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Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation

Tessa McMillan

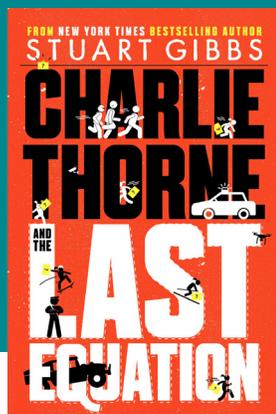
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Book Review

Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation

Author

Stuart Gibbs

Reviewer

Tessa McMillan

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

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Pages

400

Year

2019

ISBN

9781534424760

Publisher

Simon and Schuster
Books for Young
Readers

For seventy years, the CIA has been searching for Albert Einstein's final equation: a shortcut for harnessing atomic energy called Pandora. Einstein left a clue to Pandora on his deathbed, but no one has solved it. Now a German terrorist group, the Furies, is on the trail. To get ahead, the CIA wants to bring someone as smart as Einstein into their confidence: twelve-year-old prodigy, Charlie Thorne. When CIA agents Dante Garcia and Milana Moon find her, she resists. But once they explain their predicament, she agrees to help, especially since Dante is her half-brother. Working together they solve Einstein's clue revealing a complex riddle, which leads them to Jerusalem. Finding the Furies are there too, a violent struggle ensues, attracting Israel's own covert agency, the Mossad. Using her amazing intellect, Charlie solves the riddle that leads them to Mount Wilson Observatory in California where they find Pandora, just as the Furies' leader and Mossad agents swarm in. It's up to Charlie save Pandora before anyone else can take the equation from her.

Gibbs' book is a seriously satisfying and entertaining espionage thriller. But there's a deeper side to this spy adventure. Charlie might have Einstein's IQ, but she is far from being wise. She is still a twelve-year-old girl who wants to have fun and be a kid. Being a genius has both blessed and burned her. She takes outrageous risks knowing her brain will automatically calculate all possible solutions. But her aptitude thrust her into a cutthroat world where adults, including her parents, took advantage of her skills. With no trust for authority, Charlie attempts to fly under the radar and use her skills when she wants something. When Charlie is reunited with Dante, he pushes her to fulfill her full potential by helping others. The book is targeted for middle-grade readers, and the moderate violence makes it only appropriate for those ages thirteen and up. Fans of Roland Smith and Ron McGee will enjoy this book.

*Contains moderate violence.