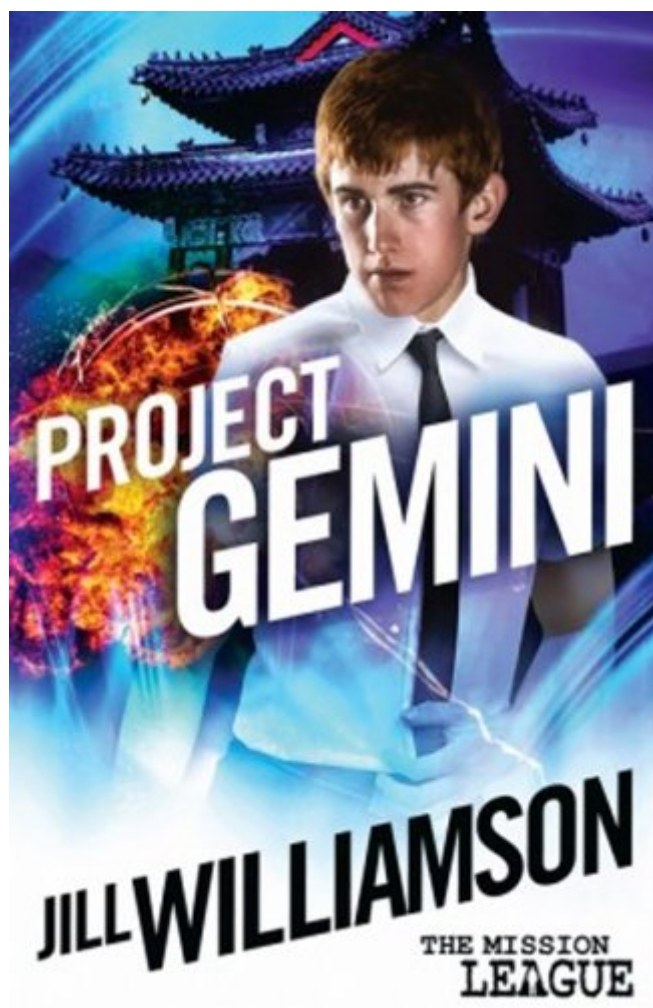


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Project Gemini: Mission 2: Okinawa (The Mission League)



Synopsis

After an exhausting school year, Spencer is thrilled to discover that the summer training mission will take him and his fellow agents-in-training to Okinawa, a tropical paradise. But there's little time for R & R as Spencer must attend school, volunteer at a local martial arts training facility, and track and report a mysterious girl named Keiko. Spencer thinks he knows exactly what to do, but the more he discovers about Keiko, the more questions he has. All he really wants to do is protect Keiko from her ex-boyfriend and stay out of trouble, but where Spencer Garmond is concerned, trouble is never far away.

Book Information

File Size: 3492 KB

Print Length: 400 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Novel Teen Press (July 3, 2017)

Publication Date: July 3, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B073Q88RPJ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #229,993 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #134

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Adventure #142 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Mysteries & Detectives >

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Customer Reviews

Project Gemini, a young adult novel in the Mission League series by Jill Williamson, is a mildly speculative Christian novel most suited for young teens. The Story. Spencer Garmond, AKA Jonas Wright, is a promising basketball player. He's also been recruited into the development program of the Mission League, a secret branch of INTERPOL, which aims to collect and analyze

intelligence regarding Ærulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. As part of his training, he went on a practice mission to Moscow after his freshman year in high school. He's now preparing for his second trip--this time to Okinawa, Japan. The problem is, Spencer, who learns his real name is Jonas Wright and that he's been in a type of witness protection program because his father betrayed the Mission League and killed his mother, has made some enemies--or so it would seem from the prophecies he's received. He himself is gifted with dreams and glimpses that show him snatches of the future, but so has the daughter of his instructor, Mary Stoppelcamp. Because of what this thirteen-year-old middle schooler has dreamed, she warns Spencer not to go to Japan. He's not convinced, however, that he can't intervene to change these events, as if the prophecies are merely forewarnings, not actual predictors of what is to come. Based on her dreams and because of Spencer's decision to go forward with the trip to Okinawa, Mary tells him to beware of foreign women. He himself has several dreams of a beautiful Japanese girl, one who is sometimes in trouble. Upon arriving in Okinawa, Spencer does in fact meet the girl of his dreams--or rather two of them since she has an identical twin sister. In addition, one of the assignments he receives is to keep track of and monitor the activity of his dream girl. Or her sister. He's not actually sure which. He's drawn to the girl to whom he's assigned, and she to him. When her former boyfriend forces her to go with him, Spencer springs into action to protect her. The fact that he took a scooter without permission and left the group on his own, instead of calling for help, gets him into considerable trouble, however. And Mary's continual warnings make him begin to question who he can trust. After all, there are some pretty bad players hanging around, some suspected of involvement with a notorious Japanese gang. And now Spencer has reason to suspect there may be a connection to his Moscow enemy, Anya.

Strengths. One of Jill Williamson's many talents as a writer is voice. She manages to capture the voice of a young teenage boy to the point that her character comes alive. I've read a number of Jill's books now, spanning three series and a stand-alone novel, and none of the characters has the same voice. Each is distinct, unique, individual. Achan, the slave boy turned king in the Blood of Kings high fantasy novels, is a very different person from Mason, Levi, or Omar in the Safe Lands books. In turn, they are all very different from Jason, the cloned boy living in a laboratory in Replication. And none of them is like Spencer, the hero of the Mission League adventures. Not only does Jill capture the voice of a teenage boy, she taps into his heart and soul--what motivates him, what he hopes to accomplish, how he processes the various things that pull him in one direction or another. In short, Jill has created a believable character who also happens to be a likeable kid.

He's trying to turn his life around, but he's got enemies that seem determined to keep him from doing so. The plot is action packed, with tension on every page. Who can Spencer trust? How can he complete his assignment and heed the warnings of the prophecies, too? And why does the new Mission Leaguer, Grace, have it out for him from the moment he met her? Because Jill writes Christian fiction, she does not back off from dealing with the concerns that confront teenage guys: lust, girls, sex, sports, drugs, parties, and lying to get what they want. Above all, Jill shows. She doesn't preach. But Spencer eventually comes to understand where he goes wrong and what he has to change, and the reader follows right along with him. Weaknesses. I know reviews are more credible if the person writing them exposes faults. The problem for me is that I get so caught up in Spencer's story, I tend to gloss over any small inconsistency or plot problems. It's a stretch for me to identify weaknesses. I think the characters are all rock solid and believable, but on retrospect, I do think there is a segment of the plot toward the end that happened so fast, I wasn't sure how all the developments came about. There's also some description that could bog down a reader (I sort of glazed over places)--notably a section about ropes (anyone who has read the book will probably know what I'm referring to). Recommendation. The Mission League books are terrific stories perfectly suited to younger teens--thirteen to sixteen, boys or girls. More mature pre-teens may also like the stories, but there is some frank discussion about attitudes toward and behavior with the opposite sex, so it would be good for parents to be aware of this. Project Gemini and the previous books in the series, The New Recruit and Chokepoint, would make perfect gifts for anyone in the target age group and their parents. And if you're like me, you'll buy the book for yourself, because it's just that enjoyable a story.

What a joy it was to get my hands on the next book in The Mission League Series. Can I just say that I love Spencer? Constantly throughout this novel, I found my eyes on the bottom of my kindle, hoping that the novel was not almost over yet. I think that Ms. Williamson does a fabulous job writing the voice of a teen boy. Spencer is so well-developed that it seems he can step through the pages. Though this novel is not a romance (and I am a romance lover) there is plenty of relationship drama and so much humor that the novel doesn't feel like it's suffering in any areas (plus I have a feeling that the romance will be more gradual throughout the series). Also, prior to reading this novel, I discovered that not all the characters from the first novel would be in this one. At first, I was disappointed, but I found that I barely considered the missing characters and I so enjoyed getting to know the new ones. If you liked the first book, you'll love the second one and eagerly anticipate The

Mission League 2.5. Spiritually, I love the importance and emphasis placed on the gifts that God gives us and I enjoy watching Spencer and others use them. I also like watching Spencer grow spiritually (slowly, and gradually), but it seems like his foundation is sure. So much fun and highly recommended!

I enjoy the fact we can read this as a family with a 12-year-old son and 18-year-old daughter. It's hard to find things that we can enjoy together with that kind of age range, but this book and the first in the series have kept all of our attention. It's been nice to have something to do that isn't electronics going our separate ways. Kudos!

This one is really good. I really like the interaction between Spencer and Grace. Grace seems to hate Spencer for reasons he doesn't understand, but you really sympathize with her when you find out what caused her to have a bad opinion of him. I like how they resolved things in the end.

I found myself drawn into the world of Spencer Garmond and the Mission League even further with this latest entry in the series. This one keeps your attention, pushes you to the edge of your seat and causes some white knuckles at times as Jill Williamson puts her young lead character into increasingly dangerous situations - some life threatening. We see the character mature in very good ways in this book and I am really looking forward to the next entry in this well written series.

For me this one didn't flow as well as the first one. It was too complicated. I am pondering on whether to get book three or not.

Mystery, excitement, twists... I would recommend this book for teens. I think teens will relate to the characters and enjoy the adventure.

Awesome book already bought the next one!

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