



The Incredible Magic of Being

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Some might say Julian is sheltered. But he lives large, and his eternal optimism allows him to see infinite possibilities wherever he looks.

Despite his optimism, he is anxious about his stressed family falling apart. Even his ability to "uni-sense" what's happening with his sister is gone. If he can make his family focus on the magic in the universe, surely they'll appreciate life again. Now that they are moving from Washington, DC, to rural Maine, Julian can use his beloved telescope without any light pollution. He can discover a comet, name it for himself, and show his family how they're all truly connected.

As Julian searches the night sky, he encounters a force that may drive his plan apart. His neighbor, Mr. X, could bring an end to his parents' dream of opening their B&B. Could one negative force unravel everything? An avid student of science, Julian understands that there is much about the universe that we don't yet know. Who is to say what's possible and what's not?

The Incredible Magic of Being Details

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Author : Kathryn Erskine

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From Reader Review The Incredible Magic of Being for online ebook

Sharon Kalman says

The year for stargazers. moving story about magic, family and the cosmos.

Matthew Archibald says

A beautiful book, with a wonderfully sympathetic main character, with a beautiful view of the world. I know I'm a sap, but I cried while I read it. (It may be because I have a child with an unusual health condition, or just because I have children, or just that I'm an emotional person.) Anyway, I highly recommend this book.

Missy says

Sometimes when reading middle grade fiction you come across characters that you truly love. They are quirky and/or challenging. They face obstacles and meet them in creative and unusual and occasionally unsuccessful ways. They are a type of character that I haven't met in books for grown-ups. Joey Pigza. India Opal Buloni. And all of the Robinson children from *Dog Friday*.

Julian is such a character. He is wise beyond his 9 years. He has a world view that makes sense to him, and, eventually, to those around him. He believes in science and magic, and sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the two. And maybe there isn't a difference.

The Incredible Magic of Being is delightful and surprising.

Markie says

I experienced this book as an audiobook through Libro.Fm

The story was absolutely amazing. I loved the reader's tone, and believe he really brought Julian, the main character, to life. Julian himself is a unique individual and I loved listening to him mentally breaking down situations are trying to fix them. Getting to listen to his "farts" between chapters was great too.

A great book for middle graders and up, with adventure, some family drama, and a lot of science.

Cheryl says

Um, too much like "The Absolute Value of Mike" to appreciate since I read that so recently? Especially during the first third or so I was thinking that Erskine has a template/ Mad Libs thing going on.... Cute

enough, heartwarming, and, yes, magical. I just can't get behind the magic aspect of it though so I can't give it four stars, nor can I recommend it. Some other aspects are just wrong, too, like all the lacks of communication... really, moms, you wouldn't make sure your kids would know that kind of stuff?

Abi E. says

I think if you want to have a happy ending, and a parallel one. It will be a good one for you!!!!

Cameron Chaney says

The Incredible Magic of Being is a contemporary middle-grade story about a boy named Julian who moves with his moms and sister to a new home that will be their bed and breakfast. It mostly revolves around Julian trying to bring his family back together again as well as make the grumpy next-door neighbor a little less grumpy. Julian is a very optimistic, upbeat character who has some health problems but tries to make the most of every minute.

I had to read this for my library book review group. I wasn't sure if it would be my thing, and I'm still not sure it was. It's a cute story and has some good messages, but I mostly found it to be pretty slow and a tad annoying at times. Julian's family argues constantly throughout the whole book, which got tiresome very quickly. The arguments mostly revolve around Julian's sister Pookie who is bitter about never getting to know her dad. I don't know if this is the best way to represent LGBT parents. Some smaller minded readers might walk away with "See? This is proof that a father needs to be present!" I feel this author is definitely for LGBT people and didn't intend for her book to be taken this way since everything is resolved at the end, but it was a bit questionable.

This wasn't a life-changing book by any means but aggravations aside, it was fine. **Overall, 2.5 stars.**

J. says

A very quiet middle grade novel with a likable and optimistic protagonist. This was a slow read for me, but I appreciated the science, and there is a surprising twist at the end.

Leah G. says

Julian's character strength is perspective, because he is always thinking of others. For example, even when his sister is rude and teases him, he still sees the part of her that hurts and feels left out. He also sees his family's look on things, and never just thinks about himself.

Janae Easton says

(Written by my 11 year old son) *The Incredible Magic of Being* by Kathryn Erskine created colorful

characters that had funny and quirky personalities. The plot was charming and the twist at the end was amazing.

While the book was good, it did have some flaws. There were multiple instances of cheesy dialogue. The main character seemed to have an over exaggerated fear of water. I may be biased because of my love of swimming.

The ending of the book was memorable and increased my overall enjoyment.

Walt says

The idea of Julian being able to behold many possibles for whatever he see or in counters is interesting and the way he goes through everything is weird cause the way he starts thinking is amazing.

Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says

I wish I saw the universe through the eyes of Julian.

Padma Venkatraman says

Funny and serious this middle grade novel explores the magic of everyday life and the bonds that unite family and friends

Sarah Ressler Wright says

A fabulous book- I loved that it is told from the perspective of a boy who is on the autism spectrum, and the fact that his parents are two mothers is not not the central plotline. Erskine's writing is superb and the characters are real and fully developed. I love the twists in the book, and I found it lovely for all students from late elementary through high school. I like to read the title as "The Incredible Magic of Being Kathryn Erskine" because she is such a magical storyteller.

Kristin Crouch says

Julian is a uni-sensor, which means he can sense other things going on in the universe. Not that he doesn't have enough to sense in his family: with a grumpy, teenage older sister, and a move to Maine where his moms will run a brand new B & B, he has plenty on his plate. Throughout the many changes, he remains a sweet and kind boy who just wants everyone around him to see the magic in the world. I enjoyed viewing the world from his point of view and was sad to see the story end, it was one of those books you want to savor!

