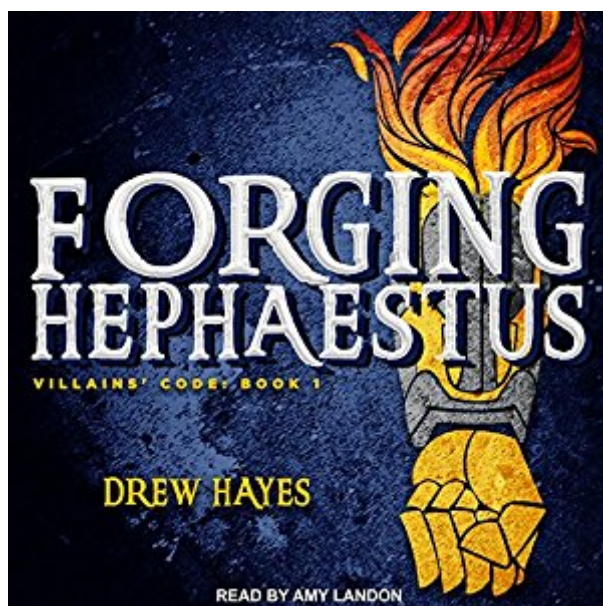


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# Forging Hephaestus: Villains' Code Series, Book 1



## Synopsis

Gifted with meta-human powers in a world full of capes and villains, Tori Rivas kept away from the limelight, preferring to work as a thief in the shadows. But when she's captured trying to rob a vault that belongs to a secret guild of villains, she's offered a hard choice: prove she has what it takes to join them or be eliminated. Apprenticed to one of the world's most powerful (and supposedly dead) villains, she is thrust into a strange world where the lines that divide superheroes and criminals are more complex than they seem. The education of a villain is not an easy one, and Tori will have to learn quickly if she wants to survive. On top of the peril she faces from her own teacher, there are also the capes and fellow apprentices to worry about, to say nothing of having to keep up a civilian cover. Most dangerous of all, though, are those who loathe the guild's very existence. Old grudges mean some are willing to go to any length to see the guild turned to ash, along with each one of its members. Even the lowly apprentices.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Holy Fffff...Okay, if you're thinking about it and just quickly browsing, buy this book. This has been a most throughoutly pleasurable read. We are presented with a world of superheroes and villains, well thought out with a clear good side and bad (the Villains Guild and the AHC, some fancy acronym you're never gonna remember the full name of) along with an interesting and neatly categorised system of magic. One of the most important things in my opinion, is that a fantasy world have some very clear cut lines and "rules", whether they be games, movies or books. Just as its possible to

interact with everything in Dark Souls, the "rules" of Forging Hephaestus are clearly upheld. All the powers can be categorised under the system, and the world runs along some principles that are true in accordance to the rest of the book. The characters are just... Okay, so the characters are actually kind of hard to talk about. They are well written and a pleasure to read about even the "bad guys" of the story", which is a must since you actually gets to follow a lot of different characters. The MC is a girl who have unwillingly been drawn into the Villains Guild, yet you follow everyone from the Heroes to other Villains and even a few people with powers who don't want to be involved. All the characters are also very true to themselves. I am hesitating to say they are life-like, but I think that is actually quite fitting. They all have clear-cut goals and things they try to hinder or try to make sure isn't happening. We see at least a few quirks of most of the characters, which makes them seem more than two-dimensional, and even those we only see a few sides of are shown in a context, or talked about enough, that they seem to have a life of their own. Going back to the Capes and their powers. Like I said, they can all be "categorised". This is actually quite easy, in a sense, since there are a few very broad categories that more or less any power fall under. Powers are anything from actually magic to scientific to man-made or at times just natural; we have transformation, robots and conjuration among many more. More importantly, the powers are *\*fun\**. There isn't a single instance I can think of where I'm sitting and thinking that the powers are dull or aren't shown off well. Like I explained before, they are also very diverse. As an example, and without spoiling too much, one of the characters have the power to use sayings. For example would "Fortune favors the brave" mean that if she is brave in a situation, something good would come out of it. All in all a very interesting read.

A slightly different take on the superhero story. I feel like this is a more mature world than the powered series world. The tension between the heroes and villains has progressed to an uneasy truce of sorts. This book is huge and while it may feel like it drags a little in the middle it is really important to set the scene. As always one of the most interesting parts of superheroes is the different powers. Old favorites are there (though no speedsters) but there are some really interesting new ones. Cliché is enjoyable and novel as is cyber geek. I recommend this book to anyone who likes superhero stories. Any one who has read Drew Hayes before will know what they are in for. Never a bad book.

After enjoying Hayes' NPCs series, I wasn't sure what to expect from this. A story about the villains sounds like a great idea, but can it be pulled off? Turns out it sure can, this book was a winner all

around!Tori is a wonderful main character. She's realistic, level headed and has the right amount of sass to make you want to root for her from start to finish. Not only is our main greater great, but there is a wide range of side characters all with their depth and unique personalities. Now, the 'twist' if you will, I did see coming, but I hardly see that as a fault. Through out I felt truly engrossed in the world and invested in this cast. One thing I've been seeing as a staple of Hayes' writing is yes, he writes adult stories. But they're not unpleasant like Game of Thrones or The Night Angle Trilogy. They're fun, actions packed and still full of tense moments where you're not sure what will happen. In the end, it may help to be a fan of the super hero genera to enjoy this book, but certainly not needed. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a lengthy, fun read. Audio: My purchase was for the audio reading, Amy Landon is a delight as the voice of Tori and all the characters involved. It is my hope she'll return to read again for the second book!

Most Hayes fans will buy this without needing recommendations but for those who do? Here it is. Every thing you love about his books is here. There's superlative character work, excellent dialogue, and a skill for world building that might be his biggest asset. You don't get shortchanged on story here but you'll still long for more. Those of you New to Drew Hayes novels, this is a great book for you for the same reasons. I can't imagine anyone being sorry they bought this book!

I kept putting this off. Drew already has his superpowered series and i thought it would be weird reading another series about superpowers by the same author. I should of just trusted drew and read the damn book. It was awesome, just like everything else hes written.

A great tale of politics, people, supervillains and superheroes. And to top it all there is even an evil insane dimension hopper messing around for entertainment. I read all of Mr. Hayes works. When this book was announced I preordered it on and definitely do not regret it at all. Since downloading it this morning to my kindle, I have spent 7 hours on this book and just finished reading it. Definitely recommend it.

OK, there are a few typos and editing glitches, but the integrity of the alternative universe, the characters, and the plot are remarkable. Not every element bears the sterling mark of originality, but the whole takes its place among the best. This is a must-read for Drew Hayes fans, and it should be for anyone who enjoys good, imaginative writing. The generous morality and humane values that pervade all of Hayes's books are a further source of pleasure, particularly in these ungenerous

times.

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