



2017

Wichtown

Olivia Noli

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Book Review

Title: Witchtown

Author: Cory Putman Oakes

Reviewer: Olivia Noli

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

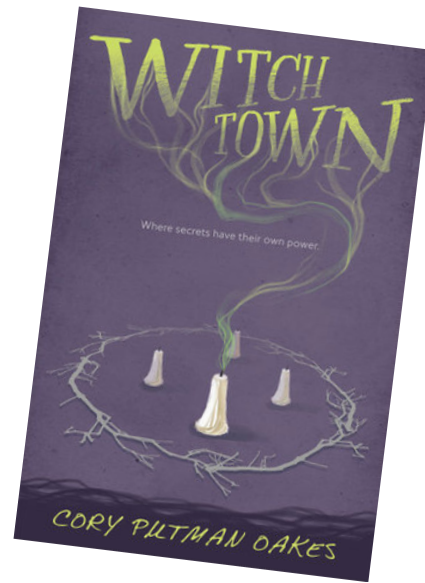
Year: 2017

ISBN: 9780544765573

Pages: 310

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent



Review

Macie and her mother, two con-women living on the road, arrive at Witchtown and hope to make it their last big job. Macie's mother, Aubra, a natural witch, leads the cons and uses her magic in the end to erase the townspeople's memories after they've been robbed. After every town, they move on and leave everyone behind. Witchtown is different, because when they arrive, they discover that the town is broke. Macie is determined to stay and make the con work. However, everything changes when her mother decides to burn down the town for the insurance money. Unable to destroy a town she has come to love, Macie decides to defeat her mother and save the town, and in the process discovers a secret about herself.

Witchtown is an interesting story and sets up a believable world of modern witches. Macie's past was the only part of the narrative which was not well told. At the very beginning, Macie is traumatized by some bygone event. Throughout the story, Macie flashes back to her last town and her time with Rafe, a boy she loved. At the end of the story, the reader discovers that the mysterious event was her mother nearly killing Rafe only five days before the start of the novel. This seemed improbable and unconvincing, considering the way Macie tells the story. The flashbacks are drawn out and almost distracting from the actual narrative. Aside from this, however, the story is well told and enjoyable.

*Contains mild language and mild sexual content.