

THE GIRL WHO SPEAKS BEAR

is a wonderful book by Sophie Anderson which involves lots of adventure, magic and comedy. The main character, Yanka, is a lovely and engaging person to read and I admire her bravery and courage. Her pet Mousetrap is very comical, and it is very funny to hear how highly he thinks of himself. Along the way, Yanka meets many animals such as a deer trapped in ice (which she saves) and a wolf, which when she was very little, pulled out its claw. She also meets a house that has chicken legs, which is very comical when it misbehaves. In the ending battle scene, Yanka and her friends must defeat a fire dragon and save a lime tree that can grant wishes. I adored this book and loved reading it, I recommend it strongly to those who enjoy adventure and fantasy. Zoe

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I thought this book was based on adventure, fantasy and comedy. I loved all of the characters, my favourites being mousetrap with his brilliant hunting skills and war dance, Yanka with her great personality, the house with the chicken legs that's always trying to help out, and Elena with her kind heart. My favourite part is when they fought Smey the fire dragon, even though it was a little bit predictable. I would recommend this book to 10-12 year olds that like fantasy and have a big imagination. Overall I think this book was great and I found it hard to put down. Darcy

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is a book by Sophie Anderson. It is about a girl called Yanka who doesn't feel like she fits in with everyone else in her village. But after a fall, things change. She grows bear legs! She sets out on an adventure into the forest to discover her past. She meets lots of friends along the way and at the end has to fight a dragon. I think the beginning was quite slow and the dragon fight was quite predictable. I feel like parts of the book were quite repetitive like her journeys, first to a cave, then to a volcano, then back home but parts of it were quite fascinating like the stories Yanka and her friends were told. I also liked how Mousetrap uses hyperbole to make himself look tougher than he actually is. I also found that the story could be relatable to some people about internal struggle about their place in the world. Overall though, I liked this book and would recommend it to people who like fantasy and adventure. Mohid

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I really enjoyed this book, I felt like I was one of the characters in the book! I really like the snowy and icy setting. It is a journey of self discovery book for the characters which is really interesting. It is a book of a belonging and finding a place. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading journey books. I would definitely rate this book a 10/10. Krishni

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This book had me hooked from the very first sentence. This story is all about a girl called Yanka who is fascinated by the stories Anatoly tells her. The stories are fantasy yet Anatoly continues to tell Yanka that there is truth in all of them and she believes him. Wanting to find out more about her past, Yanka ventures into the forest with Mousetrap, her ferret, after feeling lonely and disconnected from the village. I love how the mini stories, entwined into this book, end up being half true. a fascinating story. i would definitely recommend!! Lizzie

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Yanka is an orphan. She was found as a baby in a bear cave and never felt she fitted in the village she grew up in. She always felt a special calling to the forest. So, one day when she wakes up with bear legs, she sets out on an adventure with her house weasel Mousetrap to discover her family and her identity. The story is based in a varied landscape of the Snow Forest, a snowy magical enchanted forest interspersed with magical fairy tales. To the other villages, she is an outcast, and yet, she has a warm nature in contrast to her surroundings, so one day she just sets off on her adventures in discovering the truth. As she takes her journey, she is joined at first by Mousetrap. He is my favourite character, because he is both humorous and witty, tells outlandish stories of daring and performs an amazing war dance. He has an unshakeable sense of self belief which Yanka herself lacks but gradually learns. As her journey continues, Yanka becomes more bear. As they travel together, Yanka makes friends with a motley crew of animals, including Ivan the wolf. The creatures each have their own strengths and pull together as a team. They become part of the family she never had. They fight Smey the dragon and escape the fire before finally making it back to her foster mother Mamochka and her grandmother. Yanka eventually loses her bear parts and becomes human form again. I really liked the way the message in this story, that your family is who loves you and accepts you for what you are, regards of how you look. This story is endearing and heart-warming. And ends on a happy note with Yanka reunited with her family. Alexander

THE GIRL WHO SPEAKS BEAR I loved this book because it was a great adventure story of Yanka “the bear” actually becoming one and then trying to find where she belongs and who she wants to be. I especially enjoyed the element of Antaloy’s legends and tales proving to be true! I love the creativity that went into this and the beautiful use of language which brought me into the world of talking trees, fire dragons and houses with chicken legs! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who wants an adventure of their own or even just a great night time read! Georgia