



Book of Names

John Peel

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Three teenagers from very different worlds--Score, a streetwise New Yorker; Renald, who prepares for a medieval battle; and Pixel, who is confined to the one-room world of Virtual Reality--are kidnapped and plunged into a perilous odyssey as they seek to unlock the secrets of the Diadem. Original."

Book of Names Details

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Author : John Peel

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From Reader Review Book of Names for online ebook

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

I found this book to be clever. My brother brought it home one day a long time ago, and out of curiosity after reading the description on the back of the book, I decided to pick it up and read it. I was not disappointed. I found the whole idea to be intriguing, and the story itself to be written well for its intended audience. I liked how the three worlds that Score, Renald, and Pixel were so varied, almost like alternate realities of one another.

I will admit that I have not read the rest of the series since I didn't get the opportunity to, but the first book definitely left an impression on me, and curious for more. Perhaps one day I will get the rest of the series to read, once I get through my already sizable to-read pile!

Leeanna says

Diadem #1: Book of Names, by John Peel

"Book of Names" introduces readers to the three heroes of Peel's Diadem series: Score, Helaine, and Pixel. Score's from Earth, a street kid raised in New York. Helaine masquerades as Renald, a warrior boy from the medieval Ordin. Pixel's from futuristic Calomir, where people live in Virtual Reality and don't have real lives.

Each of these three kids is unique on their own worlds in that they are magic users, only they don't know it. They join forces on the world of Treen, after escaping dangerous situations on their home worlds. The three form an uneasy partnership as they try to navigate learning magic.

Peel creates a unique universe where the planets are in rings, and the closer a planet is to the inner ring, the stronger the magic on the planet is. He mixes puzzles into the text, as a form of mysterious help for the trio, which would be great for kids reading with their parents.

I first discovered the Diadem series back when it was first published in 1997, and enjoyed them very much. Now rereading them in my 20s, I see a few niggling problems, but for the most part I enjoyed them just as much as I did when I was younger. I think these are the perfect books for parents who want to get their kids into reading, due to the puzzles and language tricks that are part of the magic.

4/5.

Trista says

I loved this series when I was younger and it still holds a special place in my heart. I had so much fun trying to figure out the clues in the pages the kids kept discovering and, with my versions I had, if I put the books in a line, the covers made one long picture. I thought that was very creative.

Hazel Acevedo says

So i remember reading this book when i was in about fifth grade, what i truly loved was that this was one of those books that i just couldn't get enough of, i read the entire series in the borders book store with my legs crossed because it was just so entertaining for a huge imagination like my own. One thing i truly loved about this author was that as these characters grew in friendship and support you tend to grow with them. I love the intelligence in the personalities, how each intelligence is unique and brought out to the best of their abilities. I felt like this series was remarkable and even as i search through the amazon store i scream to the top of my lungs WHY ISN'T THIS AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK????? because i would definitely buy the entire collection. These are keepsake books that free your mind from stress whether your a child or an adult and build your mind to different segments, I truly enjoyed these and I pray someone makes them eBooks soon so i can enjoy them for the umpteenth time. Definitely recommend for both kids and adults. Score, Pixel, and Helaine took me through my world and theirs and prepared me for reality before i got there. I really hope you give these books a shot. You will be amazed.

Stephanie (Bookfever) says

Book of Names wasn't a totally bad book to me. There were some parts that I did like but overall it was just okay and nothing more.

Most of the time I was weirdest out by the story. Some really strange things happen in it, like a killer whale jumping out of a river and changing into a man. That was just a little too weird for me. I didn't think the writing was all that good, either. This book is obviously more for younger readers but usually I can find books like this entertaining. So it's too bad that it wasn't the case with this one.

As I said before, some part I did like. One of those parts were the three main characters: Score, Renald and Pixel. They were a great set of characters, with each their own story and world they lived in. Personally, I liked Pixel's story the most because he came from a virtual reality world. Pretty cool. I also liked the fact that Renald kept her identity as a girl hidden for everyone for a little while. She was definitely a feisty character!

If it wasn't for the writing style that was only so-so and the mediocre dialogue, I think I would've liked this book a lot more. Also, the villain wasn't as hateful as I like my bad guys to be. He, also was so-so.

There is talk about a more mysterious villain, but although there was some talk about him, he didn't make a real appearance. I'm guessing that will be for the next book, with how the story ended.

All in all, Book of Names was tolerable. I didn't completely hate it but I obviously didn't love it either. It definitely had some promise but to me it wasn't enough.

Christina says

i loved it i wish i had the others to continue my journey through diadem and recommend it to all readers.

Jerry says

Fairly good for what it is, though I doubt I'll be reading the rest of the series.

Amanda says

I absolutely loved this series when I was a kid, so when I recently rediscovered this book at a thrift store I had to read it again.

As an adult, the book isn't exactly the best story ever. But a child reading this would LOVE it (I did)! It has mythical creatures and magicians, it has pages and pages of secret codes and drawings to decipher, it's packed full of action and much more. It's the kind of magical fast-paced story kids will love.

My only big issue with it is the length, it is VERY short and very little is revealed. It's clear in this first book that this series is one giant mystery surrounded by many little mysteries, and while discovering new truths and unraveling the codes is part of the fun, it would have been nice if more was shared. However, I do realize this book is meant for 8-year-olds, so I can't really complain about the length.

If you have young kids looking for a quick magical and mysterious read, I definitely recommend the Diadem series. You may even like it yourself. Finding the books new is nearly impossible, but there are many used shops online that sell them, and for cheap, which is aweesome.

Kimberly Souza says

A friend suggested that I read this series and after the first book I am excited to see where the series goes. Fun characters and interesting worlds are just some of the things you will find in this book. The series is intended for young readers, but fans of fantasy and adventure will like this read.

Wolf (Alpha) says

I loved this book. I feel bad for Helaine, since her father expects her to be a whiny little girl. I like how she runs, and how she comes to be at the Diadem. I like how Score is smart and uses his wits to stay alive. I am glad that he was saved from the angry guy and the gang. I like how Pixel finally discovered his life of ease. I like how they all team up, even though they hate each other in the beginning. I like how they are able to defeat Anarack.

lulzcannon says

As a kid, this is the book that caused me to fall in love with reading forevermore.

Jessie says

It was an okay book. Pixel confused me. Score was decent and Helaine was horrible. With a mediocre cast I struggled to properly digest this. Not much happens. Fast to read. Deceptive cover. I doubt any of them are that age. They are middle grade age!

E.J. Catter says

I *adored* this series when I was in middle school, so much so that I bought the whole set as an adult. However, if memory serves, I think the series was never completed, so the last book ends on a terrible cliffhanger. Aside from that, though, I loved it. Of course, now that I'm older, it's not quite as special as it was when I was younger, but I'm no longer in the target demographic, so that's okay. My future children will definitely be reading these.

Jamie says

I loved the puzzles in this story! Watching Score, Renald and Pixel solve them. It was interesting seeing 3 people from very different worlds interact with each other. Took them awhile but they came around. Pixel seemed to be the middle binding between Score and Renald. I wish I could have visualized the tower better. Scenes are not well described but the action is fast paced. I think they grasped concepts too quickly as well but still I really enjoyed this.

Alyssa says

I really wanted to like this series, re-reading them as an adult. There are a lot of proofreading errors and inconsistencies. It's unnecessary for Score to constantly be sexist about a woman in their group. I love the concept of the Pages, wish they played a larger role in the mystery and the group worked more to figure out all the pieces instead of just ~1 thing per page and then putting all the text together at the end.
