

Of Ice and Icing

Cassie Vlk

Reviewed by: Vivien Lee, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of **Be the Star You Are!** Charity

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Of Ice and Icing written by Cassie Vlk takes the reader into Bromm's world of hockey, the past, and mystery. Bromm lived life without questioning, focusing all his energy into his passion, hockey. His parents had died in a car crash, leaving him under the care of Aunt Melinda, who has always supported his potential in the sport. However, Bromm starts to notice Aunt Melinda's strange behaviors, and his classmate, Gayle helps him to trigger the story of his past. Gayle uncovers old newspaper articles, researches, and retraces back to her own memory; with her help, Bromm is able to put the puzzle pieces together about Aunt Melinda's secretive occupation and her link to his parents' business.

Vlk was only seventeen years old when she wrote this story, and it is clear that she has potential as a writer. As a fellow teenager to the characters of the book, Vlk could apply her insight as an adolescent to channel their feelings and social dilemmas. However, there was much more room for deeper characterization that goes beyond the obvious emotions. Also, the ending was very predictable from the very beginning, and while the pace was appropriate, there was no surprise factor in every crucial event that occurs in the story. Readers should be between nine to twelve years old; despite the setting in a high school, there is no inappropriate content, and the language is perfect for a reader who wishes to take a step further from the picture books.