



2020

The Last Chance Hotel

Amanda Morgan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Morgan, Amanda (2020) "The Last Chance Hotel," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 5, Article 23.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss5/23>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

The Last Chance Hotel

Author

Nicki Thornton

Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

.....

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

321

Year

2018

ISBN

9781338323627

Publisher

Chicken House

As an underappreciated kitchen boy living and working in a remote hotel, Seth's life lacks excitement. That is, until one day when some special guests arrive and he is told to treat the eccentric people as VIPs. One of the guests, Dr. Thalamus, is tragically poisoned, and since Seth made the last thing he ate he is instantly blamed for killing him. Dr. Thalamus is the Sorcerer General, the leader of the little-known magical, and as Seth tries to clear his name he is swept into a world of wonder and excitement. Through many suspenseful adventures and mysterious happenings, Seth presses forward in his own investigation until the true murderer is found.

Successful lighthearted murder mysteries are hard to come by, but this book is one of them. The seriousness of murder is not downplayed, but the story is not frightening or morbid in any way. In fact, it is often rather whimsical, as Seth's discovery of magic is a big part of the plot. Seth is a lovable, goodhearted, and soft-spoken character, making him a relatable hero for children who may also be more introverted. The storyline is easy to follow, and each of the characters have distinct personalities. Who committed the crime is just as much a mystery to the reader as it is to Seth until the very end of the book. This and the suspenseful moments in which Seth faces danger make the book hard to put down. It is sure to be an engaging story for intermediate readers.

*Contains mild violence.