

The Unfinished Angel

Sharon Creech

Reviewed by: Courtney Cheng, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer for Be the Star You Are! Charity

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There is an angel who lives in a tall tower in Casa Rosa, a small town up in the Swiss Alps. In comparison to other angels, this angel feels as if she does nothing. She doesn't have important missions like bringing people to heaven; all she minds are the people living in the village below her tower. When Zola, a bold, energetic American girl moves into Casa Rosa, Angel begins to feel as if she should change her ways. Zola always strives to help others, sometimes offering help to the point of annoyance. Angel slowly adapts to Zola's ways, hoping to become a better angel herself. Once a situation involving orphaned children living in an old barn get out of hand, Angel takes it upon herself to make everything right. Along the way of successfully helping the children out of danger, Angel discovers the power of kindness and the beauty of imperfections.

The Unfinished Angel is a cute, short chapter book for advanced elementary school readers. In order to emphasize Angel's youth and innocence, Creech often misspells words to make them resemble how young children would pronounce these harder words and writes in fragments to represent Angel's jumpy thoughts. These writing techniques sometimes occasionally bothered me, but didn't take away from my liking for the book. All the elements of the story are simple, young, and childish. Both Angel and Zola have very lifelike traits about them, as do all the other town inhabitants. The plotline is sweet, and it teaches a wonderful lesson of compassion to all the readers. *The Unfinished Angel* is an enjoyable, light read, and I would definitely suggest it as a book to check out from the library.