The Unfinished Angel

Debbie Barr

Reviewer: Debbie Barr  
Reading Level: Intermediate  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction; Humorous stories;  
Subject: Angels--Juvenile fiction; Orphans--Juvenile fiction; Switzerland--Juvenile Fiction;  
Books--Reviews;  

Not all angels have wings and halos, and sometimes they're not perfect, either. In the Swiss Alps lies a tiny village where one such angel lives. It has spent many generations watching over the people there, but is always wondering where the other angels are. The peace of the village is interrupted when a young girl named Zola moves in and is able to see the angel. Together they work to help a group of orphans living in the village whom none of the adults knows about. In the end, they convince Zola's father that they should stay at his new school, and the children's vibrancy and excitement for life bring the sleepy town back to life.

While *The Unfinished Angel* has a small but charming cast of characters, the plot is slow, and the language proves a tad confusing. The Angel, who is both genderless and nameless, tells the story in somewhat broken English. While this is an interesting tactic for storytelling, it does make some of the narration confusing, especially for a young audience. The characters are fun though, and they make the book interesting when the plot lags, which happens periodically throughout the book. While *The Unfinished Angel* has its endearing moments, its faults could prove problematic for its intended audience.

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