



From Frights to Flaws

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Twelve-year-old Alyssa McCarthy can no longer stand the toughness of her uncle and wants a better life. But one day she discovers not only the existence of magic, but also a villain hunting her down. The villain uses magic and magical technology to kidnap Alyssa to the Fiji Islands. As much as she wants to go home, she has to face some dangerous challenges first. Not only that, the villain himself must also be defeated. Can Alyssa succeed, even with the help of her mentors?

From Frights to Flaws Details

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From Reader Review From Frights to Flaws for online ebook

Cheryl says

The first 6 chapters seemed to be repetitive and just a lot of dialect. Which I grew old of quickly. Plus, I could not understand Alyssa need to try to make her uncle understand what was happening was magic. He obviously did not like Alyssa or believed her. So I could not figure out why Alyssa was trying so hard to make her uncle see her point. Chapter seven is when the story started to pick up. This is when Duchamp kidnapped Alyssa and took her to the Fiji Islands. In addition, it was not just the first six chapters that repeated itself but the whole book. The storyline was simple enough that it did not require repeating.

Once there at the Fiji Islands, there was a lot of magical things happening as well as technology used as well. I agree with other readers that the magic and technology that the author blended together was fine but it just did not come off as smoothly or as believable. However I do give the author props with her attempts in trying. A cute book for younger readers.

Wendy Unsworth says

A fun and quirky story featuring 12 year old Alyssa and her cousin, Hailey. Alyssa is being raised by her Uncle Bruce (Hailey's father). The girls are being homeschooled and Bruce is a very strict parent and guardian.

The magic starts when the girl's babysitter has a spell put on her. Uncle Bruce most definitely does not believe in magic and the girls are blamed.

From this point the magic escalates and eventually Alyssa is transported to Fiji where she must defeat the evil Master Beau and learn much more about magic before she can return safely home.

I enjoyed From Frights to Flaws and can imagine its target audience of pre-teens would love the adventure. There are some clunky sentences and some instances a little too unbelievable even for this magical tale. At the beginning of the story Alyssa dreams of going to live with her Godfather and the impression is that the two are very close, yet later it is revealed that they haven't spoken for three years(a very long time in a 12year old's life). Later, Uncle Bruce loses his memory and, for me, everyone, including his daughter are just too casual and accepting as if this is not a big deal at all.

However magic will be enough for young readers, I would imagine, and there is plenty of it in this story as well as some very interesting characters.

A lovely cover which, I think, is much more inspiring than the title.

NicCole says

Magic, something most of us have heard of or witness from movies, TV shows and staged acts. To see it happen in real life would be a completely unique experience. Alyssa's parents died and she remains under the care of her uncle and builds a strong bond with her cousin Hailey. The strict environment, full of homeschool work and chores, she could only hope that life can be better than this. In "Alyssa McCarthy's Magical Missions," author Sunayna Prasad, provides her readers the perspective through the life of Alyssa. By reading this book, you'll get a sense that you're living through Alyssa, feeling what she feels, thinks the

way she thinks, and overall wanting a better life for yourself.

Each chapter correlates with each other, giving the insight of what it's like living as Alyssa, along with obstacles of disbelief she encounters. Author Sunayna Prasad surely included much talk about magic, especially the funny colored sleet storm the characters experienced. The way that Alyssa had to keep informing everyone, in hopes they'll be convinced that magic is real, is what showcased her determination to not give up. There are two magical characters that are in her life; Simon protects her while Beau Duchamp causes the most trouble along with the attempt to rid her of her entire existence. She had a great support system amongst her family and friends, but once Duchamp put her under a spell to be in agreement of going with him to the Fiji, she lost them. The mission of saving herself and getting back home would definitely be a challenge, but she's determined to get there.

The author Sunayna Prasad writes in a style that goes more in depth on what each character is thinking. It may come off a bit of stating the obvious, but it's unique and I like that about this reading experience. I enjoyed reading this book; it was written in a way that didn't leave space for question and curiosity, we knew what the characters knew. I recommend those who want to read about magic and all that comes with it and to accompany a young girl on her mystical journey in a land of wizards.

David Scott says

Sunayna Prasad clearly has a great imagination. Poor Alyssa, the book's main character, has to go through a great many fantastical ordeals to escape the clutches of the evil Master Beau. Sadly, the writing doesn't hold up to the author's imagination. There is far too much explaining of every magical detail, and Alyssa is never just left to learn things on her own. The extended explanations of magic and technology too, were cute but largely unnecessary and unhelpful in furthering the plot. Sunayna Prasad is certainly an author to watch, but I can't really recommend this first book to readers.

Sue Brooks says

Awesome book!!! I would totally recommend it for children 11-13 -- depending on their level of maturity. The book does cover some death and the villain plotting the death of the main character of the book -- thus, it might be a little scary for children under 11. If the reader enjoys fantasy and magic, I would truly recommend this book. It's a quick and fun read!

I was recently asked to read and review this book. Well, I started it last night and it kept sounding so so so familiar. So, I go into Amazon and find the book -- and YEPERS, I bought the book back when it was first printed and read and loved the book at that time. The author truly has a great imagination and has written a wonderful story!!!

The story of Alyssa McCarthy and her discovery of magic was awesome. Her parents died years before and she currently lives with her Uncle and cousin. She decides that she is tired of the uncle (and his mean ways) and wants to move in with her godfather. During the waiting of the legal system to grant her godfather custody, Alyssa is confronted by a magical villain. This villain uses his magic to kidnap Alyssa and take her to the Fiji Islands.

The story has a lot of twists and turns -- and the use of your imagination to visualize some things in the book makes it even better. There are times that I actually pictured myself with Alyssa and the situations she encountered.

I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

Katie Beitz says

Imaginative, but not believable.

I found reading Alyssa McCarthy's *Magical Missions: Book 1: From Frights to Flaws* difficult. The narrative was clunky and the writing style unwieldy.

Alyssa McCarthy is a young girl who has tragically lost both parents. She is living with her cousin and Uncle when she discovers that an evil magician from Fiji wants to kidnap her so that he can rule France? The premise was certainly imaginative, but not very believable.

From this point on, the reader is taken on an adventure that, at times, is strange and a little illogical. Numerous obstacles are thrown in Alyssa's path only to be overcome with yet another 'magical rule'. And this is perhaps my biggest issue with this novel.

Magic doesn't have to be plausible, but it must be consistent. Magic needs to follow firm rules -- and an author is better off keeping these simple. There are too many times when Alyssa is saved, or hindered by yet another magical rule -- and it becomes so complicated that there is no way the reader can keep up. Creating magical surprises out of the blue to save or harm the characters is the fictional equivalent of pulling a rabbit out of a hat. The rules of magic need to be established at the beginning of the novel. Then, the characters must stick by those rules, even if it is difficult.

And, unfortunately, because of the use of magic in the novel, the narrative is not believable. Great fantasy asks us to accept the fiction. In this novel, I just couldn't do that. No matter how hard I tried.

The description and use of language in this novel are also difficult. I also didn't believe the reactions of the characters -- in particular the adults. Most of the adults, when confronted with the proof of magic, took it in their stride. I'm not sure I would have been so calm.

Katrina Roets says

Every once in a while, a young adult book crosses my desk and I get excited. I have two teen boys who I would love to get reading more so I consider it an opportunity to find them something they might love. This book, however, isn't it. The book starts out well, but just doesn't hold up. I found the characters to be flat and some of the situations/responses to be odd. For example, Alyssa meets these two people who are suddenly her mentors and she's just like, "oh, okay..." I don't know a single child who would have that sort of response. The parents have the same sort of reaction after finding their children were missing because they were kidnapped. It just doesn't work. There is also a scene where Alyssa and her friends are sitting around

trying to figure out how to kill another character. I found this rather disturbing. Also, more than once, I read a section and thought, "Harry Potter." That's not good. It's fine to take ideas and make them your own but when a reader blatantly can place the reference, it means the author hasn't really made the idea their own.

On a positive note, I do think that the story has a lot of potential. This is the first in a series so it is possible that the characters will round out and the story, while fantasy, will become more plausible.

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: FROM FRIGHT TO FLAWS by Sunayna Prasad [ALYSSA McCARTHY 'S MAGICAL MISSIONS BOOK 1]

Any story that begins as it's reader's hook with "your life will never be the same...because of magic" is bound to be exciting, engrossing, adventuresome. Welcome to FROM FRIGHTS TO FLAWS, first in the ALYSSA McCARTHY'S MAGICAL MISSIONS. Alyssa is a very special girl; she's lost both parents, then an aunt, and chafes under her uncle's rigid restrictions. Then to find out she is targeted by an Evil Wizard--and hey presto, we're not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy! [Or, we're not in New Jersey anymore, Alyssa!] Jump in and hang on for a wild ride.

Simone says

Alyssa McCarthy parents died in a tragic accident five years ago. Since then, she has been raised by her aunt and uncle. After being with them for a few years her Aunt Laura passes away from a reaction to raspberries. Now Uncle Bruce has become a strict guardian to Alyssa and her cousin Hailey. No one believes in magic, especially not her uncle. Will he listen before it's too late? Will the evil wizard Duchamp get his way?

This was a great story about friendship, good versus evil, and love. Alyssa is such a sweet character, you immediately fall in love with her and want her to win the battle against the villains. I also enjoyed the unique mystical creatures. Sunayna Prasad has an amazing imagination, I can't imagine any child not enjoying this book!

Kristin says

I'd like to thank the author and Promotional Book Tours for allowing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

As an adult, I found this book rather hard to read. The characters were just taking everything so well, and in stride, it made it kind of unbelievable from my point of view. I kept trying to put myself in the position of the adults in the story, and I just couldn't see myself reacting the way they did.

That being said however, once I got past that, took off my jaded glasses of adulthood, put on my pink-tinted glasses of childhood, it became a much more enjoyable read. It was a book that moved quickly, there was enough detail to help you visualize everything that was going on. From a child's point of view, I can see how they would like to read it.

I didn't think there was that much character development, but perhaps there doesn't need to be. I do intend on passing it onto my almost 8 year old daughter, and see how she likes it.

Niki says

Alyssa is twelve years 1 when her parents die in a car accident, she goes to live with an uncle, who is cruel and abuses her. Alyssa decides to run away and search for her guardian, who is working hard to be able to get custody. She discovers magic and soon others are after her too. She wants to save her city but before she can she is kidnapped.

It is a fun book for kids 12 years and up. Alyssa is a cute character, you just gotta love her. The story goes in a steady pace with lots of magic an (sometimes a bit to much?) Fantasy. All in all a good book, fun for YA and older. Your kids will enjoy it!

I received a copy of this book for a honest review.

James McCormick says

The novel starts very well indeed, a young girl under the yoke of domestic tyranny and powerless (at least initially) to liberate herself from an adult authority figure.

One is reminded here of Roald Dahl but in contrast to the late children's author Sunayana Prasad turns her adult guardian figure into a sympathetic character. Uncle Bruce is obsessive, dominating and controlling but his heart is in the right place and he is also an individual damaged by personal tragedy.

The scene set the magic quickly intrudes with writing on the window and mysterious messages from a sentient marble figure called Simon who provides the necessary exposition and whose introduction marks the beginning of the magical side of the tale.

Unfortunately however, after such a promising beginning, the rest of the book doesn't quite hold together. Perhaps the biggest structural fault is that after confronting the nemesis, Master Beau, early on in the tale the narrative simply goes nowhere. Instead we are subjected to a parade of talking head scenes where the same points are gone over again and again. Tension and drama fall away completely whilst there is too much incidental information regarding shops, foods and birthday details.

There were also a couple of other points I feel is to the work's detriment. The first is the way the author tries to combine magic and technology. I'm afraid whilst ambitious it simply isn't convincing and it clearly hasn't been thought out. The second is a very disturbing scene when Alyssa, Hailey, Madison, Jasmine and Destiny try and think up the ways to kill someone with such ideas as poison, injections and allergies. The scenario struck me as both immature and overly dark, something not suitable for a YA audience.

Overall, after a promising beginning I regret to say I found this a very disappointing read. I feel the author does possess a great deal of talent and also that the work holds promise. In its current form though I'm afraid I wouldn't recommend it. I'm afraid I won't be reading the next instalment.

Phaedra Seabolt says

This was a little out of my normal reading element. I decided that I would give a YA book a try since I haven't read many for a while, but I only liked the book rather than fell in love with it. It's a cute story about a girl who has had a rather rough life and then is thrown into the world of magic. She never believed magic existed, but the evidence piles up in such a way that she cannot deny the existence. What I was not crazy

about was that I felt like every character that Alyssa ran into just told her exactly what she wanted to know. Bad guys typically don't confess everything that freely and there were so many good guys willing to help her out without Alyssa being anyone special in the magical world at all. I suppose that the way it is written is probably great for a preteen, I just wanted a little more suspense.

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Terry Sprouse says

An enchanting tale that incorporates all the elements of a great magical YA story – virtuous protagonists, scary antagonists and a strong statement on the power of friendship and loyalty.

The author's engaging writing style and a well-conceived plot puts this book in the class of other outstanding fantasy books, like the Harry Potter series, with the double (much appreciated) value that they are extremely entertaining for children and an enjoyable read for adults.

There was a lot to like about this book. In particular, Alyssa, the main character was presented as a typical "tween-ager" who can't get by on her looks or popularity. Rather, she is the epitome of an ordinary young girl who we can all relate to. Because of this, we like her all the more, and we heartened as she surmounts the challenges placed before her.

You won't regret joining Alyssa McCarthy on this Magical Mission!

Lauren Jones says

When reading this story, the first thing that catches the attention of the reader is the magical elements. If you saw something that shouldn't be possible, would you be afraid? Would you want to learn more? Prasad has an interesting plot that is centralized for middle grade and young teens.

Alyssa McCarthy becomes wrapped up in a world of magic. She tells everyone that magic is real, but none of the adults believe her when strange things begin to happen. Her uncle's memory is wiped after a storm of purple and yellow rain and he can no longer remember Alyssa, his daughter Hayley or his own name. Then Alyssa gets some help from the oddest little marble figure, named Simon. He says an evil magic doer or sorcerer is trying to kidnap her and kill her in order to rule over a country. Alyssa and the magic friends that she makes after her escape help decide that the only way to stop him is if they can get to him before his final plan makes landfall. Alyssa knows that she is in danger, but when her non-magic friends also get kidnapped by the sorcerer and his minions, she believes that she has no other choice.

Prasad has a great idea for this book, but it does not appear to be well-thought out or completely mapped. The character development is choppy at best and everything seems to happen by just winging something new, which can be caused by poor scene planning or a rush to get the book released. Also, the content that is presented in this story addresses some heavy concepts pertaining to death and abandonment which are portrayed as light topics that shouldn't seem to affect a young reader's mind set. In actuality, there should have been a lot more emotional turmoil than what was expressed because these topics are naturally difficult

to overcome and some are socially unacceptable in this day and age. The adults also did not express any kind of incredulity to the mention of magic, which could cause a loss of credibility with readers. Finally, the book does not appear to be told well meaning that it is not well-written and the story does not flow with the content; therefore, Turning Another Page is not recommending this book to young readers.

A copy of this book was provided to Turning Another Page by Book Unleashed and in no way affects the honesty of this review. We provide a two-star rating to From Frights to Flaws by Sunayna Prasad.
