

*Of Ice and Icing*

Cassie Vlk

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*Of Ice and Icing* Book Review

*Of Ice and Icing*, a fictional novel written by Cassie Vlk, was first copyrighted in 2008 and costs \$10.95.

Cassie Vlk entrances the reader with *Of Ice and Icing*, perfect for readers between the ages of 8 and 12. I recommend this book because the reader definitely gets to indulge in a quick-moving story and also gets to bond with the well-developed characters. Written in the third person point of view, Cassie Vlk mainly concentrates on the thoughts of Bromm Shattucks, a fifteen-year-old boy trying to figure out his past and his mysterious guardian, Aunt Melinda.

Her style is direct and quick-witted, yet the novel is packed with action. The reader will try to predict what will happen next with Cassie's suspenseful style. Cassie Vlk is a winner of the 2007 Tweener Time International Championship Series, placing third. The book made me flip through chapter, wondering what would happen next. Ultimately, the novel made me nostalgic of the times I cooked in my mother's kitchen and reminded me how curious teenagers can be.

Bromm Shattucks is great at two things: hockey and cooking. Bromm is a popular athlete at his high school who hangs out with friends on the hockey team. He's also a normal teenager, embarrassed easily and also sensitive when it comes to social situations. His parents, both local celebrity chefs, passed away when he was a toddler, so he lives with his Aunt Melinda and cousin Vivian. Aunt Melinda is a horrible cook who hides almost everything from her kids, yet she is in charge of a cooking company. Aunt Melinda begins to act strangely, and Bromm starts to investigate with his "nerdy" acquaintance, Gayle. As Bromm and Gayle begin to explore Bromm's past and Aunt Melinda's secret company, their friendship blooms and a great story about problem solving begins to unfold.

The characters in the novel seemed real as they went about solving the mystery. Bromm changed throughout the novel, beginning as a stereotypical popular teenage athlete who becomes a loving, enlightened young man. His metamorphosis was mainly influenced by Gayle, which teaches the reader a lesson that you should never judge a book by its cover. I especially loved the sharp and precise dialogue in the novel which highlighted the realness of the characters. When the athletic hockey players began to tease Bromm and talk among each other, the conversations seemed very pragmatic, making the slangs feel very authentic. Overall, I enjoyed the novel and I recommend it as a light read that keeps you flipping the pages until the ultimate problem is solved.