

How To Hang A Witch

Adriana Mather

Review by Moeez Syed, 17

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Samantha Mather deals with a problem many kids have to face: being the new kid in town. How To Hang A Witch by Adriana Mather dwells on this problem along with the fact that her family already has a tainted reputation in town for a few key reasons.

The story takes place in Salem Massachusetts, which is notoriously known as the location where the Salem witch trials of the late 1600s took place. How to Hang A Witch adds a fictional twist of the story on top of this to create the plot. Sam, the prominent character of the novel, had to make the move to Washington after her father was hospitalized in New York and live with her step-mother, Vivian. As mentioned, her family tree's history in Salem is quite diminished, as she is part of the Mather family. Cotton Mather, one of her long grandfather's was one of the main people involved in the witch trials. As a result, she was targeted and harassed in school primarily by a group of peers known as the descendants, whose ancestors on the other hand were, quite ironically, the witches. Sam, coincidentally, is also dealing with a spirit, or ghost, who goes by Elijah who helps guide Sam as she attempts to break the curse of evil and prove her innocence to the people of Salem.

Overall, I find this novel to be quite interesting as it takes a historic part of history and helps readers gain an understanding of it through the incorporation of a fictional story filled with action and scenarios that the main character has to undergo that may be relatable to some readers. The setup of the book was designed in a particular way which managed to keep the reader enthralled and on their feet, through suspense, romance, and paranormal activity. However, one potential negative I discovered while reading was the character's superficial appearance. Throughout the novel, the description of each character was slightly vague and artificial, without proper characterization, it may be hard to picture the plot or narrative occurring. There are a few occurrences throughout the book that causes me to classify this novel as a book for those aged 13 and older, but if one decides to read whether, by purchase or gift, which I do recommend, they will gain a large understanding of a piece of history that remains ambiguous to many while connecting it to a fiction but yet similar to real-world experience.

Recommended Titles:

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins

The Maze Runner, James Dashner

The Wicked Deep, Shea Ernshaw