



2018

The Incredible Magic of Being

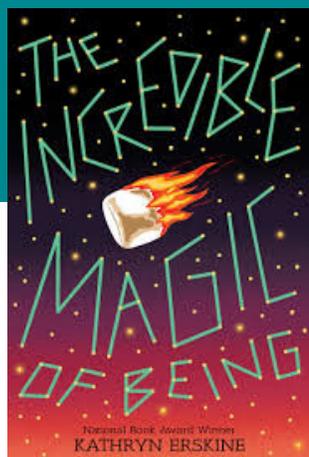
Sam Whitaker

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Whitaker, Sam (2018) "The Incredible Magic of Being," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 8 , Article 75.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss8/75>

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Book Review

The Incredible Magic of Being

Author

Kathryn Erskine

Illustrator

Reviewer

Sam Whitaker

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

Pages

240

Year

2017

Publisher

Scholastic Press

ISBN

9781338148510

Julian is what he calls a ‘uni-sensor’ (short for Universe Sensor). He can see things in people that most others wouldn’t be able to find even if they take all of their lifetime. When his stressed family moves to Maine to try and run a Bed & Breakfast, Julian uses his vast knowledge of time and space to try and reconnect with his older sister, Pookie, who is very against having to live as a host at the Bed & Breakfast. Then, when things seem like they can’t get worse, Mr. X, the family’s next door neighbor, places a lawsuit against the family for blocking the view of the nearby lake that his recently-passed-on wife loved so much. Julian decides to take matters into his own hands and visit Mr. X, to see if he can possibly make this grumpy man a little less grumpy. The rest of the book consists of Julian discovering that Mr. X is really in Florida, and that he is also a Uni-Sensor projecting his image to Julian. Then, because of their new special connection, Julian feels that Mr. X is having a heart attack, and saves him by calling 911. The book ends with Mr. X and Julian finally meeting face-to-face, and Julian’s family reunited.

The Incredible Magic of Being is truly a compelling tale of helping others, finding connections, and becoming the small every-day hero. This is a must-read for people who may be going through family trials. It shows how everything can become better in the future; and to look towards the stars as a reminder that not everyone was perfect. This is also a good book for those who enjoy scientific subjects, because they will be able to connect with Julian as he explains how incredible being a person connected with the universe can be.