

## **Jack Templar: Monster Hunter**

**Jeff Gunhus**

**Reviewed by Aditya Varma, Age 12**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star you Are! Charity**

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Jack Smith is your average, everyday middle schooler who lives happily with his Aunt Sophie after being orphaned at birth in the town of Sunnyvale. However, the day before his fourteenth birthday, things begin to change. It seems just great in the beginning - he has new strength and reflex powers that he uses to defeat the school bully, and gains the affection of his crush, Cindy Adams. That's when everything goes haywire. He runs into a girl named Eva, a member of the Black Guard, an elite group of Monster Hunters. Jack learns that he originated from a long line of Monster Hunters known as the Templar family, and he is to become the next one. He is also notified that every monster or human is safe from harm - that is, until their fourteenth birthday! Soon enough Jack finds himself in a desperate situation, trapped by hundreds upon hundreds of wicked harpies, vampires, ghouls, zombies and other foul manifestations known as the Creach, led by the vampire lord - Ren Lucre. With the help of his friends, Jack must fight for his life against all odds while facing many mysteries - what happened to his father, why are the Creach after him, and most importantly; can he survive and save his town from certain destruction?

I would give this book 3.5/5 stars. A lot to say about this one. There were many good elements. I liked the original storyline and was pleasantly surprised by the unexpected plot turns. This book is written in both first and third person, something that adds an innovative spin and makes it stand out. There are also a variety of action and fast-paced scenes that keep you fully immersed in the story until the final page. You can easily put yourself in the character's shoes and practically experience his journey side-by-side.

There are some areas in which this story was lacking in. It had poorly developed characters, piles too much information at one time on the reader and doesn't contain the intricate detail of other books such as Christopher Paolini's *Eragon*, which at times makes *Jack Templar: Monster Hunter* confusing and distracting. These are some negative things about this book.

In my opinion, this book will be best enjoyed by middle to high-schoolers as it would feel most believable for that age. This book does contain minor vulgar language and integrates a level of development unsuitable for anyone younger. Anyone older will find it merely juvenile. If you enjoyed this book, some other books I would recommend are the *Youngest Templar* series for more fantasy adventures, or *The Inheritance Cycle* by Christopher Paolini for more in-depth literature. When reading this book, I advise to "leave your brain in the parking lot" and go along the book's thrills and pace, as it will be much more entertaining that way. This book is definitely one I would suggest you check out on your next trip to the library; it's an awesome fantasy book, and its whole 209 pages of action will be a great way to spend your afternoon.

### Recommended Reading

*Youngest Templar* series - Michael P. Spradlin

*The Inheritance Cycle* - Christopher Paolini