



2010

Numbers

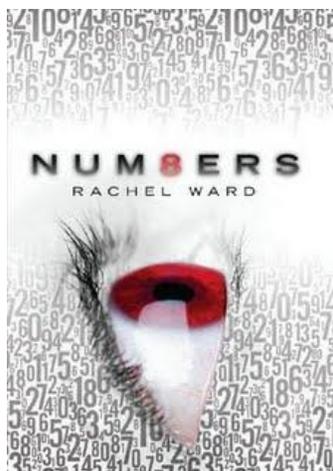
Anna Swenson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Swenson, Anna (2010) "Numbers," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 31 : Iss. 1 , Article 17.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol31/iss1/17>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Ward, Rachel. *Numbers*. Chicken House, 2010. ISBN 9780545142991. \$17.99. 325 p.

Reviewer: Anna Swenson

Reading level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Science fiction;

Subject: Psychic ability--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal Relations--Juvenile fiction; Runaways--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Ever since her mother's death, Jem has been able to see numbers; signifiers of death dates. Because of this, she secluded herself from world. Until she met Spider, that is. Although he only had a few months of his life left, she became fast friends with him, and on one fated trip to the London Eye, they are sent on the run by police.

Numbers has the premise of being an intriguing science fiction novel, but that is not where the story truly excels. The true pleasure of the book lies in the characterization and the coming-of-age story told within the race from the police. The numbers seem to be only a plot device, and they are largely put off to the side for the majority of the book. Ward is truly fantastic at making the characters believable and lovable, and although the story is a bit loose, it has amazing details within it. The ending is where the true genius of her writing is seen, as she delivers a heart-wrenchingly poignant ending that is ironic, yet fitting. Another area where the novel fails to impress is in the plot. Many times, things seem to happen only to move the story along, and are never fully explored. *Numbers* is an excellent book, but if it were more to the point and less formulaic, it could have been spectacular.

Volume 31, no. 1 (September/October 2010)