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Despite her one wish to be normal, Sadie only finds solace with a small group of unusual characters. These unlikely friends give her a semi-normal life outside of school in a bookstore where strange and mystical things seem to happen. In fact, if Sadie entertains her deepest suspicions, her friends are a little mystical.

When her birthday arrives however, Sadie finds herself whisked into a magical world that swirls just under the surface of normal, everyday life. Not only does she learn she'll soon become a witch, but she also discovers she must battle The Syndicate to save her new world.

Faced with fantastical encounters, unexplainable transformations, and startling fears, Sadie struggles against an unknown evil all while searching for her real identity.

Any Witch Way Details

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From Reader Review Any Witch Way for online ebook

Sue Morris says

Twelve year old Sadie has moved to and from several foster homes since her mother died in a car accident. She is bullied at school and called “Crazy Sadie,” by the other students and maybe even a teacher. Sadie is “crazy” because she refuses to believe her mother is dead. She states, emphatically, her belief that her mother is alive and they only need to find each other.

Right now, on the verge of her 13th birthday, on Halloween, she simply wants to feel normal. Not special, she says, just normal. Sadie wants a normal house, a normal family, a normal school day, a fairly bland but normal life.

Her best friend, Mrs. Felis, who runs the bookstore Sadie enjoys, is planning a very special birthday party for Sadie. The party will not have references to Halloween, just like Sadie’s mother had thrown. This is a very special birthday, in addition to becoming a teenager, Sadie finds out that her mother was a witch and she is now, at age 13, a witchling: a beginner witch with three years of training ahead of her.

Before the party can get going members of the Syndicate arrive. They are trying to eliminate all things magical and especially want the one who knows the whereabouts of the Ataraxia Heart, which is Sadie, sort of. Sadie’s mother was the last keeper of the heart and she gave it to Sadie, but died before she could tell her about the heart and where she hides it. The Syndicate believes Sadie knows exactly where the Ataraxia Heart has been hidden and plans to force it from her. Now there is an all-out war between magical beings and the non-magical Syndicate that wants to put magic forever into History.

Any Which Way has gnomes, giants, fairies, powerful Winds, centaurs, talking cats and other animals, and most of what inhabited other fantasy novels of the past few years. Like most, the central theme is good versus evil. The difference lies in the subjective “feel” of the story. Here that “feel” is lighter and tighter. Scenes progress smoothly from one to the next without once losing its way or using words that do nothing but beef up the word count. The story is well-written, the characters are fully fleshed out, each hook grabs you and the twists are unexpected, turning the story on its side, only to be better when it stands back up.

There are illustrations in the novel that I am told are excellent. I read the Kindle version, and while there were a few black and white pictures, they were placed in such a manner as to not catch the eye. For this reason alone I will not review the illustrator’s work. I am betting that once Any Which Way hits bookstore shelves, someone will see those illustrations and review how they reflect the story and add value for the reader.

I am not a big fan of fantasy, or maybe just a picky fan. I am selective in what I will even take home from the library. Any Which Way I would have taken home, renewed two or three times and still return it late, all because I want to read it again for the things I missed the first time, then again for the very subtle nuances, and a final time to read the story with all the elements open to my eyes. Good fantasies (good stories of any genre), have multiple layers. Any Which Way is nicely layered.

Kids from age eight on up will enjoy reading this book, as will adults who like children’s and young adult books. Parents can feel secure in the knowledge that their child will not be reading anything “dark, decrepit or demoralizing,” but instead have in their hands a fun fantasy with solid characters, a good protagonist, bad guys that can be clumsy, and an ending that their child will want to talk about. If I had six stars to give out, I’d give this book a 5.5 stars (6 stars, I am sure, if I were to see the print version illustrations).

Any Which Way is truly a refreshing fantasy.

note:received book from publisher

Ks Sunflower says

Annastaysia Savage's Any Witch Way captures preteen angst perfectly in Sadie, a twelve-year old who embodies all the hope and confusion of that transition age. She truly is betwixt and between; at one moment she is a vulnerable child, at another, she a prideful, challenging adolescent impatient to achieve independence with that irritating know-it-all bravado that is quick to judge and slow to understand, but understand she eventually does. This story is an engaging journey from self-doubt to self-acceptance. It is about how we all struggle to find a way to achieve self-empowerment to survive in a seemingly chaotic world.

The French expression L'Envers et l'endroit, can be translated as “between the right way and the wrong way,” which is where Sadie is, in both figurative and literal terms, for most of this story. When we first meet her, she is struggling with both social and self acceptance, trying to come to terms with the difference between how others perceive her and how she perceives herself. The author adroitly immerses Sadie into a world caught in the same struggle between the perceptions of good and evil, right and wrong, reality and fantasy; both Sadie and the world in which she lives have to fight to achieve a viable balance and survive.

Savage has adroitly created a world that perfectly mirrors Sadie's inner conflicts. Sadie's quest, as clearly defined by both her circumstances and other characters, is one of self-discovery. Only by accepting and trusting herself can she find the strength and the skills to resolve both her inner conflict and the conflict swirling around her.

Annastaysia Savage's extensive training as both an artist and a writer combine to create lively descriptions of both feelings and characters. There are only a couple of chapters in the final third of the book where a reader may stumble over disconnected and didactic dialogue and rushed plot points, but those are minor flaws in an otherwise well-told story that flows well and successfully handles a large stable of characters. Readers as young ten will identify with Sadie's struggle for identity and acceptance, and adult readers will find a satisfying tale interweaving several levels or variations of the quest for knowledge and truth, both personal and universal. Any Witch Way is an enjoyable book, a promising foundation for Savage's budding career. Many readers will be eager to see if a sequel of Sadie's adventures will soon follow because she, like her author, has potential waiting to be unleashed.

Susan says

Any Witch Way

By Annastaysia Savage

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I would genuinely like to thank Christopher C. Payne over at JournalStone for the opportunity to read this book in advance. It was a very fun, mystical, quest from the moment I started reading it and a delight. I suggest you pick up a copy of it for yourself, if you haven't yet.

First of all, the cover of this book is just so incredibly pretty and has a very whimsical feel to it. It's sure to draw an eye or two. Plus, it's just pretty and so much fun and shows you right away that the book is sure to be filled with some pretty off-the-wall funny and fantastical characters. This is definitely a book that will not let the reader down.

The main character, Sadie, is an orphaned girl about to turn thirteen on Halloween, trying as best she can to find her own sense of "normal." From the beginning reader's see that she is picked on and sort of bullied in school, that she's grappling with losing her mother at such a young age, and having to deal with being shuffled from foster home to foster home never really feeling as if she fits in quite as well as she hopes to.

It is an easy read to get through and the main character herself is quite relatable. Often times, I found myself identifying with her need to fit in, just be as normal as she can, and find her place - that niche where she belongs and can be herself. The lessons in self-confidence interwoven subtly into the storyline, is one that I think most young adults as well as younger kids themselves would benefit from paying attention to.

I ached for Sadie; wanting her mom back because that's what anyone would want who had experienced a loss that great in their young life. It was nice to see her relationship with Mrs. Felis become so meaningful and important to her and to also see how the older woman in turn, cared deeply about her and her well being.

I found it to be engaging and interesting, watching Sadie find out that she was going to become a witch and the greater epic battle between good vs. evil that she would have to be involved with. The Syndicate arc was very well written and developed and the villains were both entertaining and believable at best. Plus those two gnomes were just absolutely hilarious and quite possibly my favorite character's from the book, with Grimm being a close second.

I would definitely encourage younger kids and tweens to pick up a copy of this book, as it is a very fun and light easy read. The mystical creatures are both well developed and endearing, the main character is easily relatable, and the story itself is just nothing short of whimsical and fun. The book possesses this sort of aura that kind of transports you back to your own childhood, if you let it. Sometimes it's fun to just the moment sweep you away and get caught up in the story between the pages. So, I have no problem giving this book four stars easily.

Go on, go out and get your own copy. You will not be disappointed.

Sharon says

Sadie felt like an outcast at school. She didn't fit in. No one believed her when she thought her mother was still alive and had not died in a car accident. She just had this feeling... Enter her 13th birthday and her whole world transforms into magic, witches, gnomes and pure evil. You see Sadie is one of a long line of witches and her mother preferred to live as a human so never told Sadie about her transformation before she died. When Sadie is first told about her new status, she doesn't even get a chance to learn what powers she possesses before all hell breaks loose...literally. She is transported into a war between the Witches and Magikal Beings, Hunters, Trappers and Exterminators Syndicate and the Society of Magikal Beings. Sadie is told she has a power that only she can use to stop the evil doers from winning.

It's a whirlwind of magic (evil and good), running for her life and learning the secrets of this new magical world that she is now a member.

My pet peeve is to not compare a book to another. I find it unfair and try to review a book on its own merits.

With that being said, I found this book to be absorbing from the start. In this day and age young adult books are very diverse and are very enlightening. This book was no exception. The characters were well thought out and the plot was very engaging. I agree that Sadie (future witchling) was a bit whiny, but she had a lot to whine about. Personally, I would have been screaming my head off at the nasty, pus-faced goblins and monsters that appeared frequently. As to the monsters and violence in the book, I recommend the book to be more suitable for early- to mid-teens.

A fast and enjoyable read!

Thank you to Ms. Savage and JournalStone for giving me the opportunity to review this book.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

I know I have to write a good review when I close the book with a smile on my face.

Sadie is a young girl who wants to fit in. She is the recipient of teasing from the kids at school, mainly because she believes that her mother is still alive. She is an orphan who moves from foster home to foster home.

On her 13th birthday, which happens to be Halloween, she discovers the truth, she is a witchling. A party is given by her older friend, Mrs. Felix when chaos breaks. She is thrown into a war between good and evil. I think it's confusing enough to be a 13 year old girl, but to start to come in to magical powers and have to protect yourself with magic would be a lot for anyone to handle. Sadie does surprisingly well.

Every once in a while I find a quote in a book that sticks out to me. In this book it is: "You three are either the stupidest women I've ever encountered, or you really know nothing of pure evil." He spun around to face them again as his voice lowered. "Evil thrives on chaos."

There were moments where the story seemed to drag to me. Overall I would say this is a great middle grade book.

???o says

Sadie had no idea how an elf, a centaur, gnomes, faeries, witches, ghosts, and a dozen other magical creatures turned up on her thirteenth birthday, which happened to be on Halloween. With her dead and gone three years ago, Sadie felt like she couldn't fit in the normal human world no matter how much she tried. She tolerated the teasing and taunting of school kids and was passed from one foster family to another.

On her thirteenth birthday, however, Sadie learns that she's a witch, a witchling to be exact. Before she could find out more about herself and her dead witch mother, Sadie finds herself running and hiding from Syndicate, a secret group meant to destroy all magical creatures. Much to Sadie's surprise, she finds out that she has assume a more responsible role in defeating the Syndicate, since she is the Keeper of the Ataraxia Heart.

Thank you very much, Journal Stone, for sending me an e-copy of the book for review. I really enjoyed reading it.

???o's Book Blog

Cassie McCown says

Overall, I really enjoyed the book. I assume that it is geared more toward younger readers, pre-teen and early teen, and I think it is perfect for that age range. It has some great lessons in it--self-confidence, "fitting in", the importance of family (either blood or 'social')... I'd love to have a copy for my own children, especially my daughter.

I think the story really picked up the further I read, and it became much more captivating toward the end. I think the author did a great job of setting it up so she can write more of the story in other books. It was also interesting enough for the reader to "want" to read more... She did a wonderful job of telling the classic good vs. evil story with interesting and entertaining characters. I think Sadie exemplified the perfect amount of maturity for her age, considering the circumstances she had faced and was going through in this piece. I loved that her past included the loss of her parents and being passed through the foster care system. On top of that, she faced many challenges socially in school--being teased and taunted. So many children that age have those exact feelings, regardless of what the situation actually is. It is wonderful to have something to look to that will help teach the lessons that so many teenage [girls] need to learn even earlier now. Everything we need to give us strength in life is already in our heart--all we have to do is embrace it and believe in it. Everything and everyone else around us does not define us.

Great story! I am so honored to be a part of the publication process!! Thanks so much!!

Nakisisa says

A must Read. I found Any Witch Way to be gripping and hard to put down. It is written to appeal to a younger audience (12+), but adults will love it too. I love that the story starts off by making the main character, Sadie, relatable. She is a normal girl living through unusual circumstances that lead to real life issues like depression, bullying and fear. It is wonderful that author Anastasia attacked some important real world issues in her book especially a book geared to this age group.

Without giving too much away; imagine losing your mom, being moved from home to home, finding out your best friend is not what she seems and that you're a witch all by your 13th birthday! Any Witch Way is colourful, descriptive and easy to love. There are many twists and surprises that keep you wanting to go back for more. I am hoping this will be a series as I would love to see how Sadie is making out growing up as a witch. If you enjoy Spiderwick, Demonata, and Harry Potter this book is right up your alley!

Christopher Payne says

Enduring the teasing and ridicule of her school mates, Sadie struggles through life as a pre-teen on the eve of her 13th birthday. Three years ago, a car crash took her mother, but Sadie never saw her body. She refuses to believe her mother is really gone. Holding fast to that feeling earns her the nickname "Crazy Sadie."

Despite her one wish to be normal, Sadie only finds solace with a small group of unusual characters. These unlikely friends give her a "semi-normal" life outside of school in a bookstore where strange and mystical things seem to happen. In fact, if Sadie entertains her deepest suspicions, her friends are a little mystical.

When her birthday arrives however, Sadie finds herself whisked into a magical world that swirls just under the surface of normal, everyday life. Not only does she learn she'll soon become a witch, but she also discovers she must battle The Syndicate to save her new world.

Faced with fantastical encounters, unexplainable transformations, and startling fears, Sadie struggles against an unknown evil – all while searching for her real identity.

Wendy-Lynn says

I really enjoyed this short novel (about 160 pages) Any Witch Way by Anastaysia Savage. It is a young adult / teen story about Sadie who turns 13 on Halloween. Before her birthday approaches, she is teased by her fellow classmates because she thinks her mother is still alive after a tragic car accident. Her body was never found. She finds solace with Mrs. Felis and her cat Grimm at a local bookstore. While drinking some sleeping tea, she is transported to another world where discovers she will soon become a witch. Loved all of the mythical creatures. Mrs. Felis was a hoot especially when she kept putting cat nip in her tea. Wonderful story. Recommended.

Shari says

Any Witch Way by Anastaysia Savage.

I enjoyed reading this book. A very fast read once I had a chance to sit down and get into it.

I guess the book would be classified as a 'tween novel and I'm sure girls in the 10-14 age group will understand and like Sadie. Everyone wants to be normal and fit in. Of course you will eventually find out that one person's normal is another person's "weird" and you just have to find the right people to fit in with. I think this book is about Sadie finding her "normal" and being happy with where and who she is.

Sadie keeps going from the frying pan into the fire through out the book. The situations were unique and Sadie wasn't one of those invincible people who always gets themselves out of trouble. She had to have help many times.

Good start to what will be a good series.

Alexandra says

I want to thank Christopher C. Payne at JournalStone publishing for giving me the chance to read this. I really enjoyed it.

Everything seems to be going wrong for young Sadie her mom is dead, and she's constantly being picked on by her peers in school 'cause she believes her mother is still alive. She's a foster child and all she wants to be is 'normal' but by her thirteenth birthday she gets the surprise of her life that will change her more than she expected, and just possibly will get the chance of being 'normal' after all, but in a totally different way.

The characters were great in this so many twists it kept me on the edge of my seat at times!! A great YA read. Can't wait to read more about young Sadie.

Amy Eye says

JournalStone has released a very light, funny, touching and engaging read about Sadie, a witch just coming into her powers. Sadie wants two things: to be normal and to have her mom back. Unfortunately, neither one of those things seem to be going Sadie's way. Her mother passed away in a car crash, but Sadie is convinced, to the dismay of all of her foster parents, that her mother is still alive. The teasing and torment from all around her become too much for Sadie to bear when she learns news that will make "normal" take on a whole new meaning for her. From there the journey becomes a literal roller coaster, no one is what you think they are, and enemies wear the smiles of trusted friends.

The characters in this book are extremely fun. We get to run along this journey in the company of trolls, goblins, imps, nymphs, witches, talking trees and a host of other fun, fantastic characters. I am comfortable handing this book over to my daughters (the youngest being 9) and letting her enjoy the story as well. Violence plays a key to some degree in almost any book...the epic and never ending battle of good against evil always appears in books...but the violence is not the primary focus of the story. The setting is in the real world and shows how magical community is intermingling with the non-magical world every day, and also bring in information about other dimensions...I'm a sucker for other dimensional creatures.

This author, Anastaysia Savage, needs to get working on another book about Miss Sadie. ;-) I would like to know what is in store for our little witch. Thank you to JournalStone for selecting me for an ARC of this book, I loved reading it, and I'm sure I will be reading it again quite soon!!

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www.amazon.com/Any-Witch-Way-ebook/dp...

Kira says

For Sadie, life has been anything but easy since her mom died. Shuffled from foster home to foster home, she has yet to find a place where she feels welcome. Believing her mother to still be alive, she is constantly ridiculed at school. Her only solace is the school library and a neighborhood bookstore where Mrs. Felis treats her like a friend. On her 13th birthday, however, things take a dramatic change. Discovering she's a witch and Mrs. Felis was her mother's shapeshifting cat is just the start. The Syndicate (a group of mysterious and nasty bad guys) want her dead. Her only hope is to get control of her powers before they find her. Will she be able to succeed?

An excellent book. Vivid description, well-developed characters, and a well-crafted plot. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Thanks JournalStone.

Steven says

Sadie, the character in this story, starts out having it rough, and then it gets better, and then it gets rough again and so on. This was seriously a roller coaster ride of emotions going on but it flowed pretty well and I enjoyed the magical creatures that the author came up with. Especially the two knomes with entertaining

dialog. I would recommend this to people that enjoy fantasy type stories, and I'd have to say this title seems to be aimed at the young adult group but is also fun for the older crowd.
