



2008

Erratum

Larysa Bordner

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Sorrells, Walter. *Erratum*. Penguin Putnam, 2008. ISBN 9780525478324. \$17.99. 298 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Space and time--Juvenile fiction; Books--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Biographies are books that describe what has already happened in a person's life, but what would one call a book that told a person's entire life, including the future? For Jessica Sternhagen, that book is called *Her Life*. This book is randomly given to Jessica, and upon reading it, she is surprised to find that it tells about her life in great detail. It even tells of her death, which happens to be only moments away. Due to the book's warning, Jessica is able to avoid death. From there, the ending changes, and Jessica is confused and amazed about what this book might hold for her. She learns that the book is supposed to be the story of how she saves the Universe, so she must learn everything she can about her future before it changes again. Jessica and her friend Dale learn that sometimes things are not always what they seem. Even though neither of them feels at home in their family, they must work with what they have been given.

Erratum is an interesting story that has great potential. Its plot is based on an original idea; however, it fails to fill out the details which would complete the impressive story that it is in the beginning. Things happen rapidly, and the reader is not given enough detail to understand what is going on. The result is almost 300 hundred pages of confusion. The reader feels as if they are looking for the plot line, just as the character Jessica is searching for her book within the story. Even the ending of the story is explained quickly, leaving no space for understanding or closure to be felt.

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