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Finding Serendipity

Corie Darrington

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Book Review

Title: Finding Serendipity
Author: Angelica Banks
Illustrator: Stevie Lewis
Reviewer: Corie Darrington
Publisher: Henry Holt and Company
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9781627791540
Number of Pages: 280
Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult
Rating: Excellent



Review

Finding Serendipity follows Tuesday McGillicuddy on a daring quest to find her mother, famous author, Serendipity Smith. Just as she is finishing the latest book in her famous Vivienne Small series, Serendipity goes missing from her writing room. Tuesday, along with her dog Baxterr, set off to solve the mystery of her disappearance. While investigating her mother's writing room, Tuesday starts to type out her story on her mother's typewriter and is carried off to a secret land just for authors. Upon arrival, she meets a librarian, who sets Tuesday on her way. However, rather than creating her own world, Tuesday enters the one her mother created. Back home, Serendipity has returned from her journey to find her daughter gone. Desperate to help Tuesday, Serendipity starts to interfere. Tuesday, alongside Vivienne have to fight Vivienne's arch enemy, Mothwood, who was brought back to life by Serendipity. Tuesday ends up back at the library where the librarian explains the potential Tuesday's words and ideas have, potential that could help her become an author like her mother. Tuesday then goes up against Mothwood, and comes out victorious. She and Baxterr say goodbye to their new friend and return back home to Tuesday's relieved parents. After she explains her adventure to her parents, Tuesday helps her mother finish her latest book with a promise of more adventure to come.

Finding Serendipity is a delightful coming of age story. Like Tuesday, many young readers may be struggling to find out more about who they are and what they good at. This book is a simple read, but it is easy to follow the plot line through to the end. Banks did an excellent job creating a new type of setting that will draw readers in, as well as developing the character of Tuesday into a likeable and relatable character. Sprinkled throughout this book are illustrations by Stevie Lewis that really help to bring the characters and their stories to life. This story is an interesting and fun read for young readers. Banks ends with a focus on family and the role they play in self-discovery that pulls the whole story together and leaves the reader satisfied.

*Contains mild violence.