



Anyway*: *A Story About Me with 138 Footnotes, 27 Exaggerations, and 1 Plate of Spaghetti

Arthur Salm

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Reinventing yourself takes humor, heart, and a TON of footnotes! Max is a good kid; but you wouldn't know that if you met him at the boring family camp his parents dragged him to over the summer. There, for a few exciting weeks, Max reinvents himself as Mad Max and gains a bad-boy reputation for being daring, cool, and fearless. But when Max returns home, he finds it's easier to be fearless with strangers than it is among friends, and he is not particularly proud of the way his behavior over the summer hurt people. Can he find away to merge his adventurous alter ego with his true identity as a good guy? Peppered with humorous handwritten footnotes and doodles throughout, *Anyway** perfectly captures the viewpoint of a young teen doing his best to find his place in the world and an ideal balance between wise guy and wimp.

Anyway*: *A Story About Me with 138 Footnotes, 27 Exaggerations, and 1 Plate of Spaghetti Details

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Author : Arthur Salm

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Matt says

This good book written by Arthur Salm is about an 8th grader going to a summer camp for families and he learns that he can be some one else. He learns that it might not be a good thing though, acting like some on you are not and some kids there made Max realize this. The lesson I found in this book was to always be yourself no matter the circumstances. This book is very good for readers that like to read books that they can relate to. Otherwise this book isn't all that worth to read.

Bella says

Anyway* by Arthur Salm is a contemporary realistic fiction book, most likely intended for ages 11-14.

Summary: 12 year old Max has an average life—and personality—so when given the opportunity to go to a summer camp where no one will know him, he decides to create a “new” Max. However he discovers that once you start acting a certain way, it’s hard to completely go back to who you were before.

Evaluation: I rated this book 5 stars because it is entertaining, thought provoking, realistic, and all-around a really great book for young teens. The plot is very effective: the first part of the book introduces Max’s life so far, the second part is the story of his experience at camp, and the third part tells what happens after he returns home. The characters are surprisingly believable and this book is still by far the most accurate depiction of a young teenage narrator that I have ever read. The mental development that Max goes through throughout the story is very realistic and it is almost as if we are reading the mind of a 12-13 year old instead of a book. This book would be appealing to readers around the same age as Max because they would be able to relate to the characters and the struggles they go through as well as the sense of humor. In the classroom, this book could be used to introduce a discussion about why difficult choices are so difficult, and what makes something the “right” thing to do. As a fun activity, students could think of an alternate “new” personality for themselves, and write down the qualities that person might have.

Brindi Michele says

This is a great guy read. It's laugh-out-loud funny, and the main character, Max, is a real charmer. Humorous and with a few important life lessons here and there this book is perfect for tween boys.

Janice says

With a wonderfully light hand and gentle humor, "Anyway" explores that in-between age when you're not a kid any more but not an adult, either. Max, who considers himself a boringly "good" kid, takes advantage of

a trip to summer camp to reinvent himself as "Mad Max." He experiences surprising success but discovers there are some things he actually likes about his good-kid self.

Charlou says

Max has the opportunity to do what many kids want to do - create a new identity. Be the assured person he wants to be instead of the insecure 12 year old he is in real life. When does adventurous and cool turn to jerk? Are there obvious lessons in this book, yes. Does it work because of the reality of the insecurities? i think it does. Did I like the footnotes as a gimmick? Eh. 3 1/2 to 4.

Kelli Gleiner says

I just finished this book, and I'm very excited to meet the author next Sunday (June 24th) at blue manatee children's bookstore in Cincinnati.

What I thought would be a light, funny, summer read ended up being a bit more. For the most part, it was funny and light, but what I loved (especially for the "tween" set) is the question of morality -vs- popularity. After assuming the persona of "Mad Max," Max is suddenly easy-going and cool, but after playing a few practical jokes and ditching some "babyish" friends, it still pains him to know he's caused any harm, even if it's by accident or association. His camp week ends, and he has a lot to balance before the summer's main event: a coed party for his friend Sara.

With humor, tons of footnotes, and a believable main character, Arthur Salm has written a solid debut novel that fans of the "Wimpy Kid" series will be able to transition up to.

Keryn says

Loved, loved, loved this book. I'm a 6th grade teacher and I used this book as a read aloud. Definitely a great choice! All ears attentive and many great themes to explore. Teachers- take notice!

Anon says

It was a great book. I got this book at seven pm and read till ten pm, and finished it the next day - I found it very hard to put down and I only stopped reading because it was past my bedtime. I wanted it to be longer so I wouldn't finish it so soon. I am 12, the same age as the main character in the book. I enjoyed it because it was so funny and interesting and the story was exciting. I really liked the footnotes which explained parts of the book. I gave a copy of the book to my best friend for his birthday and he also loves it. I am hoping there will be a next one soon.

Joycetho1 says

I think that this was a great book. If you have ever read Diary of a Wimpy Kid you would really like this book. In the book there are little footnotes that tell funny details. If you do read the book make shore to read the footnotes.

Josh Newhouse says

Tough book to review... 3/4 of it are brilliant. But the footnotes, it's quirky claim to fame, and the cursive font kept it back... This took a long time to read... 3.5 strong shooting stars... If it had not taken as long. Time to read I think I would have loved it... Great voice:)

Nancy says

Twelve year old Max cannot believe his parents dragged him to this boring family camp. And plan to stay the whole summer! Max just has to do something to make this all tolerable. So he reinvents himself into Mad Max. He is not the bad boy of the camp. He is fearless and daring and cool. But can he keep this up?

Curtis says

*Anyway** by Arthur Salm is a work of genius. I could read it a gajillion times. I read it in Barnes & Noble, and I LOL'd a LOT. People probably thought I was a moron.

Expanded review available at CurtisWeyant.com.

Jacy W says

The book, *Anyway** by Arthur Salm, is a wonderful read. The book starts off with Max, the main character, explaining what he likes in 7th grade and what sports he plays. I feel this book is aimed towards middle schoolers mainly, because they can relate to what Max is going through. When Max goes to a family based summer camp with his parents, he goes from being a shy and observant kid to this social butterfly who's always looking to crack a joke or make someone smile. He makes 5 new friends at the camp who will eventually become some of his closest buddies. Max likes his new self, the one who's always out with friends but that's not the case at school. When Max gets back from the summer camp, he uses some of the social skills he learned over the summer to make ordinary classmates, new friends. I believe the author write this book to inspire middle schoolers to get out of their comfort zones and live a little.

Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says

Love this kid's journey to find his best self.

Footnote: The footnotes are great.

Another footnote: Couple instances of language, but it's all part of the journey. So don't fret.

Silvia says

Finally a new adventurous character to be fascinated by and wish to identify with! Arthur Salm's Max made me remember why I loved to read Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, Lord of the Flies and all the other great stories featuring a genuine and free-willed character. Anyway* is a new American classic! Seriously!
