

A complex story involving altered realities, which the main character can't quite explain himself. I started out confused, quickly became intrigued and now I can't wait for the next instalment!

Michael began the story as an ordinary boy, who was quite cautious about finding out new information. As I began the book, I also felt unsure that it was of interest to me. This soon changed however; as Michael was drawn into Unicorne and he began to meet a range of interesting strangers and learn from them. The more Michael became involved, the keener I became to read on and find out what was happening. The end result? I lost a day of my Easter holidays tangled in the story, but it was worth every minute. Now I just need to get my hands on 'Alexander's Army'!

Keeley Carr, age 11

This is such a thrilling, imaginative book! If you love: danger, thrilling, crime stories this book is the best book to read. Chris D'Lacey has done a very good job creating this collection of books!

The UNICORNE Files is the first of a mysterious, adventure series. If you read the first, I would recommend reading all of the books. These books are perfect for boys and girls aged 11+!

Michael Malone is in for a shock when he saves a dog from the cliff. Amadeus Klimt is a friend of Michael's dad, who disappeared three years ago, who is prepared to exchange information for a supernatural power hidden deep within Michael's bones... but what does he want to reach?

Elenie Williams, age 12

The Unicorne files: A Dark Inheritance is a great book that you will almost certainly enjoy if you like the young bond series by Charlie Higson.

The Unicorne files: A dark Inheritance is a gripping story that keeps you glued to the book until the very end. It is about a boy named Michael who is an ordinary boy until he saves a husky from jumping off the top of Berry Head. He is then recruited by a mysterious agency called Unicorne with which he investigates the dog's owners and past; nothing is how Michael first thought it

would be. At first when I got this book I just thought it would be like any other Alex Rider, Agent 21 or Young Bond book and I was sort of right! However good it may have been I still felt like it was the same as a lot of other books I've read. Same sort of plot line, same sort of main male character and same ending. In contrary to that it was a very good book and I found it fast paced and awesome!!! Probably my favourite character was Josie, Michael's younger sister, because she is very clever and her brother maybe underestimates her a bit. All in all it was a great book and I am very glad that I took the time to read it!

Lucy Minton, age 11

A thrilling tale of mystery, murder and a little bit of love.

The Unicorn Files: A Dark inheritance is a completed work of genius. Chris D'Lacey has created a thrilling web of mystery, murder and a little bit of love. It was one of the best books I have read recently. The hero of this story, Michael, isn't a genius. He's not strong or brave. He seems actually a bit of a dull person until you look a bit closer. He has a power within him that his late father also wielded. So his is told to do something for one group of people who might be able to help him - Unicorn. What choice does he have? And so the plot thickens.

I genuinely felt a pang of disappointment when I finished this book as I didn't want it to end. It is well written and interesting. I have never read any Chris D'Lacey books before but I think this was a good one to start with. It was intriguing and an enjoyable read with familiar situations and places, but some unfamiliar ones too. I loved the book and can't wait to read the next one. This was an excellent book.

Benjy Randall, age 11

A fast pace, high action book, that keeps you gripped from start to finish.

The Dark Inheritance is a brilliant book by Chris D'lacey. It is about a boy called Michael who is trying to find out where his Dad disappeared to. When he saves a dog in a cliff top rescue a secret organisation say that they know where his Father is, but will only tell him if he co-operates. Once given the tattoo that proves his entry into Unicorn, Michael starts his first mission; find out what caused the death of a girl called Rafferty Nolan. And what connection there is from Rafferty

to one of his friends: Freya. Who can Michael trust, and who can he not?

Charlotte Rosevear

I found this book disturbing but intriguing.

When Thomas saves a dog, that is trying to jump off a cliff in a blink of an eye, everyone gets suspicious, but curiosity gets the better of them. Thomas is bombarded almost twenty-four-seven with paparazzi. But then someone-or something comes to his rescue. Unicorne is a corporation that Thomas's father worked for (he disappeared on a plane to New Mexico). This was interesting for Thomas as he never really knew his dad. Then a new girl at his school falls over and clutches at her head and a bruise comes up, Thomas decides to investigate. But that only brings him trouble...

Sam Harper, age 11

Thrilling and well written but also very sad in places and a little too confusing for me at the end.

When Michael risks his life to save a dog from jumping off a cliff his world is turned upside down. He is spotted by UNICORNE, a secret organization who investigate paranormal events, and they want Michael to work for them. He doesn't have much of a choice in this but it might help him to find out something about his dad who has disappeared. Michael has very special abilities, he can travel in time and create alternative realities, but he can't really control his powers yet. UNICORNE can help him but in return they want him to investigate paranormal cases for them. His first challenge is to find out why the dog was going to jump and to collect information on Freya, a slightly weird Goth with a heart transplant, who is somehow connected to the dog's owner. Will Michael be able to make sense of these strange events and will he live to tell the tale?

I found A Dark Inheritance thrilling yet confusing, well written but also very sad in places. The ending made me doubt much of what I thought was true in the story and left me with too many unknowns. I could no longer rely on what I felt I knew. I think that I would have enjoyed it far more if it had been less confusing and sad. I'm still looking forward to reading the sequel to tie up all of the loose ends but I would have preferred a few less questions at the end of book 1, a better balance between too many questions and no reason to read the sequel at all. Overall it was thrilling and emotional but a little too confusing at the end.

Amie, age 11

This book is a real thriller, gripping and clever but is a bit scary at times.

The main character is a boy called Michael whose Dad goes missing. Michael saves a dog which brings him lots of attention including from a supernatural organization called Unicorne. Unicorne offer to help Michael find his Dad provided he helps them in return but doing so will be both dangerous and nerve wracking for Michael.

This isn't the type of book I would normally read but I'm pleased I gave it a go and would thoroughly recommend it. I couldn't wait to finish it and was very relieved to find out that it is the first in a series so there is more to come. I'm really looking forward to reading what happens next!

Lawrence Griffith, age 11

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Callum Broomfield

It's a must read for everyone who likes the paranormal adventure type stories.

What will happen to Michael when he comes in contact with UNICORNE a strange organization who claim to know his missing father. Will he take their help? And what's so "Super-natural" about him. All these questions are answered in this thrilling story. Rating: 4.5/5