



Deadwood

Kell Andrews

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There's something evil in Deadwood Park.

Martin Cruz hates his rotten new town. Then he gets a message from a tree telling him it's cursed — and so is he. It's not just any tree. It's the Spirit Tree, the ancient beech the high school football team carves to commemorate the home opener. And every year they lose.

But the curse is no game, and it gets worse. Businesses fail. Trees topple like dominos. Sinkholes open up in the streets, swallowing cars and buildings. Even people begin to fade, drained of life.

Martin teams up with know-it-all soccer star Hannah Vaughan. Together they must heal the tree, or be stuck in Deadwood Park at the mercy of the psycho who cursed it.

Deadwood Details

Date : Published December 1st 2012 by Pugalicious Press

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Author : Kell Andrews

Format : Paperback 250 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Fantasy, Magical Realism, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Deadwood for online ebook

Ashley says

I received this book from Goodreads: First Reads. :)

I misread or didn't fully read the summary when I entered to win "Deadwood". I didn't realize it was a kid's book/story. And then I won it.. :/ And I am actually glad that I did.

I wish that when I was 8-12 years old that I would have had more books like this one to read. I love the fact that it wasn't dumbed down and can be enjoyed by kids and adults alike. The story flowed at a great pace and was not weighted down by extra details and unneeded fluff.

I enjoyed this book much more than expected. I won't lie.. The part about "Margie being EZ" made me laugh harder than any adult book has in quite some time.

Pretty sure if I stumble across anything else that K.A has wrote.. I just might be tempted to read it.

Amy says

3.5 stars

Entertaining and fun, this book has elements of magic, mystery, and everyday life. The pacing is great, as it kept me turning pages quickly and wanting to find out what happens next. There is real heart and believability with the main characters and that really helps drive the story. Well done.

Kim says

The pace of this book picks up to breakneck speed. The second half was a one-sitting reading session. In this fun and fast-paced fantasy, Kell accurately captures the cadence and content of the middle school protagonists' relationships with their family and friends. The descriptions of the Spirit Tree create a vivid visualization of its crackling energy. I'm giving this to every middle grade kid I know.

Michelle says

My Review:

Deadwood is a great book I feel for kids, it has a lot of stuff I think they would enjoy. It has mystery, magic and friendship. Reading it as an adult I had a few issues with the flow of the story. I sort of went all over the place and sometimes repeated the same stuff over again. I figured out the who did it part, close to the end, but I thought it was interesting. This isn't a very long book so it's a good story with cute characters. I did think Hannah was trying to be something she wasn't and that sort of bothered me at times. The tree part of the book was informative and very different. I also thought when the story was ended it was wrapped up really nice with a cute happy ending.

I feel like this would be a great book for kids to enjoy but as an adult it might be a fun book to read. I would totally recommend to Middle Grade looking for something fun, quick and different.

[divider]

Thank you so much for stopping by to check out my review

Hope you have a great day and Happy Reading!

This review was originally posted on Because reading is better than real life

Jooood Hooligan says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I could lie and tell you that I picked this book to review just to read to my son at bedtime, but I totally wanted to read it for myself. Although we both enjoyed it, there were parts of it that were a little scary for him. It's a story that's more for readers who are better able to separate fiction from reality.

As a gamer, I was quickly drawn into the story. The story opens with Martin, stuck living with one of his relatives because his mom has been deployed to Afghanistan, wishing he could be online playing a RPG with his friends. He's not even allowed to play so he, instead, pretends to be his character from the game.

Toward the beginning you discover that the spirit tree, called that because the jocks carve their school spirit into it every year, is actually magical. It communicates with Martin and another kid his age, Hannah, telling them there's a curse and they need to break it to heal the town.

The use of magic mixed with technology was interesting, as the spirit tree used text messages to communicate with the children. I also enjoyed when the focus of the story went to the tree, telling part of the story from it's perspective.

I highly recommend this book, and it's a wonderful read for middle graders.

4/5 Platypires

<http://www.platypire.com/j-hooligan/d...>

Carson says

Worth the read

Although it was really written for a younger audience it was a good story. It was nice to be reminded me that you can make a difference if you believe. I enjoyed seeing the perspective of both of the main characters.

Amanda Valentine says

Martin Cruz moves to Deadwood (known to most people as Lower Brynwood) to live with his “Aunt” Michelle—actually his mother’s cousin, as she’s quick to tell people—because his mother is deployed to Afghanistan and his grandmother has recently passed away. Still grieving and separated from everything he knows and loves, Martin bonds with a huge old tree that marks the turn-around point when he goes running.

It turns out this tree is the Spirit Tree—before the start of the football season, the team carves something into the bark of the ancient tree. Martin takes this disfigurement as a personal assault and the 7th grader tries to stand up to the entire high school football team. He manages not to get beaten up, and he meets Hannah, the younger sister of the star of the football team. The tree gets struck by lightning and starts “texting” the kids by lighting up letters in the years of carvings. It reveals that Lower Brynwood is cursed, which explains why nothing will grow and why industry is dying, and that healing the tree will also heal the town. And it’s up to Hannah and Martin to figure out how to heal the tree.

Deadwood blends supernatural elements with an ecological message and some pretty typical middle school issues that most readers will identify with, like not being totally sure of who you are and how you fit in with the world around you.

If you're a parent, educator, or other adult choosing books for a kid, you may want to read my full review. Warning: It's full of spoilers! <http://reads4tweens.com/deadwood/>

Jadine says

Free book on Goodreads.Great book! Easy read, passing it on to my boys to read now as well! (13 and 10)
Great story, good flow.

Jennifer Walkup says

Deadwood is a really fun MG book. It's a page turning mystery with a really cool fantasy idea woven in. Perfect for the modern day MG reader. It's twists and turns kept me turning the pages and wondering exactly how it was all going to end up!

Lucy says

I was lucky enough to read an early draft of this. It is a thoughtful, fun and interesting novel for middle-grade readers. The characters are original and thoroughly compelling. Strongly recommended!

Cindy says

wonderfully written and original middle
grade fantasy that is as much mystery as
anything else. i appreciated the relationships
between friends and family in this book the

most--and how andrews made both the Spirit Tree and the town the kids lived in characters themselves.

Maggie says

This is another one of those books that I didn't pick for me but instead for my husband Chris to read to our older kids. My daughter is 8 and reading some middle grade books, and my 6 year old son just kind of listens to whatever dad has to read to them. Chris said this was definitely a dark read. He felt that if my daughter had read this by herself, she would have been scared. He feels that this is more appropriate for those actually in the middle grades and not just reading at those levels.

He did say it was pretty realistic in that it seemed that Martin was portrayed as a real kid. For example, Martin always worried about his mom in Afghanistan. He also would pretend to use his iPod even though it was broken to avoid talking to anybody. There were realistic consequences to his actions and things didn't always go as you thought they would. The small-town politics rang true to what we have experienced, not what everybody seems to think happens in small towns.

Overall, Chris and the kids enjoyed this Deadwood. If there were to be a sequel, they would want to know more about Martin's adventures and therefore would want to read the book.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts are my own.

Margie aka The Bumble Girl says

A fast-paced, enjoyable, contemporary fantasy that upper middle graders will truly enjoy!

Martin is a strong, determined teen who was sent to live with his mother's cousin while she's deployed. Martin does his best to stay out of his "Aunt" Michele's way, and tries to get by on her strict regimes of eating healthy and living life to their full "brain-power" potential. He's a runner and trains as often as he can, determined to complete any marathon as long as his mother can do it with him.

On his first run through Lower Brynwood aka Deadwood, he runs into a group of people performing a school ritual on a tree. He is angered that they've been damaging this poor tree for many years and tries to stop it - but what can one little teen do against a whole high school football team?

After they're done, Martin is left alone with the tree and meets Hannah. Hannah is a tomboyish girl who has lived in Lower Brynwood her whole life and knows all about the Spirit Tree and most of what happens in the town. While they're standing under the tree, an unexpected storm drops in and lightening hits the tree. While they stare at the tree and watch it light up from the inside, the carvings start to light up, letter by letter, delivering a message to them. An unbelievable scary message - the town is cursed.

Against their will, Martin and Hannah team up to figure out the Spirit Tree's message, why its dying? Why are there other trees in the town are dying too? Why is the town and its occupants are cursed?

The story is told from three different perspectives, Martin's, Hannah's and the Spirit Tree. Reading from the tree's perspective was extremely interesting, it gives insight to how a tree would view its surroundings and history. I really enjoyed that aspect a lot.

The perfect blend of relatable contemporary, supernatural elements, mystery and environmental awareness - an amazing middle grade book for all ages to read!

(I received this paperback from the publisher for an honest review.
My thoughts are my own.)

Summer says

A fast-paced junior mystery with a little bit of magic and plenty of heart.

With his mom deployed in Afghanistan, Martin's forced to move in with his not so kid or any other kind of friendly, Aunt. Pretty much the only thing Martin finds to like in his new town is a dying tree. It turns out the tree is cursed, and it asks for help from Martin as well as soccer player Hannah. They wouldn't just be saving the tree from the curse; they'd be saving the down-trodden town.

Martin's immediately likeable, sensitive enough to befriend a tree, yet brave enough to charge into a group of jocks to defend that tree.

Hannah's a know it all in that great Hermione way, and I love that she wasn't just the girl watching from the sidelines of the book, she was every bit as engaged in the mystery as Martin.

The plot had a solid ticking-clock quality, you feel the kids' desperation to come through for the soulful tree in time, and the book provides just enough curse suspects to keep you guessing. More than that though, I enjoyed the everyday moments, Martin missing his mom, Hannah interacting with her close-knit family and navigating her friendship with the much girlier Waverly, all those scenes featured just the right mix of sweet and bittersweet.

Lastly, I just have to mention the cover art, the kids, the tree and its carvings, the shadow and light, the illustrator perfectly captured what I saw in my head.

I received this through a Goodreads giveaway.

Amanda says

This wasn't as awesome as I was hoping it would be, being a story about a tree and all (I love trees!); but I still really appreciated the tale.
