

**Title:** *Man-Made Horrors*

**Authors:** Andrea Rogers

**Genre:** Fiction

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Caroline Q., 9th Grade

**Date Reviewed:** February 17th, 2024

Vampires, werewolves, undead frogs and more will jump out at you from every chapter of *Man-Made Horrors*, and yet the truly frightening themes in this book can sometimes be, well, the man-made horrors. Monsters such as Cherokee deer women and sea creatures coexist with man-made predators such as the “horrors of empire”, domestic violence, and dispossession. From this book’s start to finish, the darkest human qualities such as greed, shame, deceit, depression, and betrayal plague one Cherokee family, generation after generation, from 1839 to 2039.

This book has eighteen chapters, each one set in a different time period and featuring a different main character. They are linked by their shared family tree (Wilson-Stone) – and by the generational “curses” that manifest in both supernatural and ordinary ways. Seriously, the Wilson-Stone family cannot catch a break. Throughout this book, you will meet a wide array of interesting characters from this family tree, each with their own stories to tell. While the tales of tough Ama Wilson, curious Suzanna Fish (born Wilson), rambunctious Edgar Spears Jr., brave Wilbur Spears, playful Rabbit Wilson, pious Mary Spears-Henry, self reliant Walela King Preston, resourceful Charlotte Henry, and many more are all very unique, they still come together to form one cohesive story. For example, the undead vampire Ama Wilson, who we meet in the first chapter, makes several reappearances with her late family throughout the book, from helping a mother and daughter return a sea creature back to its home to saving an orphan during a zombie apocalypse. Additionally, the family’s ever present Cherokee culture also provides a single common thread for all these stories, as it reflects the pride and remembrance of the Wilson-Stone family’s past, however haunted.

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

Yes. The plot of *Man-Made Horrors* was rich and exciting. The tales of each generation in this family were all unique with a fresh perspective, yet still maintained a common thread that made the plot cohesive and easy to follow.

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

The pace of *Man-Made Horrors* was a little fast, understandably, as the book encompasses eighteen different stories in about 310 pages, and while Andrea Rogers did a great job of weaving together one big story through many small ones, some specific sections of the text read like summaries or brief rehashings. In my opinion, if two or three more moments in the book were expanded on and written about for a little longer, the pace of this book would’ve been just right.

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

One of the main elements in this book is the one of fear, and though there is nothing too extreme, there is what I consider some mildly disturbing imagery, scary events and ideas. For example, one tale in this book includes a detailed description of a vampire sucking the blood out of one of their victims, using vivid imagery of the blood and victim’s carcass. Based on this, and other excerpts, I would only recommend this book to eighth graders and above.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

*Man-Made Horrors* is the type of book that has the ability to connect to a very wide range of people. First and foremost, I would recommend this book to any reader who enjoys the supernatural or scary, as *Man-Made Horrors* offers plenty of both. I would also advise readers who are interested in the human nature and condition to take a look at this book, because it offers a harsh view of the way traits such as greed or curiosity affect others. Finally, I would show this book to any reader looking for something different from the usual novel, in terms of storytelling and writing style.

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

Something else I think would be helpful for teens to know about the book *Man-Made Horrors* is the slightly unconventional writing style. Throughout the book, Andrea Rogers uses real words in the Cherokee language in her writing. For example, many monster names are in Cherokee. Another example of the writing style is how all family members are introduced with Cherokee titles. I felt this style of writing made the story feel more authentic and interesting. And don't worry if you can't speak Cherokee – there's a glossary of all the Cherokee words and their English meanings in the book.

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

I definitely enjoyed reading the book *Man-Made Horrors* by Andrea Rogers. Despite the sometimes too-fast pace, this book stands out to me as one that blends the supernatural and the all too real with deep family heritage into one exceptional story.