

## **The Storyteller**

**Antonia Michaelis**

**Reviewed by Rachel Johnson, 41**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Anna Leeman is seventeen, smart, and from a loving family. One day in the student lounge she finds a doll that is claimed by Abel Tannatek. Abel Tannatek is seventeen, known as the “Polish Peddler” at school because he is a drug dealer. He is always be himself, late to class, and sleeps during lectures. Anna becomes curious about Abel; her friends warn her to stay away from him, but she decides to follow him one day. She finds out that he has a six-year-old sister named Micha. She can tell when she sees them together that he loves his sister. Anna pretends to bump into him, and his sister and they form a relationship. She finds out that he has been caring for Micha alone and he is very protective of her. He says he does not know where his mother has gone. He is worried that someone will try and take her away from him.

Abel has created a fairytale based on the cliff queen, who in real life is Micha. In the fairytale there are people after the cliff queens diamond heart. He calls himself the storyteller and every day that they are all together he builds on the fairytale. Anna notices that the events that are happening in the fairytale are taking place in real life. All the characters are actual people, even her, who Abel has named the rose girl. Their relationship starts off rocky, and he tries to push her away, but she finds a way into his heart. As the fairytale unfolds so does Able’s dark secrets.

Fantastic Writing, Beautiful Poetry, Dark Subject Matters, Shocking Ending. Antonia Michaelis has brilliantly authored a story where fantasy collides with reality. The main characters Anna, Able and Micha are well developed. Anna is a good girl, Abel is damaged, and Micha is a sweet child that holds them together. This is a love story and a mystery. It is a story about fighting for survival. There are some dark themes including rape, sexual child abuse, suicide, and murder. Other themes include smoking, drinking, drugs, and sex. This book is a “Buy Now.” Anyone who likes suspense, mystery or fantasy will enjoy this book, but because of the subject matter I recommend it for mature readers, 16+ (Parental discretion).

### **Recommended Titles**

Silence, by Deborah Lytton

The Unknown, by J.W. Lynne

Fractured Tide, by Leslie Lutz

