



2014

Bad Unicorn by Platte F. Clark

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Floyd, Sydnee (2014) "Bad Unicorn by Platte F. Clark," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 34 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol34/iss1/1>

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Author: Clark, Platte F.

Title: *Bad Unicorn*

Year of Publication: 2013

Publisher: Aladdin

ISBN: 9781442450127

Number of Pages: 432

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate

Keywords: Magic; Unicorns; Time Travel; Card Games; Middle School; Novels; Fantasy

Review:

Clark illustrates the potential of the underdog in his novel, *Bad Unicorn*. Although Max has accepted his fate of being a nobody, with the help of unexpected friends and opportunity, he discovers his potential to use magic. In an unforeseen twist of fate, Max and his two friends are thrust into the future where they not only have to find a way home, but are the only existing humans and tasked with defeating the evil Princess Unicorn's plan to take over the world so they can save what life is left on planet earth.

Clark successfully portrays all sides to his story. The reader is able to relate to Max's struggles and triumphs as well as Princess Unicorn's. In doing so, Clark offers the reader a comprehensive understanding of the characters involved. However clearly separating the different characters along with their exact time frame becomes a little tricky. The reader must pay close attention in order to keep confusion at bay. Clark's novel is exceptionally modern and relevant to those readers, who like Max and his friends, are apt to play magically themed card games. By taking three middle schoolers who are unnoticed by most and terrorized by bullies and transforming them into heroes, Clark is able to instill gumption and capability into the reader. Because of this *Bad Unicorn* has the potential to be embraced by middle school teachers as a means of helping their students, especially their male students, develop confidence in their own abilities.

Reviewer: Sydnee Floyd

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