



Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic

Mara Rockliff, Jacopo Bruno (Illustrations)

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Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic Mara Rockliff , Iacopo Bruno (Illustrations)

Be astonished and dazzled by the true story of Adelaide Herrmann, the Queen of Magic!

Some girls are perfectly happy never doing anything out of the ordinary. But Addie was anything but ordinary. She longed for thrills and excitement! At a time when a young lady appearing onstage was considered most unusual, Addie defied convention and became a dancer. And when she married the world-famous magician Herrmann the Great, she knew she had to be part of his show. Addie wanted to *shock* and *dazzle*! She would do anything to draw the crowds, even agree to be shot out of a cannon. But when Herrmann the Great died, Addie couldn't disappoint her loyal fans — the show had to go on. What could she do? She would perform the show all by herself! From the creators of *Mesmerized*, this rollicking romp tells the true story of one fearless magician's rise to glory, featuring exquisitely lavish illustrations by Iacopo Bruno. Extensive back matter, including instructions for performing one of Addie's original tricks, makes this a dazzling celebration of one of the first female conjurers in show business.

Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic Details

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Author : Mara Rockliff , Iacopo Bruno (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic for online ebook

Kendra says

Rewriting history in the best way possible! By adding TRUTH. I loved the art in this book, the story, the endnotes. I mostly loved Adelaide.

Jessica Howard says

How many of you love Magic?! (listen to responses) What does it mean to be just ordinary? (listen to responses) Sometimes authors write to tell us about amazing people. (Show the biography at the end of book about Addie) This author, Mara Rockcliff, would like to tell us a true story about Adelaide Herrmann. Thumbs up if you have ever seen a magic trick or performed a magic trick. Would anyone like to share their experience? (listen to responses) Let's listen to the The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic!

*raise interest in the topic of magic

*personal connections

*meaning of key words

Jackie Ostrowicki says

A good historical overview of a woman in a man's field--magic. The illustrations were dense and fun to look at. To me, the most fascinating part of the book was the afterword, which was just as nicely designed and thought through as the book.

The illustrator, Iacopo Bruno, lives in Milan and has been nominated for the Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction, and the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children. You may also recognize him as the illustrator for the Ulysses Moore books, such as *The Door to Time*. In a short interview with him, Bruno says the 3 things that have most influenced him are "Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*", anything ideated by Tim Burton and *A Christmas Carol* illustrated by Roberto Innocenti.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Like most people, I'm sure, I've always thought of magicians as men because I'd never heard of any who were women—until now. Thanks to Mara Rockcliff, I now know about Adelaide Herrmann, who started out as a performer herself, then became an assistant to her magician husband and finally, after his death, a magician in her own right. Iacopo Bruno's colorful illustrations remind me of Victorian posters and dioramas, perfect for this type of show biz. At the end of the book Rockcliff includes a photo of Addie, more information about her life, and, most interesting to me, how we know about her today. He even mentions another female magician whom I'd never heard of—Margaret Steele (the subject of his next book?). And if you're curious about how the trick of catching a bullet fired from a gun onto a plate held in front of you is

done, Rockliff also provides his web site address, where you can find out. A fun book recommended for budding magicians everywhere.

Sarah says

I loved this book! The text was begging to be read aloud, so I read it to my dog. Great illustration style.
2017 Amelia Bloomer Project

Anna Spears says

"Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic. Whew! What a title, my friends! Let's dive into it before we begin reading this amazing book. One thing that I noticed right of the bat are the words "The True Story"; what does that tell us about the genre of this text?" (give students think time and allow responses). "Yes, that key word TRUE tells me that this is some kind of nonfiction. But, look at the text, (flip through pages.) I see colorful pictures, big bold words, it doesn't look like the informative text we read in reading today! See friends, sometimes non fiction looks a lot like a made up fiction story, but it's not! This is a biography of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic a truly daring woman. Look on page one, Addie is the only person in color. Why do you think that is?" (allow think time). "Because she must be super special! Page 2 says that Addie wanted to ASTONISH, SHOCK, and DAZZLE. Those capital words tell a lot about our main character. What do you think her personality was like?" (allow students to think and share). "Those are great thoughts. She sounds like she has a strong personality. Let's read more about Addie and see what we think about her when we are done!"

Draw attention to the genre
Draw attention to the writers craft
Prompt predictions based on the title
read some of the text

Michele Knott says

Fascinating story! Magic is a topic that intrigues so many readers, I think this one will pull them in for sure! Great to use to explore character traits, as well.

Jenny says

What a fun biography! Adelaide Herrmann was more than just an assistant to her famous magician husband; she was one of the greatest magicians herself! She was bold and determined and "anything but ordinary"! The story is wonderful and I feel certain that children will enjoy reading about Addie. And the illustrations are simply gorgeous!!

Ruth says

Great story, and absolutely gorgeous illustrations. The artwork in this is amazing, and makes a relatively simple story something you'll want to look at repeatedly.

Erin Peters says

A woman magician? Who ever heard of such a thing?

Anything But Ordinary Addie is the biography of Adelaide Herrmann, a magician who lived at the end of the 19th century. From a young age, Addie knew she wanted to do something extraordinary with her life, and when she met and married world-famous magician Herrmann the Great, she got her chance. They travelled the country, performing their act together. But when Herrmann unexpectedly died, Addie was left to save the show and create her own legacy.

For me, the best part of this book was the illustrations combined with the visual placement of the text and the playful use of fonts. As the only female magician I've ever heard of - past or present, Adelaide Herrmann is an interesting enough person, but her story would not have been nearly as fascinating without the bold illustrations and the use of both fonts and words to create a theatrical mood. I loved the illustrator, Iacopo Bruno, so much that I've added more books illustrated by him to my "to read" list.

This picture book would be perfect for an elementary class's study of biographies and historical figures, and I'm sure that the current popularity of *The Greatest Showman* would make it a hit in classroom libraries. I think a clever way to use this book in the classroom, though, would be as part of a vocabulary study. The author begins the book with the following lines: "Addie never wanted to be ordinary. Addie wanted to astonish, shock, and dazzle." Then throughout the book, the publishers continue to draw attention to those words by changing the font style or size every time they are used. This is true even when the author is using variations of the words. For example, shock is written in bold, but so is shocked, shocking, and shockingly. With a younger class, teachers could use this book simply to teach those words (astonish, shock, dazzle, and their variations), but with an older class, teachers could challenge students to write their own story that incorporates three vocabulary words and their variations.

Jason says

Amazing. the 3D cutout effect is really, well, effective. Gorgeous, lush illustrations make each page a visual delicacy. And can I tell you how much it pisses me off that a woman who was that famous in her time was completely ignored by history? Thank goodness her memoir was kept safe all those years!!

Ryan says

I do not know what is more engrossing: the story, or the illustrations. The two come together to make the perfect book about a little known historical figure. Adelaide Herrman was known as the Queen of Magic. She never wanted to be ordinary, and was always up to something new. She dared do things others didn't. She became the first famous female magician and traveled the world. Read Addie's story for yourself. It's

magic.

Lindsey says

BEAUTIFUL!

Michelle Gray says

I found the story fascinating and the illustrations awesome. Their bold color and style perfectly suited the subject matter. A great read!

Keliana Lily says

I thought the story was just ok but the illustrations were great
