



2018

Tentacle and Wing

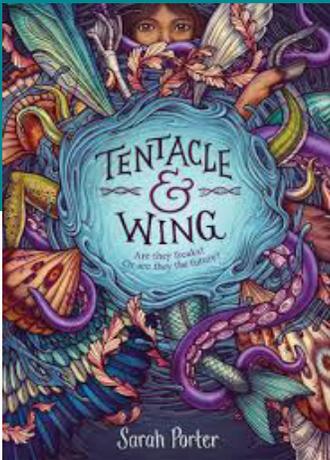
Karen Abbott

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Book Review

Tentacle and Wing

Author

Sarah Porter

Illustrator

N/A

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate

Pages

272

Year

2017

Publisher

HMH Books for Young

ISBN

9781328707338

Ada has known for most of her life that she is a kime, a human-animal hybrid from an unknown source. She looks fully human, though, and this allows her to keep it secret. Her father teaches her to lie about how things look to her, because her hidden hybrid gift is infrared vision. Most kimes (chimera) have visible mutations--wings, tentacles, flippers, and such. Humans fear, persecute, and isolate kimes. When a test reveals Ada's true nature, she is relieved to think that she will no longer have to conceal her real self. But when she arrives at the kime facility, she discovers that humans are not the only ones with prejudices. Does she look too human? Can she be trusted? Can she trust the other kimes, and what do they want her to do with her special ability? Ada discovers an unexpected sister and a way to be her own person, regardless of everyone else.

Ada's character and the theme of this book push it from good to great. Ada has never been accepted for herself, as even her mother is a crusader against the kimes and pushes for legislation to protect the human species from them, but Ada herself is very loving, very intelligent, very accepting, and quite wise. Because of her background she is able to see the faults on both sides and to love both sides without prejudice, but with a decided opinion of what is right and what is wrong. She is deeply compassionate and wants very badly to be accepted unconditionally by someone. She sees prejudice for what it is, hurtful and dangerous, regardless of who is pushing it on whom. Her vision is an especially appropriate mutation since she is helping everyone, including the reader, to see more clearly when looking at someone else. This is an outstanding book to see prejudice for what it is.

*Contains mild violence.