

A review of Playing with Fire by Derek Landy

Review by Jack Wooldridge

Playing with Fire is the second book in the Skulduggery Pleasant series, and it is a mish-mash of genres. First and foremost, it's a funny book. The humor dulls some of the more freaky elements. Even though it's a humorous book, I still got a few spine-tingles from it. But most of it was hilariously funny, and had me laughing out loud in some parts.

The plot is centered around the smooth-talking, fireball-throwing skeleton detective Skulduggery Pleasant and his assistant Valkyrie Cain (formerly known as Stephanie Edgley). The action starts right in the first chapter, as they arrest a murderer (who hasn't actually murdered anyone yet, but says he will start soon) and learn that one of Skulduggery's foes, Baron Vengeous, has escaped from jail in Russia and is coming back to resume his mad plot to bring back the Dark Elders, nightmarish beings that were banished to another dimension long ago. But the only time he would possibly be able to do this is on a lunar eclipse. And that's... just two nights from now.

Adventure, thy name is Skulduggery.