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Clockbreakers



Synopsis

On her eleventh birthday, Charlie receives a key to go back in time. But time travel isn't easy. Before she blows out her candles, Charlie lands in Greece with her best friend Maria and her former best friend Trent. She's a Clockbreaker, stuck in a Greek myth, on an action-packed adventure with a mission: to save her father, and perhaps even save the world.

Book Information

Paperback: 146 pages

Publisher: Indigo Sea Press (September 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1630664553

ISBN-13: 978-1630664558

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,484,179 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #724 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman #1080 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Customer Reviews

Clockbreakers gets started quickly and doesn't let up! Twists and surprises around every corner (literally!) and a diverse cast of characters, both human and not.-Teresa Klepinger, author of Cliffhanger Writing PromptsYes, it's a time travel book, but it's also a heart travel book, a book about friendship, forgiveness, courage, and the powers waiting to be discovered in each one of us.-Kathleen Lane, author of The Best Worst ThingRistau does an amazing job of weaving Greek mythology into this story, leaving the reader (like myself!) curious to know more. Clockbreakers will play out like a movie in your head...and I'm ready for the sequel!-Erin Ritch, author of Myth

Kate Ristau is an author and folklorist who writes young adult and middle grade fiction. In her ideal world, magic and myth combine to create memorable stories with unforgettable characters. Until she finds that world, she'll live in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, her son and her dog.

In Kate Ristau's Clockbreakers, Charlie wishes that people would stop feeling sorry for her and just forget that she is in a wheelchair. Instead, at her eleventh birthday party Charlie receives a magic key from a stranger that unlocks portals. She is now a Clockbreaker, and she must cross to another time and place with her friends Maria and Trent to rescue her father who is lost somewhere in time. This book is remarkable not only for its differently-abled protagonist, but also for the fine exhibition of craft Ristau displays. First, Charlie, the protagonist, is in a wheelchair, but she doesn't let the disability define her. She is spunky and fun and determined and fierce whether her legs work or not. Also, the other characters in the main plot accept Charlie for who she is and do not lower their expectations of her. There is no wisp of pity, even when they are carrying her. Even the antagonist spends more time trying to take advantage of Charlie's youth and not her physical limitations. Ristau builds a world on top of familiar Greek mythology without either cheapening the original myths or using the old stories as an excuse to be lazy with her own imagination. She builds a labyrinth containing the Minotaur, but enlarges the maze so it fills square miles, and moves it to a vast desert. The original labyrinth was under Minos's castle, which was not that huge. Even the monsters in this book have rich backstories and complex emotions. Asterion, the Minotaur, is both a warrior and a gentle, patient soul with cow eyes. He is a far cry from the virgin-eating half-man, half-bull prowling Minos's dungeons. However, if you want a true indication of how much I liked this book, here it is: I am handing my review copy off to my eight-year-old, who has been begging me for it since she saw the cover. I am sure she will enjoy it even more than I did.

Clockbreakers pulls you in from the first sentence! Charlie is a strong narrator who deals with the shock of discovering the world around is not what it seems. When you're done with this book you'll want to find the author and demand to know when the next book will be released.

Amazing book that weaves modern characters with ancient myths. Middle schoolers will love the feisty heroine and her friends! Who wouldn't want to ride a Minotaur?!

Story line similar to C.S. Lewis story. Having disabled person was a good thing. End of story similar to a movie.

Superb!

I just finished reading this book to 2 of my kids (ages 9 and 11). Here's what they thought: "It was the best. I want to read the next one! It was awesome." Because we read it at bedtime, we'd often read a chapter or two and then have to stop. And they would beg and beg me to continue. It's a lively, well-written, fantastic adventure with a plucky, female hero (who happens to use a wheelchair) and we look forward to reading the rest of the series as soon as they come out.

Oh man, I loved this book. I'm 53 and YA is my guilty-pleasure genre. My favorite things were close to my heart--Charlie uses a wheelchair, and that is incidental rather than central to her character, just like it is in real life. Her friends are a diverse bunch, including even a boy (at that age, that's diversity). But my favorite part is their resourcefulness in building Charlie a new wheelchair when hers is destroyed. I love resourcefulness-- MacGyver is my hero, and Charlie, Maria and Trent are worthy of him. :)

A wonderful adventure for both kids and adults that you will NOT be able to put down! The heroine, Charlie, is a witty young girl who, like every eleven-year-old, wants everyone to stop treating her like a child. When she and her friends are thrust into adventure, Charlie rises to the occasion despite the challenges in her way. Ristau does an amazing job of weaving Greek mythology into this story, leaving the reader curious to know more. Clockbreakers will play out like a movie in your head and I'm ready for the sequel! I received a copy from the author in exchange for my honest review.

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