



2009

Once a Witch

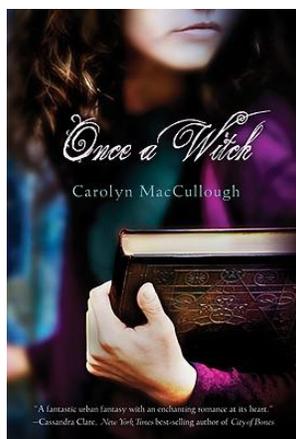
Tessa McMillan

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MacCullough, Carolyn. *Once a Witch*. Clarion, 2009. ISBN 9780547223995. \$16.00. 292 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Witches--Juvenile fiction; Identity--Juvenile fiction; Time travel--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

Tamsin Greene's grandmother prophesied that Tamsin would be the greatest witch in their family, but Tamsin's powers have not come through. While Tamsin is working at her family's bookstore, Alistair Callum, a professor at NYU, asks for help in finding an heirloom clock. Tamsin promises to find the clock, and with the help of her friend Gabriel, she travels through time to retrieve it. But there is more behind this antique. The clock holds the powers of the Domani, a binding spell that keeps the evil Knight family from regaining their full powers again. Tamsin takes the clock to Alistair not knowing a trace of the Domani magic is still on the clock. Alistair, who is a member of the Knight family, uses that bit of magic to force Tamsin to reveal where the next Domani artifact is located. Tamsin leads him to Grand Central Station where the main clock holds the Domani power. Tamsin activates the clock and sends Alistair into the past, leaving Tamsin and her family uncertain what damage he might do to their family's past.

MacCullough's writing is fresh, vibrant, and delightful. MacCullough writes this story as if she is witnessing all of Tamsin's movements, which makes the story feel more realistic than most fantasy books. There is a good chance a second book will be written since the ending is inconclusive. Teachers, parents, and librarians should be aware that Tamsin is portrayed as an underage smoker.

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