

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.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Joyce L., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 16, 2022

Amari and the Night Brothers are about a 13 year old named Amari, who searches for her missing brother Quinton. She later finds out more about him because of a suitcase found in his wardrobe, because of this she has found a new world, a magical one. Because of Quinton, she is sent to a magical training camp. It feels like the mystery of her missing brother breaks, but she finds out that she possesses a type of magical that is illegal in this magical world. As she trains as a junior agent herself, the same job as her brother that led him to go missing, she finds out more about her missing brother and the case. While she is training there are obstacles that come in the way and people who bully her for having an illegal type of magic that she can't control. The more she trains she learns more about her brother and how to control her magic. Will she succeed in finding her brother and fully control her magic or will she give up on her brother and her magic goes out of control.

The book of the story was so fun to read, I myself love fantasy and still waiting on the second book to come out so I can read it. The plots of the book were so interesting to read and kept me and me forcing myself to take a break from reading or else I would be sleeping at 6 am and skipping meals. I also loved the plot twist at the end of the book, like the suddenly happened that I also was engaged more into the book.

Rating this book is an easy 5 stars because of how magical this book is and how engaging this book is. Anything related to Amari and the Night Brothers I would love to see, like the second book coming out at this August. I am still waiting for the book to come out so I could read it. This book was so intriguing to me that got into fantasy again and continue to love fantasy because of this book. "Amari and the Night Brothers," will always have a special place in my heart because of how much of an amazing book it is.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Arnav A., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed: August 29, 2022

Amari is a 12 year old girl attending Jefferson Academy. After a long year, including Amari's brother, Quinton, going missing, Amari is ready for the summer to start, However, after being teased at school, Amari pushes over the people bothering her, resulting in her being stripped of the scholarship to the school, which covers the tuition her mother cannot afford. However, at midnight the same day, Amari receives a briefcase from her missing brother! Inside was a recommendation to a place at a summer camp run by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, training to become secret agents! Suddenly, Amari's life turns upside down, as she accepts the invitation in hopes to find her brother. She arrives at the camp and immediately makes friends, (such as Elise (the Were-Dragon) and Dylan Van Hesling). However, she just as quickly makes a LOT of enemies, most notably Lucy van Helsing. On the badge day, to test every trainee's potential, Amari receives the Moonstone Badge, an incredible honor, as only one person in the past has ever won it, her brother, Quinton. However later that day, at another ceremony, in which they find out your special superpower, they detected that Amari was a magician. And in this Supernatural World, Magicians were disgraced. Everyone thought that magicians were horrible and that they did not have any place in the world. The only people that thought good of her were Dylan, Elise, and Quinton's best friend, an instructor named Magnus. Despite this, Amari tries out to become a Junior Agent. The only reason she does this, is in hopes that if she becomes a Junior Agent, she will be one step closer to finding out more about her brother's disappearance. However, she is 1 of 64 people that want to become a Junior Agent, and only 4 will achieve their dream. Will she pass the 6 weeks of training and tryouts, or will she fail. And when will she come to see the darker side of the Bureau, including a magician named Mureau and some unexpected plot twists...

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot of the book definitely kept me interested, and propelled me to keep reading. I think the plot was shaped really well, with plot twists and climax coming at perfect moments.

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

The pace of the book varied at different points. For example, at the beginning of the book, the pace was a little too fast and I had trouble keeping up with all the information coming my way. However, the pace of the book adjusted itself to become just right after a few chapters.

What Grade Level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I would say that this book is appropriate for grades 6-9 because the reading level and the events that take place are perfect for readers of those ages. People in Elementary school may find the book hard to read, but, people in higher grade levels might find this book to easy and boring to read.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to almost every kind of reader, as this book is not really one genre, moreso a blend of many different genres including fantasy, sci-fi, realistic fiction and more!

What other information do you think would be useful for teens reading this book?

It may be helpful for teens to know that this book takes place in the US, and was written from the point of view of an African-American author, and the beginning of the book takes place in an African American area.

Rating:

On a scale from 1-5, I would rate this book a 4.

I enjoyed this book and I found it worthwhile reading. The book included a lot of characters and detail, but I think this book missed the special touch some authors have as to the way the authors write the book. However, I would definitely recommend this book to any teens, if the opportunity presents itself.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Amartya D., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 14, 2023

"Amari and the Night Brothers" is a novel by B. B. Alston. The book follows the story of a young girl named Amari Peters who lives with her mother and older brother in a hood in the United States. Amari's life is changed dramatically when her older brother Quinton disappears, and the police assume he has run away. Amari refuses to believe that her brother would abandon her without saying goodbye, so she embarks on a journey to find him. Amari soon discovers that her brother was a member of a secret organization of magical people called the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs (BSA). The BSA is responsible for regulating supernatural activity and keeping the human world safe from dangerous magical creatures. Amari learns that her brother was not just a regular member of the organization but was one of the most talented agents they had ever had. He was so powerful that he had been chosen to train as a Junior Agent, a role reserved for only the best and brightest. Determined to find her brother, Amari convinces the BSA to allow her to train as a Junior Agent. She is sent to a summer camp where she undergoes training alongside other young prospects to be employed at the BSA. Despite being the only black girl at the camp, Amari quickly makes friends with other trainees, including Dylan, who becomes her closest friend. Amari's training is very difficult, and she faces many challenges, but she perseveres, driven by her desire to find her lost brother. As she progresses through her training, Amari discovers that there are enemies lurking within the BSA, and she uncovers a plot that could put the entire organization at risk. "Amari and the Night Brothers" is a fun and engaging novel that will appeal to readers who enjoy fantasy, adventure, and mystery. The book features a strong female protagonist who is determined and brave, and who stands up for what she believes in. The story also addresses important themes such as diversity, friendship, and the importance of family. Overall, this is a great book for young readers looking for an exciting and engaging adventure.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

I found the plot to be interesting, and always building suspense until the climax.

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

The pace of this book was fun and engaging, allowing for maximum suspense and enjoyment.

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

This book would be appropriate for students from sixth to ninth grade.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy fantasy and mystery.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

I personally felt that this book was too similar to Rick Riordan's style, and always left me comparing the books.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading:

While the book was fun and engaging, I found it too similar to the style of Rick Riordan, and it felt heavily influenced by that.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Alexandra P., Grade 9

Date Reviewed: March 24, 2023

Amari and the Night Brothers is a fantasy novel written by B.B. Alston. The story revolves around Amari Peters, a young black girl who is struggling to cope with the disappearance of her older brother, Quinton. Amari lives in a world where magic exists, but only a select few have access to it. Amari's life takes a dramatic turn when she discovers that her brother was a member of a secret organization called the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, which is tasked with protecting the world from supernatural threats. *Amari and the Night Brothers* will take you to a modern city full of exciting and mysterious occurrences. Amari Peters, a young woman of courage, intellect, and determination, embarks on a dangerous search for her missing brother while the action takes place throughout the country. The narrative is filled with mysterious characters and intriguing mythical creatures that will have you on the edge of your seat the entire time you read it. The narrative centers on Amari, who embarks on an amazing trip while overcoming countless difficulties and hurdles because of her unwavering resolve to learn the truth about the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. As she trains to become a member of the Bureau, Amari must learn to control her newfound magical abilities while navigating the complex social dynamics of the organization. Her trials and tribulations are further compounded by the presence of a dangerous adversary who poses a threat to everything Amari holds dear. Amari is not alone on this mission. She has Agent Magnus, an agent with a heart of gold, as her mentor. Additionally, she befriends Dylan, a fellow trainee at the Bureau, who supports her through her trials. Elsie, a mischievous magical creature called a magixie, helps Amari navigate the treacherous terrain of the Bureau. Readers of all ages will have a thrilling experience because of the world's rich descriptions, engaging people, and compelling narrative. After reading *Amari and the Night Brothers*, I believe it is set to become a fantasy genre classic.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot of the book kept me interested. The world that B.B. Alston created is incredible. I loved the mix of the contemporary urban setting with all the magical creatures and supernatural elements. Also, the book is so fast-paced and action-packed so it was never boring.

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

Although *Amari and the Night Brothers* is a very fast-paced book, it seemed to suit the author's style and the point of the book. Because it was fast-paced, reader's never get the chance to get bored and put the book down, so I think the pace was just right.

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

This book is appropriate for middle schoolers grades 5 to 8.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston to anyone who enjoys reading fantasy and adventure stories. The book is particularly suitable for middle-grade readers who love stories with magic, supernatural creatures, and plot twists.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston is a book that features a diverse range of characters, which includes a Black female protagonist. This representation is particularly significant for readers who are seeking literature that reflects their own experiences and identities. Additionally, the book explores some challenging themes such as the loss of a family member, prejudice, discrimination, and social and economic inequality. Despite these themes being difficult, the author approaches them with sensitivity and care, making them accessible and relatable to a broad range of readers. Overall, the book is a thought-provoking read that encourages readers to engage with these challenging topics in a meaningful and compassionate way.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.

What was really good about *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston was the author's ability to create a captivating and immersive world filled with magic and fantastical creatures. The story was also full of relatable characters that young readers could identify with, and the themes of family, friendship, and self-discovery were handled with sensitivity and care. However, some readers may find the book's plot to be somewhat predictable at times, and the pacing can be uneven in places. Also, while the book features a diverse cast of characters, some readers may feel that the representation is not as nuanced as it could be.