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Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarian by Brandon Sanderson.

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Author: Sanderson, Brandon

Title: *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* (Alcatraz #1)

Year of Publication: 2007

Publisher: Scholastic Press

ISBN: 9780439925501

Number of Pages: 308

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate

Keywords: Librarians; Foster Children; Adventure: Fantasy; Quests

Review:

Alcatraz Smedry is a foster child who has bounced from home to home until his 13th birthday on which he receives box of sand sent from his birth parents. This odd gift is just the beginning of his journey. He's always had a talent for breaking things, especially the most loved items of his foster parents, but when Grandpa Smedry shows up Alcatraz finds out just how much he's underestimated that talent and his knowledge of the world, a librarian controlled section of a much larger mystical world containing Oculators, Crystins, and very polite dinosaurs. He and Grandpa fight the librarians and a Dark Oculator to reclaim the sands and he takes his place as a Smedry.

The writing is very casual and the author takes a conversational approach with the reader. This book would be great for students who may not have a love of reading yet. It is interesting and has some complex magical elements but the author helps readers follow easily, even pointing out some foreshadowing to the reader. This is book one of a series and offers a set up for future books without slowing the pace. While the writing style can feel a bit redundant or obvious when the author takes time to make side comments rather than delving more deeply into the story, overall, it has a fresh plot line and is a quick and easy read that will keep your attention.

Reviewer: Nicole Davis

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