



2020

Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

Karen Abbott

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Abbott, Karen (2020) "Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 10, Article 3.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss10/3>

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

Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

Author

Brandon Sanderson

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

.....

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

320

Year

2016

ISBN

9780765378941

Publisher

Starscape

Alcatraz has been breaking things all of his life while he is passed from foster home to foster home. So, it is astonishing when his grandfather, Leavenworth Smedry, reveals that this is a much-revered talent in the Free Kingdoms. Grandpa Smedry sweeps Alcatraz into a world where librarians are evil and control information, a world where sand is smelted into glasses that allow occlators to see things that others cannot, and a world populated by the family that Alcatraz has always wondered about. As his eyes begin to see things in a new light, choices that he never expected fall into his path, helping him learn to choose not only for himself, but for those he cares about as well.

Readers will laugh out loud at the humorous and twisted way that Sanderson reveals a world that, just like Alcatraz, we never knew existed. He insists throughout the story that these impossible places and people are true, providing irresistible evidence and counterintuitive logic to prove that his perspective is correct. The sincerity of the characters lends credence and credulity to this frolicking, fast-paced adventure tale. Readers care enough about the characters to stay involved in the story as reality spins out of control, so readers accept tiny talking dinosaurs, sconces shaped like fruit, and evil determined to overtake the world.

*Contains mild violence.