



The Girl Who Speaks Bear

Sophie Anderson

Reviewed by: Emma, Anika & Jamie

Blurb

Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, 12-year-old Yanka has always felt out of place in her small village. When she wakes up to find that her legs have become bear legs, she sets off into the forest to discover who she is, on a journey that takes her from icy rivers to smouldering mountains, with an ever-growing group of misfits alongside her... Interwoven with traditional stories of bears, princesses and dragons, Yanka's journey is a gorgeously lyrical adventure from the best-selling author of *The House With Chicken Legs*.

Lily's Review

The Girl Who Speaks Bear is an exhilarating adventure of bear sized beauty - quite literally, too. We follow a youthful girl called Yanka who sets about uncovering the truth about her past, her family, but most importantly, where she belongs. Yanka is relatable because we've all been her - questioning and challenging our beliefs about who we really are (and to be honest, some of us still are).

The descriptions of a snowy magical forest, complete with fairytale(subplots), were enthralling. Yanka is a fantastic character who manages to express the feeling of being an outcast while maintaining a warm personality.

Mousetrap, who is easily my favourite character, joins her on her journey first, bringing humour and wit to the story with his exaggerated stories of daring and a sense of self-belief that Yanka herself lacks.

As the story progresses, we see more of Yanka's 'herd' come together, a crew of diverse animals, and as the story suggests, they are stronger together, working as a team. It's a brilliant message.

It's a book full of wisdom and bears - the type of book you would enjoy reading over again to become more fluent in bear.

4.7 stars

Emma's Review

I think this book is well illustrated and worth the read. I have read other books by Sophie Anderson and they were amazing to.

Jamie's Review

I agree with Anika, this book is definitely a favourite of mine, it is full of mystery and adventure! Yanka doesn't seem to fit in, in both ways! She is so tall and strong but also does not fully belong, for she knows they are not her true family, but who is? She sets out on a long, uncovering adventure, desperate for the truth of her past. but where does she belong? In the forest where her heart is pulling her, or in her little town which is all she knows?... Read it to find out...