



## Children's Book and Media Review

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### Changling

Karen Abbott

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## Book Review

# Changling

### Author

Molly Harper

### Reviewer

Karen Abbott

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### Rating

Outstanding

### Level

Intermediate, Young  
Adult

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### Pages

264

### Year

2018

### ISBN

9781641970457

### Publisher

Nancy Yost Literary  
Agency

Members of Sarah Smith’s family are indentured to the austere Winter household. The Winters have a reputation in the magical community that they staunchly maintain, so when Sarah unexpectedly exhibits magical powers, she is forced to become a ward of the Winter family to protect everyone from shame and imprisonment. With a new identity as Cassandra Reed, she is sent to a prestigious school of magic where an ancient book selects her as “The Translator.” This distinction is both a blessing and a curse for a girl who wants to go unnoticed, but its revelation allows Sarah and her two stalwart friends to uncover the school librarian’s plot to take over the world. As the three girls rescue the school and England, Sara finds peace in her new place in society and is finally allowed to see her family again.

This is a delightful book that follows familiar flights of fancy. Sarah speaks her mind with often humorous results, similar to the perspicacious observations by Ann Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables*. The book’s magic school atmosphere is reminiscent of *Harry Potter*, as Sarah uses an atheme like Harry’s wand while attending classes like divination with a flighty familiar like Harry’s owl. Oppression in Sarah’s world offers a nice introduction into a discussion about equality. Like Harry and Anne, Sarah stands up to bullies and makes friends with the less popular girls. Sarah’s integrity and privacy are managed with deft timing and plot twists, allowing readers to both love and despise characters from each side of their perils. The novel doesn’t offer new or startling tropes, but it does deliver a wholesome, enjoyable read that will engage readers who love a magical world with a feisty heroine.

\*Contains mild violence.