



Blocked

Seanan McGuire

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Antimony Price likes her life. She likes her high school, she likes her friends—even if none of them really know her as anything more than another face in the halls—and most of all, she likes her place on the cheerleading squad, where she understands what's expected of her, and delivers with grace, style, and a viciousness that has done a lot for her team's reputation.

Too bad it's time to graduate.

Now adrift in a world that doesn't have the rules she's used to or the protections she had worked so hard to shape, Antimony has to find something else to keep herself busy...and her cousin, Elsinore, has a few ideas about what that something might be.

It's time for Antimony to meet the wide, wonderful world of roller derby. Let's hope that she survives the experience—and that everyone else survives her.

Blocked Details

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From Reader Review Blocked for online ebook

Sarah says

This is the first chance we've had to spend much time with Verity's younger sister Antimony. As the youngest Price sibling you'd expect her parents to be a bit more relaxed but it actually seems like they're more protective about her than they are about her brother or sister.

Antimony has just finished high school, where she was a star member of the cheerleading team, and now she's at a loose end. Her parents want her to find something new that will have the same effect of helping her interact with others while keeping physically fit but whatever she chooses it has to be something that keeps her out of the spotlight so joining a major college cheer team is out of the question. She's actually quite resentful when her parents block the choices she would like to make but then her cousin suggests she try out for a local roller derby team.

I have to admit this wasn't my favourite short story in the Incryptid series, mainly because it's very short and not a great deal happens in it. I did enjoy meeting Antimony though and I'm hoping that in the next few stories about her we'll get the chance to see a bit more action and some members of the Cryptid community.

Amy (Other Amy) says

Well alright then. I guess I am going to give the InCryptid series another shot. Verity's books veered a little wildly between "hell yeah!" and "meh" for my taste (and the second book was mostly "Oh, no. Really, just no."). I really wanted to like Alex, but it's a classic case of "can't stand your girlfriend, buddy." So, Antimony: Misanthropic loner with no romantic interest in sight. Snarky but not overdone. Sounds like I may have found the one. (Maybe I should read Antimony's other stories right quick and make sure there is no romance waiting around the corner.)

This little story is really a prelude, just a snippet to introduce some characters. It is not an actual full fledged short story. I rate things on what they are. As a prelude, it is lovely, and accomplishes a mission few stories can. I am willing to give a universe I had written off another chance. (Too bad the Antimony books are not here yet, but I see there are a couple of other short stories to read. And I will probably give the third Verity book a chance, just because I might miss something important, and really I am inclined to like the lady and her boyfriend. I'm done with Alex, though.)

Debrac2014 says

I enjoyed it but it was too short! It was good to get into Annie's head!

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Blocked introduces the youngest of the Price siblings, Antimony. She's not yet had her own book, which made it somewhat more difficult to relate to her in such a short story.

She was mostly a teenager and the cryptids didn't feel like the most important part of the story. I am curious to see how her story develops though.

Mairéad (is roaming the Undying Lands) says

I was more Wednesday Addams than Marcia Brady, more sarcastic than sunny, and more cynical than cheer-tastic.

4.5 stars.

I really love how the narrator starts out in that class cliched highschool cheer-off but turns it upside down on it's head. It's merely a cover for Antimony Price to get the supposedly *normal* highschool life. And all the references that are sprinkled throughout this short story is enough to have me geeking out. I mean, if you didn't get the X-Men reference, that's a bit sad in my opinion. But it's pretty epic that it's been weaved into the narrative and it doesn't talk the reader down. It actually brings the reader into the story, welcoming them with various references before getting to business.

And Antimony Price's business is monster protecting from their greatest enemy...us, humans.

If this is the storyline that is pertaining to the 'Present Day Storyline' then this is a very solid start for me.

? Irena ? says

This is an introduction to Verity's younger sister who has just finished high school (not my favourite age for a protagonist, but being part of this series makes up for it).

She needs to belong to a team and since she can't be a cheerleader any more her cousin finds her another team.

I have a feeling that cryptids in the end are used in the story as an afterthought.

An okay story.

No mice though.

Anelis says

So, since I managed to suffer through all the Verity and Alex books, I thought I should prepare myself for the third sibling, Antimony, by reading all her short stories that I imagine also work as prequels to her book, Magic for Nothing (InCryptid, #6).

Antimony's supposed to be a loner, a nerd and rough around the edges. A prodigy child that feels neglected, especially in comparison to her older siblings. Unfortunately she reads as every character in this universe so far: they all sound the same. Sure, one may have an obsession with the X-men and the other with snakes, but

the way they react, think, and talk, is identical.

This time I enjoyed the details about derby, I love derby, and wished they were longer. Especially since I had to sit through THREE Verity books filled with tidbits about ballroom dancing.

I missed the mice tho. We didn't get a lot of Aislin action in these stories.

I think Seanan's strongest in this short format, instead of her 350 and 600 page long books, but I have to admit, that reading with each addition again and again all about how the world, the Price family and the cryptids work, is getting tiring FAST.

Since the rest of the stories are in collections and are not registered in Goodreads individually, I'll also write a few words about each of them, just so I can refresh my memory later on if I need to.

Blocked (InCryptid, #2.1)

A very cute and sweet story about Antimony. We are introduced to her POV for the first time. We also get to meet Elsie, her succubus cousin (sister of incubus Artie), who's queer <3 Antimony has just finished highschool, where she went by Melody, and since she can no longer be a cheerleader her parents push her to find something to do with her free time. Elsie takes her to roller derby tryouts, and seeing how derby life welcomes all sort of misfit women, including cryptids, she decides to join the Slasher Chicks, under the name Final Girl.

Bad Dream Girl (InCryptid, #2.2)

Antimony, under the alias Annie Thompson, is one of the two regular jammers of her team. She notices derby girls fainting during games, recognizes this as a cryptids work, and sets out to find what's wrong. We get to meet Artie for the first time. Elsie has an on-and-off-again relationship with a derby girl named Carlotta. Fern is a cryptid teammate. My mind cannot hold any more names. There's also a chupacabra derby girl. There are a lot of cryptid derby girls. The suspect for the faintings is a creature called mara, and all the cryptids band together to banish her from derby for her bad behavior. Really wished this had turned into a romance between the mara-girl and Antimony. Near the end the bisexual vibes were strong.

Jammed (InCryptid, #2.3)

Antimony is happy derby-ing when suddenly, a chopped foot of a skater appears! She works with her cousins (Elsie & Artie) and the cryptid derby girls, and they find that a Chimera is loose. How are they gonna manage? How did it get there? How will they manage to keep their identities secret? They kill it. The end.

Survival Horror (InCryptid, #2.4)

First time we see Artie up close! Antimony hangs out with him in his room while he installs a game someone from a shady cryptid forum sent him. Turns out it's a trap to kill him, made by a cuckoo and some cryptids called hid-a-something (we saw the species in Verity's books), for knowing about their existence (he kept asking medical questions for cuckoos in order to help his crush, Sarah, and thus attracted their attention). The game transfers them in a virtual reality/ alternate dimension world full of riddles they have to solve or else they will go to hellish dimensions or something. After they escape, Artie cries a bit and then both are fine. No talk of Sarah again.

Steven says

I wasn't sure if I would like this one, because, well, let's be honest here, Antimony was a little annoying in her little appearances in the main series thus far. But, yet again, I've doubted Seanan McGuire when I shouldn't have. When will I learn? :P

Cathy says

A story about how Annie joined the roller derby. I'd read a couple of stories about her being part of the derby in anthologies already, so this served as a prequel to those, and is also the first Antimony story by chronology. It started as she was finishing high school and ending her beloved cheerleading career and missing the activity and the satisfaction of working on an well-oiled team. Antimony's life as a Price was very isolating, especially when her father wouldn't let her be involved with any of the sports or activities that she enjoyed because her high skill level would draw too much press and attention that could draw the eyes of the Covenant. When her cousin Elsie took her to an old warehouse she didn't know what to think, and when she got inside and realized why they were there she still wasn't thrilled. At first. Good story. But McGuire always seems to have fun writing about Annie and her friends, they're a fun gang of gals, and bomb and comic book loving Antimony, with her huge heart, is a great character.

I just found out that this story and many others are available for free on the author's website in the InCryptid section on the Short Story page.

Angela says

So this is my first real introduction to Antimony. And while there's not Anton that really happens here, this *is* a good start on getting to know this character. And after having fallen in adoration with Verity and absolute love with Alex, I wasn't sure the author was going to be able to pull off another completely new and interesting character that I'd end up liking.

So it was a little surprising to me that Antimony has the potential to be a favorite. She's young, still, in this short story, but she's well on her way to figuring out who she is. She has a strong sense of self, and is surrounded by good people. But it shows she interacts with those people that I relate to the most.

Elsie - and I'll tell you that I nearly squeed when I realized she was lesbian and I can only hope we get some stories featuring her - tells Antimony that Antimony doesn't really like people. That she cares about those that matter to her, but it takes a lot to actually become a part of that circle. I related a lot to Antimony because of this, and because of her sarcasm as a defense, and because of her general snarkiness.

I'm looking forward to reading more from her point-of-view.

Susana says

Flesh eating dragonflies. o_O

Roslyn says

This is 3 and a half stars really, as it's not as compelling as the other short stories in the series, but it introduces Antimony, another member of the fascinating Price family.

Ivy says

Quite enjoyable. It was nice to read about Antimony Price who we have never read anything about before. Glad she found an extracurricular activity she will enjoy. Hope she will be able to help the Cryptids on the team. Can't wait to read more about Antimony.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Antimony is one of the Price's we haven't had much time with yet. I've been curious about the girl since I learned about her hide and seek tactics of digging pit traps to slow down her siblings.

Antimony has just graduated high school and needs to find something else that is going to keep her in shape AND have the added benefit of helping her work in a team. BUT it can't be something too mainstream or the Covenant of Saint George will find her.

What is less main stream than Roller Derby. This is her attempt to make it onto a team and going from thinking it is something stupid to something that might help her in her other job as a cryptozoologist.

It's good to finally get an introduction to Verity's little sister.

Jessica ❀ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

2.1 - Blocked

4 stars

This was kind of adorable.

The waxing poetic about cheerleading was out of my frame of reference (the cheerleaders at my high school were a bunch of Mean Girls), so I couldn't relate to that, but ROLLER DERBY is frickin' cool. And I love that Antimony, whom we've yet to directly meet, but about whom we've heard borderline scary things, was introduced to us at a vulnerable time in her life.

Makes her seem less insane.

