



2020

The 12th Candle

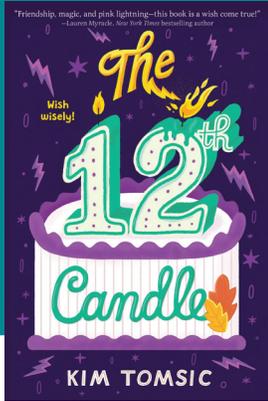
Erica Sonzogni

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Sonzogni, Erica (2020) "The 12th Candle," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 10, Article 24.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss10/24>

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 12th Candle

Author

Kim Tomsic

Reviewer

Erica Sonzogni

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

323

Year

2019

ISBN

9780062654977

Publisher

Katherine Tegen Books

For her birthday, Sage receives a magical candle, on which she can wish for anything she desires. She knows immediately that she wants to reverse the curse that has been plaguing her family for decades. It seems only terrible events happen to her family—her dad is in jail, her mother is struggling to put food on the table, and Sage is terrible at math. On the other hand, good things happen to her family’s nemeses, the Pettys. But as the curse is reversed, Sage realizes that the Pettys’ lives are not as perfect as they seem and that she has many of her own blessings that she took for granted.

This middle-grade novel has a strong balance between its magical elements and relatable teenage problems. Bullying is a prevalent issue, and while the victim gets revenge on her bully, she does feel bad when her plan comes to fruition, teaching empathy and the potential consequences of a victim becoming a bully themselves. Friendship is also an important theme, emphasizing through the display of great conflict resolution techniques the importance of having a friendship circle that accepts individuals as they are. The author’s style tends toward the use of simplistic adjectives, making the readability a little too basic for the intended pre-teen audience. However, readers will relate to the issues that Sage overcomes while enjoying the fantasy plot elements that take her on her journey.