

Title: *Amari and the Night Brothers*

Author: B. B. Alston

Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Brian Z., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: February 25, 2022

Amari and the Night Brothers is a story about perseverance and friendship. It takes place in modern times, around Atlanta, GA. The main character is an African American Girl named Amari Peters, who is 13 years old. Amari is brave, hardworking, kind, and dedicated. The story starts with us seeing Amari getting bullied by other people in school. Amari is from a poor free housing project part of town and got a scholarship to the private school she goes to. She is widely unaccepted and bullied and gets expelled for fighting back. We also find out Amari's older brother Quinton went missing after taking on a mysterious job. We learn that Quinton is extremely smart and kind. Amari soon gets an invitation from Quinton to go to the summer camp he went to.

Amari starts to learn that the summer camp is really a cover for the Bureau of Supernatural Investigations, which protects both the supernatural and regular world from harm. This is the same job her brother had, and what she believes caused him to go missing.

Proving to us that she has determination and bravery, Amari agrees to join the bureau in hopes of finding her brother. Upon arriving at the bureau, she is stunned to see all the supernatural things living amongst them. She also learns her brother was quite famous in the supernatural world and an accomplished agent.

Things get more intense when Amari's supernaturally enhanced power turns out to be magic. Magic and magicians are illegal in the supernatural world as they are incredibly dangerous, and some previous magicians caused a lot of problems for the bureau.

Amari is allowed to stay and prove herself. She wants to become an agent and follow in her brother's footsteps. Along the way she makes friends and also many enemies, who want her to be removed from the bureau because she has an illegal power. This is a similar situation to the one she faced back in the real world, where she is discriminated against because of her background and appearance and just overall because of who she is.

As the story progresses, we learn about the history of the bureau and learn about the potential problems, including the rise of the evil magicians known as the Night Brothers who troubled the bureau before.

Amari defies the odds and goes through the challenges. She shows perseverance through the challenges and setbacks, and even through betrayal and mystery, manages to defeat the bad guys and save her brother and his partner.

Did the plot or presentation of information keep you interested?

The plot was overall pretty good, but the beginning was a little slow. I found myself losing interest at times in the beginning, but things picked up much more towards the middle and end. I think the information is presented in a way that keeps you interested because you only get a little more information at a time that builds up to a climax.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

Overall, the pace moved at a good pace, although one notable exception is the beginning, which I felt moved a little slowly. I was not really engaged until the halfway mark of the book. The problem was that in the beginning, things felt a little random and we did not have any clues as to what was going on. This made it a little boring to read. But towards the middle, once we have some background information and slowly building up a story, it gets much more interesting.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is perfect for early teens and even late elementary school. It presents modern-day issues in a way that can be enjoyable and exciting for younger readers, while still getting a strong message through.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mystery, action, and fantasy. This book has all of that, and I found it very inspirational. What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book? This book may move a little slowly in the beginning but once you read some of the beginning, things pick up and the book gets really addicting. It is written so that you can see modern-day issues like discrimination and prejudice, in a fantasy world that may make it more engaging for many.

I rate this book 4 stars out of 5 because it was engaging, informative, and inspiration in a fantasy world that shows our real world. I liked most of the middle and end, but the start was a little slow as we did not have much information about what was going on. But once things were established, it became a lot more engaging as you now have a comprehensive knowledge of the world the book is set in.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Ethan D., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 31, 2022

The Book I will be reviewing is *Amari and the Night Brothers*. The book is written by B.B Alston. The genre of *Amari and the Night Brothers* is fantasy fiction.

A 13-year-old girl discovers she is an all-powerful magician and must overcome obstacles in her search for her lost brother. Amari Peters is tired of being rejected and belittled at her affluent private school, where she is bullied because she is poor and Black. Amari loses her calm on the last day of school, fuelled by emotions related to her brother Quinton's disappearance, and loses the scholarship she needs. Then a mysterious man appears, claiming to have received a Broaden Your Horizons kit from Quinton. Inside, she discovers artifacts that introduce her to a hidden supernatural world, one that must be kept hidden because people's fear of things they don't understand often leads to hatred. Amari is invited to a magical training camp run by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, which her mother believes is the same leadership program that helped Quinton earn full-ride scholarships to Ivy League institutions. There, she learns that she is a magician with forbidden abilities. Amari's unwavering determination to find Quinton leads her down the road to become a Junior Agent. Amari makes surprising discoveries and discovers the power to overcome with the aid of individuals she meets along the road. Amari shines even when she doesn't believe in herself because the author combines wonderful whimsy

with honest, honestly depicted circumstances. With excellent descriptions, a thrilling buildup, and strong themes against profiling, this topical, lively first-person tale moves rapidly.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot of the book is really good and kept me interested.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

I think the pace of this book is just right.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I think the grade level for this book is for kids in ninth grade.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to people who like fantasy books.

Rating:

I would rate this book 4 stars. This book was fantastic; it had a fantastic plot and was rich in detail. There were some bleak moments, such as when the girl drew Amari with x eyes and declared her dead. Although that section is brief and just lasts one sentence. Another tense scene occurs when Amari goes to speak with Mourea; it's a touch frightening, but nothing I can't handle. In general, I enjoy this book.