



Rain Reign

Ann M. Martin

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Rain Reign Ann M. Martin A *New York Times* Bestseller!

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different – not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father.

When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.

Hearts will break and spirits will soar for *Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin, a powerful story brilliantly told from Rose's point of view.

Praise for Rain Reign:

"We readers . . . are meant to love Rose the way her uncle does and the way her dog, Rain (homonym Reign) does. And it would be hard not to. Martin, known to a generation of Baby-Sitters Club readers, cleverly weaves the trials of daily life for kids like Rose throughout a story about love and about coping with disaster." —*The Los Angeles Times*

"Rose has a diagnosis of Asperger's, and her world of comforting homonyms, rules and prime numbers is repeatedly challenged by social interactions of which she has no innate understanding. Newbery Honor author Martin crafts a skillful tale that engages readers' sympathy for everyone portrayed in the story. . . sophisticated, emotionally honest storytelling." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Rain Reign Details

Date : Published January 1st 2018 by Square Fish (first published October 7th 2014)

ISBN : 9781250073976

Author : Ann M. Martin

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Young Adult, Animals

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From Reader Review Rain Reign for online ebook

Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

3.5 stars.

Review originally posted at Mostly YA Lit

Check out my expectations of Rain Reign before reading!

A compelling character study of a girl with high-functioning autism, Rain Reign is a middle-grade novel with a deceptively simple writing style. When I first started the novel, I immediately thought it might be a little too young for me. Middle-grade readers might feel the same, but teachers/parents/librarians should encourage kids to stick with this one: Rose, the narrator and protagonist, is fully developed, with a completely authentic and unique voice. **Rain Reign illuminated how it might feel to have Asperger's,** and made me really understand and sympathize with Rose's obsession with homonyms, rules, and prime numbers.

Rose's dog, Rain, is almost a secondary character in this book - **Martin establishes Rain as the one source of unconditional love in the life of a pre-teen with an alcoholic father** who doesn't care about her, a mother who left her, classmates who tease and don't understand her, and an uncle who is kind, but is always being told to butt out. Rose' obsession with precision in her words makes it easy to see Rain in your head from her descriptions.

As someone who has a pet, it's hard to see how anyone wouldn't sympathize with Rose when Rain goes missing, but the added element of Rose' need for routine and order just heightens the panic and distress.

What I took from this book is Rose' determination - which lands her in hot water because of it makes her unable to see a rule broken without speaking out - but also gives her the strength to doggedly (sorry) pursue Rain despite her own discomfort with social interactions. What Rose does with what she finds out speaks to that loyalty and determination, and is nothing short of inspiring.

If I have one criticism of this book, it's that it's built for success - there's no way you won't feel for Rose and want her to succeed. There's no moment where you're not on Rose's side, and as a reader, I want a little more complexity.

But there's a lot to like in this novel. **Martin gives Rose a clever way of foreshadowing what will happen in order to keep momentum going,** and the way that Martin inserts homophones to sometimes mix and change a sentence will delight readers.

Bonuses:

Animal Love: Like I said before, if you're a pet owner, you will feel for Rose, and you might cry...

Quirky Words and Numbers: Not only is Rose obsessed with homophones, but she also likes prime numbers. It's very interesting and telling how her obsession manifests in her behaviour, but aside from that, it's just darned interesting!

The Final Word:

If I'd read *Rain Reign* at age eleven, I know I would have adored it - it **has literary merit, heart, and taps into the mind of such a unique character.** As an adult, I felt like it was a little manipulative with my emotions. That said, I can definitely see *Rain Reign* becoming a favourite of middle-grade teachers and I truly hope it ends up in tons of classrooms and libraries: it would be great for discussions of identity and autism, as well as more technical discussions of how to write and build a story.

Recommended for: middle-grade readers looking for feels, animal lovers, teachers looking to discuss autism, identity and/or storytelling

Sara Cantador says

4/5

Reseña publicada en: <http://nuubedepalabras.blogspot.com.es...>

Cuando me enfrenté a esta novela, tengo que reconocer que no sabía nada de ella. Me llegó por sorpresa de parte de la editorial y me puse a leerlo enseguida. Para todos los que os gusten las historias *middle-grade*, o si queréis leer algo un poco para desconectar sin entrar en historias muy complejas, os lo recomiendo mucho. ¡Pero vayamos poco a poco!

La novela habla de Rose, una niña de unos diez años que vive con su padre. Es una niña con síndrome de Asperger, y por ello manifiesta una serie de peculiaridades lo suficientemente llamativas como para que sus compañeros no se sientan del todo cómodos con ella. Está completamente obsesionada con los homónimos, que busca continuamente en cada conversación que tiene. Pero todo se pone patas arriba en su vida cuando se encuentra con una perrita, a la que decide llamar Rain, porque la encuentra un día de lluvia y por supuesto porque su nombre tiene homónimos. Rain resulta ser la mejor terapia para la niña y que le ayuda a tratar y relacionarse con el resto de compañeros.

Realmente no es una historia que destaque por la acción o la trama, pero el desarrollo de la misma resulta crucial y plantea muy bien una serie de conflictos que ayudan a conocer a los personajes, empatizar con ellos e incluso emocionarse en más de una ocasión. Está narrada desde la perspectiva de Rose, por lo que la inocencia es el ingrediente principal que caracteriza la novela. Resulta enternecedor saber cómo funciona su mente y a la vez cómo de distinta resulta ser a veces del resto de compañeros de su edad, con los que choca a menudo. Pero al mismo tiempo es una niña normal, que quiere jugar, pasárselo bien y que quiere a su perrita como a su vida. También me resultó muy llamativa la relación con su padre, y cómo esto resulta crucial para el determinar el comportamiento de Rose.

La relación padre e hija se ha ido deteriorando desde que su madre los abandonara. Rose no es capaz de

entender por qué su padre se comporta de una forma tan distante, y a veces incluso hiriente. Ella es como es, lo que pone a su padre en determinadas tesituras en las que no sabe desenvolverse. Él no la entiende y pierde la paciencia muy a menudo. Al contrario que su tío Weldon, quien siempre sabe cómo relacionarse con ella, qué palabras usar para animar a la niña y tratarla con paciencia, cariño y respeto. Estas dos conexiones tan distintas generan en la novela muchas situaciones tirantes, que Rose no termina de entender del todo pero que a través de sus palabras llenas de inocencia, el lector puede llegar a conocer realmente bien. A través por tanto de Rose, se pone de manifiesto la falta de información y preocupación por su síndrome de Asperger. Cómo muchos niños presentan comportamientos típicos sin ser reconocidos, y por tanto, sin llegar a recibir la atención que necesitan. No ya sólo en el ámbito familiar, sino también en la escuela y con el resto de la sociedad.

Lo mejor de todo ha sido sin duda Rose, no porque sea un personaje especial a su manera, sino porque su dulzura, el cariño y el amor que tiene a todos los que la rodean es realmente contagioso. Aún sin saber manifestarlo correctamente, en todo momento es palpable esa admiración tan real que siente por su tío, su perrita Rain e incluso por su padre. Es ese amor el que guía muchas de las decisiones de Rose, que sin saber a ciencia cierta qué está sucediendo a su alrededor, busca hacer siempre lo correcto.

En resumen, *Una niña llamada Rose* me ha parecido una historia tierna, bonita e inocente. En la que el narrador, la propia Rose, consigue emocionar al lector al tiempo que le va enseñando su mundo, su mente y sus sentimientos poco a poco. A veces incluso sin alusiones directas, que el mismo lector va desentrañando y conociendo conforme avanza la lectura. La narración se adapta perfectamente al lenguaje y vocabulario de una niña de diez años, que sin conocer bien lo que sucede, es capaz de transmitir muchos mensajes. Está llena de valores y momentos tiernos y emotivos que sin duda, no dejarán indiferente a nadie.

samantha (books-are-my-life20) says

5 stars. It was amazing. I learned a few new words. and the dog didn't die yay

Kristen says

A sweet, sad story told from the point of a mildly autistic girl who is misunderstood, tries every day to be who others want her to be, and loves her dog. A great narrative voice.

Ms. Yingling says

Rose is very fond of her dog, Rain, whom her father found abandoned behind a bar one night. Unfortunately, her father is often angry at her and at the dog, and during a big storm, he lets Rain out of the house without his collar on. Rose tries very hard to find the dog, and when she turns up in a shelter with a microchip, Rose thinks that the right thing to do is to find the dog's rightful owners even though she loves Rain. Add to this the fact that Rose is on the autism spectrum and is obsessed with rules, numbers and homophones, and her father doesn't deal with this well while her Uncle Weldon is more understanding, and that adds a layer of complication to the story.

Strengths: This is a very atmospheric book-- the writing really puts the reader inside Rose's head. Rose's aide at school is explained very well, and students who have experience with students like Rose in their classes

might be enlightened by this.

Weaknesses: There are a lot of books now with characters on the autism spectrum, and some hold up a little better as interesting stories. While this is a good character study, not a lot happens in the book, and the style makes the book a bit annoying to read.

Jamie Oberheu says

Rain Reign has 226 pages of engaging literature. In this book, Rose is our main character. She is a young girl about 11 years old. She has autism and loses her dog. She encounters everyday situations that all kids face. She has a teacher who is a bit annoying, her dad leaves her to fend for herself most of the time, and Rose has never had the chance to meet her mom. I gave this book 5 stars, because through the way the book is written we learn lessons of compassion and empathy for kids like Rose. If you've ever had the experience of returning a dog to their right owner or loving a dog then this book is for you. The ending is an emotional one that will send you from tears to smiling back to tears in matters of moments.

May says

Una niña llamada Rose es una novela especial, cercana, directa y con una protagonista que nos roba el corazón.

Rose es una niña que tiene Asperger, por lo que su forma de ver el mundo es algo diferente. Eso la lleva a ser una protagonista con una voz fuerte y diferente.

Me ha resultado una novela muy entrañable y cercana y me ha encantado la puma de la autora. Trata muy bien el tema del Asperger, y nos lo acerca para que lo entendamos a la perfección.

Es un síndrome que me toca de cerca y lo cierto es que he visto en Rose muchísimas de las actitudes que esta persona cercana a mí tiene. Me parece que está muy bien desarrollado y mostrado con el personaje de Rose. Novelas como Una niña llamada Rose normalizan el Asperger y nos acercan a una realidad que, probablemente, desconocemos y que no deberíamos desconocer tanto.

La he disfrutado muchísimo.

Snotchocheez says

I find myself sucked in to novels (often with first-person narration) of the travails of a high-functioning autistic kid, hoping the author will "get it right", only to be ultimately underwhelmed by gimmickry, or gooey feel-good-ery.

Rain Reign, a (presumably) YA novel featuring 10 year-old fifth grader Rose Howard from rural New York with a obsessive fascination for homonyms (not homophones, there is a difference!), a penchant for over-strict adherence to the rules, and a dog named Rain (yep, another homonym) is another one of those gooey, fluffy books that will probably delight YA readers and parents (particularly those interested in autism and Asperger's Syndrome, and books about dogs) alike.

I didn't dislike this (like I did the similarly themed *Counting By 7's*) but the story itself was just a little too flimsy and pat to fully embrace. Ms. Martin, though, does have her heart in the right place, and it's hard not to like a book that brings awareness to fascinating, brilliant kids like Rose. I think my daughter (who's 7

now, and high-functioning autistic, and very close to possessing the patience for novel-length books) will probably see a lot of herself in Rose. If it'll stave off even a few people (kids or parents, including one parent who screamed at my daughter on a playground this past summer for accidentally knocking down her toddler, then laughing) from calling her a "retard", then Ms. Martin has done her job.

Juan Vorágine says

Una historia preciosa donde se nos adentra un poco y de forma muy cuidadosa en el Síndrome de Asperger. Rose es una protagonista única y dulce, y se enamorará de su pequeña perra en cuanto la vea por primera vez.

Reseña completa: <http://voragineinterna.blogspot.com.es/2013/09/rose.html>

Pamela says

Tender . . . Unique . . . Powerful . . . Bittersweet. An emotionally complex, character-driven book perfectly suited for middle-age children. But I think adults will be charmed by this touching story too (to) (two).

The world can seem like a loud, confusing, unfair place; even more so if you're ten-years-old and wired a little differently than most other fifth graders. Sensitivity to sounds, stringent expectations of rules and routines, and an obsession with homonyms and prime numbers doesn't win Rose any popularity contests at school, or with her dad - especially not with her dad. And her mother "left" when she was two (to) (too). But then, her father finds a furry four-footed friend to be Rose's companion. And for a while, life is better. Then the storm comes, and Rain goes missing. And everything changes - drastically.

Other than the ending being a little too staccato and vague, I enjoyed this beautifully touching book. Four - Tender yet Powerful - stars.

Jessica says

Before I read this book, I showed it to my 10yo and asked if he wanted to read it first, since it had just been given one of the ALA awards. Now I'm glad that he declined because he's halfway through another book. I stayed up until the wee hours finishing this book, tense and sick to my stomach the whole time.

That's not to say the book isn't good. It's wonderful. It's a very real portrait of a girl on the autism spectrum, her struggles at school, and the solace she finds in caring for her dog. But if you grew up in the 1980's like I did, you know that books with dogs on the cover can end very badly (Old Yeller, Where the Red Fern Grows, literally every other book with a dog written before 1995). So I was initially tense because I knew that if anything bad happened to her dog, Rose would be devastated. Then I got even more tense because of her dad, since he is mean to her, doesn't understand her condition, is bitterly and barely employed, and likes to leave her home alone while he goes drinking.

I really, super duper hated the dad.

I also barely liked her teacher and the aide who sits with her in class, and only liked one of her classmates. This book was just a triple whammy in that you have a main character with a disability, a terrible family situation, and a beloved dog who goes missing . . . I mean, it's just all kinds of tension! But it did turn out all right in the end, though the ending was very different from what I'd been expecting. And I do think this is an important book, and not in a preachy way. This is an excellent book to have a child read and then discuss with them. They may have classmates or relatives on the autism spectrum, and this will give them insights into why they might do some of the things they do. It's also a very suspenseful story, but in a way that kids can handle, and with a good ending. I just don't think my 10yo is ready for it, because since our dog passed away he's very hypersensitive about dogs in books. I will say that the dog lives, but I think the tension around the dog would be too much for him.

Susan Crowe says

How in the world do (due, dew) you (ewe) even rate or (oar) review a book like this??? I can't even put the emotions I am feeling right (write, rite) now into words. My head hurts right now from crying. **READ THIS!!!!**

Angela says

If you were thinking, "Oh, I know Ann Martin. I've read her dog stories before. I don't need to read this one." Reconsider. This book is a great reminder why Ann Martin is a legend. Here she tackles high-functioning autism, a struggling parent, a thoughtful uncle and, of course, a lost dog. It all comes together in a heartbreakingly beautiful tale of love, loss and small rays of hope and sunshine despite the rain.

Comp Title: *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Dear 2015 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committee,

I would like to nominate Ann M. Martin for her lasting contribution to children's literature.

Thank you for your consideration,

Angela

Christy (TheReaderBee) says

I was pretty excited to read Ann M. Martin's *Rain Reign*. Martin's The Baby-sitters Club books were a huge part of my childhood, I adored those books, but I hadn't read anything by her since. I'm glad to have now changed that. I adored this book SO much.

Rose is such an amazing, complex character. She has Aspergers syndrome, as well as an obsession with homonyms and prime numbers. She explains all of this to us as we read the story, which is from her point of view. The relationship that Rose has with her dog Rain, who her father brought home one rainy night, is

more than your average child/pet relationship. They have this really amazing bond that goes above and beyond a normal friendship, and I loved this bond so, so much.

Rose's father was a difficult man to like. Unfortunately he was not a patient person, and you have to have patience and understanding when you have a special needs child. That doesn't mean that he didn't love her in his own way, and wanted to do good for her at times. He just came across as very unlikeable for me. Luckily she had her uncle, Weldon, who was amazing with her and I am so glad that Rose had such a wonderful person in her life.

Having a niece with Autism and a nephew with Aspergers, I feel that I am pretty knowledgeable on the disability. I was curious to see how Martin's character would be written. She definitely did her homework, or has previous experience/knowledge on the subject, because she hit the nail on the head with this character. So many of Rose's characteristics were familiar to me, and I love that Martin wasn't just writing how she thought a character would be, this character was spot on for Aspergers.

I loved the storyline for this book. It talks about a wide variety of things beside autism, including bullying, parental frustrations, love, loss and so much more. I discovered the hard way that this is not a book that you will want to read in public. The last few chapters had me in tears while I was waiting for my daughter's gymnastic class to end, and I had to stop reading the book a few times to take a breath and calm down.

I love seeing more and more books come out that have characters with autism. There are still SO many people in the world that are uninformed and do not understand this disability. This is one great way to get information out and inform people.

Overall; *Rain Reign* has won a spot on my Top Ten Favorite Books of 2014 list. And it totally deserves to be on that list. I loved this book so much. You must add it to your to-read list, and read it as soon as possible!

Happy Reading!

Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says

I finally get to share my book love for this one. Some books you get to the end and you just want to hug the book. It leaves you feeling like you don't want to read anything else for awhile because it will spoil the moment. *Rain Reign* was that book for me. I loved Rose and she reminded me of students that I have worked with. I had definite sweet spots for Rain and Uncle Weldon. And my heart broke some for Rose's dad who just was so real. I would love to read this one aloud to a class or share in a book club.
