



Now a Major Motion Picture

Cori McCarthy

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Fandom and first love collide for Iris on the film set for her grandmother's famous high-fantasy trilogy—perfect for readers of *Fangirl*!

Unlike the rest of the world, Iris doesn't care about the famous high-fantasy Elementia books written by M. E. Thorne. So it's just a little annoying that M. E. Thorne is her grandmother—and that Iris has to deal with the trilogy's crazy fans.

When Iris gets dropped in Ireland for the movie adaptation, she sees her opportunity: if she can shut down production, the Elementia craze won't grow any bigger, and she can finally have a normal life. Not even the rascally-cute actor Eamon O'Brien can get in her way.

But the crew's passion is contagious, and as Iris begins to find herself in the very world she has avoided her whole life, she realizes that this movie might just be amazing...

Now a Major Motion Picture Details

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From Reader Review Now a Major Motion Picture for online ebook

Kay Wisteria says

asodifljasodifljaslkf.uwjaeiosdkljfaiskldfj so I started reviewing this but then I accidentally tapped the close button on my computer when I brushed the touch screen aoeilsjfdawf ejf awoeisljdkf o iwlejksf all that time wasted I am very salty. And this review is probably not going to be as thorough as my first review because I'm annoyed now sorry.

ANYWAYS

This book has been likened to Fangirl, which is one of my all time favorites!! It also shares many similarities to Geekerella, in my opinion, another book I just adore!! But this book... I do not adore. And here's why.

The main character, Iris, is the most spoiled, irritating, egotistical, whiny, bratty character I've ever met. (Well maybe not THE worst @Anna from Anna and the French Kiss, but definitely close!) Since she's a whole lot of pain, I've decided to list all the irritating things she does in handy dandy list form for you!!

1. Complains relentlessly about getting a dream vacation to Ireland and getting to hang out with movie stars. And also it's her little brother's dream vacation. Still--complaints.
2. Complains about not being able to spend time at home playing her guitar. Even though she brought her guitar with her. And it's two weeks. She can't bear to spend 2 out of 52 weeks in the year not holed up in her room playing guitar (even though she's just holed up in her trailer on a movie set in Ireland playing guitar).
3. Abandons her responsibility of looking after her little brother to schmooze with movie stars. When said little brother gets lost, she screams and yells at and publicly humiliates him even though she's the one who lost him in the first place.
4. Then threatens to cut the vacation short **RIGHT THEN**. That's right, she wants to cut her little brother's dream vacation short because she wasn't being responsible.
5. Throws and breaks her brother's iPad because he's showing a video of her playing guitar. Even though she spends all her time cooped up with her guitar and people are obviously going to be curious. For that, she breaks a something like \$500 iPad and if that doesn't say spoiled rich girl, what does?
6. Tells her brother that he ruined her life just by being born. Like, what?? Telling him she wishes he wasn't alive?
7. Complains about being called "Jaded Iris." When she obvious is lol.

Despite all her flaws, Iris is still somehow superhuman!! She's incredible!! Here are some of her unrealistic accomplishments.

1. Manages to save a movie trailer by on a whim finding perfect music when people who's job/get paid to do that fail to.
2. Talks a movie star into staying on the movie when a bunch of people who knew her better/longer fail to.
3. Manages to compose an amazing hit guitar song/movie soundtrack song on a whim.
4. Is able to perform said song, and harmonize perfectly, also on a whim on the same day that she on a whim came up with it.

So if this doesn't irritate the heck out of you, I don't know what will. But fear not! I've come up with another list of annoying things about this book!!!

1. There are random excerpts from the fantasy book in this book that I really couldn't care less about, similar to Fangirl. I skimmed those there, and I skimmed them here. So if you liked that in Fangirl you might like this, but I sure don't!

2. Total instalove. She repeatedly says that she's there for less than two weeks, but she totally jumps into a relationship with this movie star that's amazing and committed and lasts long distance...why? I mean, she gets together with him after just a few days I think, and I really couldn't pinpoint the personality reason why.
3. The movie is always on the verge of being cancelled until Iris saves the day and I for the life of me don't understand it or why. It seems super contrived. Not to mention annoying. Like producers are going to cancel it until Iris saves the trailer, until Iris talks a star into staying, until Iris (view spoiler).
4. I don't even remotely understand why all the fans hate the movie so much. It seems like they just do as a plot device so Iris can keep saving the day. Seriously, some 50000 fans petition for the movie to be cancelled. In my experience as a booknerd people usually LOVE hearing that their favorite book is being made into a movie! These fans are...weird.
5. I feel like it's going to be a terrible Percy Jackson-esque movie lol. It clearly states that in the book the movie is based off, the characters are 13, but their ages are changed to add romance, and are being played by a 21 year old who is getting married? (On second thought maybe this is why the fans hate it lol). This just sounds terrible. I mean, it's a fictional movie based off a fictional book in another fictional book why don't you just make the fictional book have older characters so it doesn't seem so weird.
6. Someone who was supposedly from California called it Cali. Please. Stop. It makes me cringe just writing that. NOBODY in California calls it Cali. That's one of the best ways to spot a tourist actually. And then we locals laugh about you and your Cali saying behind your back so just don't say it. (Okay not really about the book itself but I just had to put that out there haha.)

Anyways, at this point you may be wondering why this isn't a one star. And that's because there are some amazing messages about sexism, racism, and homophobia! The female movie director talks about how hard it is for her to be taken seriously as a female, and we have a couple of Filipino movie stars talking about how hard it is to land a role as a POC (especially as a biracial--too light for some roles, too dark for others). We also have a queer actress talking about how hard it is to land roles in Hollywood because of her sexuality. I feel like there were some amazing messages here!! Honestly, with these messages, the book had potential to be really great. It's just too bad that Jaded Iris had to come along and ruin it.

2 stars

Dayla says

This review is part of a weekly Feature on my blog, Music Mondays. You can see the full post [here](#).

This week's featured book is Now A Major Motion Picture by Cori McCarthy, a surprisingly lesser known contemporary young adult novel that explores complex family relationships, and the surprises that life sometimes has in store.

Imagine my surprise when I head over to Goodreads and see that this book has a (well-deserved) high rating, but a low number of ratings. It's almost tragic to know that so few have encountered this book!

In a similar vein as Geekerella by Ashley Poston, McCarthy's novel tells the story of a family touched by the power of adaptations and fandoms. Unlike Poston's novel, which features a main character who's lost her father, the father in McCarthy's novel is alive but is in no way the father of the year.

Iris is born into a family touched by success, thanks to her grandmother's feminist series, Elementia. Unlike

many of the fans, however, Iris despises the story that ensured that her family would never have privacy. Things are about to change, however, when she sets off for Ireland with her little brother. Ryder is a hyper-active little boy that inspired the song choice “Boss of Me”. He and Iris are in Ireland so they can witness the filming of Elementia’s movie adaptation. She has been a sister, friend, saviour, and mother-substitute for her brother—neither have had normal childhoods. While in Ireland, Iris is forced to confront the unspoken anger and resentment in her heart, as well as the mysterious grandmother she never truly knew.

Now a Major Motion Picture is an adventure of a read. Not because it has magic or whimsical quests, but because of Iris’s growth. She makes mistakes and is sometimes quick to speak before thinking, but she isn’t one of those annoying protagonists who absolutely refuses to change, or acknowledge that she’s being a jerk. Her growth is also more realistic because it takes a while for her to appreciate her situation.

Somewhere in the novel, it is alluded that this is a trip to help Iris’s brother, Ryder, heal from a past incident. But I believe that this novel is just as much about Iris’s healing as well as her brother’s. The complexity of family is handled wonderfully as we see that her troublesome relationship with her dad is more than just a one-sided, “he’s the strict parent” theme. Much like Iris, her father, though not actually physically with them for much of the novel, is a character who is engulfed in his emotions. He is made an honorary frequent character by the mere power that he holds over his children. He isn’t a one-dimensional plot device—he is a gale force that is a constant for Iris, always mentally there to remind her of who she was raised to be.

This book is a collection of relationships that take root and shape the story in an unforgettable way. There are strong female characters that give this a powerful feminist feel—a constant reminder to girls and women that even though there is a struggle to succeed, it doesn’t mean you have to stop trying. There is Iris’s budding romance with a surprising young man and how he helps to empower her by reminding her of the talents she refuses to acknowledge. And there are the family connections that act as the bones of McCarthy’s story: Ryder’s strong, but excitable personality; the troubled, but very layered story behind Iris’s father’s view of the world; and the grandmother that seems to lead Iris to new discovery’s despite her having passed years before.

I really enjoyed Now a Major Motion Picture and I wish more people knew about this hidden gem. I loved reading more about the fantastical side of Ireland. I don’t think I’ve ever actually read an in-depth experience of a character being on a film set. Even The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo didn’t go extremely in-depth with the filming process.

I recommend this to anyone who’s a part of a fandom and who want to read a story about women helping each other be the best they can be. If you love books about protagonists who travel and fall in love, but also have more going for them than just a love story (personal growth, difficult family situations, etc), then McCarthy’s novel is definitely for you!

Happy reading!

Rachel Stolle says

so much fun

Elissa says

I'll be honest, I went in looking for a little fluff and wasn't expecting much, but inhaled this in one sitting. It was just so good!

Iris and Ryder are the grandchildren of M. E. Thorne, the famous author who wrote a sort of feminist *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, of which the first book is being adapted for a film. The family (their father) did not approve of the movie, but to appease Ryder (8), the kids are sent to Ireland for two weeks to observe some on-location filming. While there, the self-isolated Iris (17) finds friendship and understands more about her family.

This book is jam-packed with stories, touching on things like fanatics taking things too far, (keeping) anonymity in the current digital age, on empowering women. The cast of characters includes diversity of all kinds, including a f/f love story (though in the background). It's also about mental health, family, and family history. But it's not a bummer at all. Everything is treated seriously but with enough glow around it that I was never actually sad.

Bonus: cute nerds, Ireland as a setting

Nitpicks: absent parent, no other friends for Iris to check in with

Ally (book_ventures) says

Now a Major Motion Picture is perfect for fans of Rainbow Rowell's Fangirl. Both novels have an inner fantasy novel the stories are centered around. And after finishing Now a Major Motion Picture, I can see that I hope Elementia is published like Rainbow Rowell did with Carry On.

Iris Thorne has grown up in a "double shadow". She's grown up in the shadow of her father, who has grown up in the shadow of her famous grandmother, author of Elementia, the female-power response to The Lord of the Rings, in a sense. Iris despises the books, like her father. Mostly because all it has done is bring crazy fans into their lives, unwanted. But, due to a suggestion her younger brother's therapist, Iris and Ryder end up in the middle of filming for the first movie of the fantasy trilogy in Ireland. There, Iris meets an up-and-coming actor, Eamon O'Brien, whose cuteness practically falls off the pages. The film seems doomed from the start, with a female director that the top executives seem against and budget cuts left and right. From the beginning, Iris would like nothing better than the film to crash and burn, but after getting to know the actors and crew, she realizes that the film is helping her more than she would have originally thought. It helps her to become closer to her late grandmother and the legacy she left behind.

This book has all sorts of goodness in it. It has female empowerment, a light-hearted love story that will warm your heart, humor, and some harder topics that give this book a little edge. Now a Major Motion Picture delves into the scarier side of fandoms and the physical harm they can cause people. But it also showed the good side of fandom and how they can bring joy. It depicts a dysfunctional family, wrecked with misfortune and hurt and how they cope with it. The book has an awesome message on sexism within Hollywood, that is but a piece in helping the real reality of these remarks come to light.

Overall, this book was a quick, fun read that had everything you could want out of a contemporary YA novel. I loved every single one of the characters. I was amazed to see that McCarthy developed each

character so well in their own sense and gave each their own separate background story. McCarthy added some fun quirks to the book, like a playlist for specific scenes from the book from the main character and a map of the fictional world, *Elementia*. It started off slow, but it will for sure pull at your heart strings.

I gave this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Thank you to SourceFire Books for giving me a copy to review!

Joshee Kun (???) says

Thank you, Sourcebooks Fire, for giving me an e-galley of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I'd read her story and began drowning in a loss I'd never known was mine. My grandmother was a brilliant author—and I'd never read her books.

Now a Major Motion Picture is marketed as something that fans of Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* will enjoy. It's been a few years since I read the latter book, but I can say that the blurb is true to an extent. NAMMP, like *Fangirl*, features excerpts from a completely original fantasy novel. However, NAMMP is less impactful and more focused on fan culture, particularly in regards to book to movie adaptations. With that in mind, remember to take everything with a grain of salt. Otherwise, you might feel a little disappointed.

The premise of NAMMP is actually unique compared to most of the YA contemporary novels I've read this year. It follows Iris Thorne, a girl who wants nothing to do with her late grandmother's popular book series. Despite her protests, Iris is sent to Ireland for the film adaptation of *Elementia*. She yearns for the film to become a commercial failure, but the possibility of finding love, friendship, and her musical identity gradually shakes her resolve. By the end of the film's production, she might have to say good-bye to her "Jaded Iris" title.

The first thing I liked about this book was its depiction of fan culture. It was easy for me to relate to how the hardcore fans of *Elementia* feared that the film would deviate too much from the book series. It is an undeniable fact that although we bookworms love to see our beloved characters come to life on screen, we are rarely pleased by book to movie adaptations. We just can't help but see the creative license of the film industry as a catalyst for bookish sacrilege. xD

It was also fascinating that NAMMP explored the "dark side" of fandom: it can cause people to emotionally or physically harm others. Iris did have a lot issues about *Elementia*, but the underlying reason for her hatred was justified. Her life would have been less complicated if a delusional fan hadn't terrorized her baby brother.

Another thing I enjoyed was the book's enlightening discussion of sexism in the film industry. Cate, the director of *Elementia*, was underestimated because of her sex. Her production company was very patriarchal, so it was more than willing to cut her budget or cancel the film (which was supposedly a Feminist take on *Lord of the Rings*). Thankfully, Cate refused to back down, determined to prove that women were a force to be reckoned with in both film and literature.

My problem with NAMMP was something that I had already encountered in many contemporary books: the Bad Parent(s) trope. Iris's dad was a complete jerk, while her mom was almost nonexistent. Iris's dad was practically the antagonist in the story because he was a fountain of stress and resentment. In light of his

undignified attitude, I wasn't surprised that Iris and Ryder treated him like he was anything but their parent. Personally, I really dislike it when contemporary books portray parents as the bad guys because it doesn't promote a healthy understanding of family life. Some people may say that this trope simply reflects reality because there are many bad parents in the world. Still, what's the point of further discouraging readers?

In totality, I gave NAMMP 3.5 stars because it was both fun and enlightening to read. If you are interested in literary discussions on fan culture and Feminism, you should give this book a shot. Just tread carefully if you are triggered by the Bad Parent(s) trope.

Reading Teen says

full review to come

I adore this book. - Rea

***Rachelle* says**

4.5 stars

"You helped my production, and now I'm helping you. This is what women should do for one another. We are a continent. We stick together. We all rise up, or we all go down"

I loved this book so much. Full review to come once I get a good 8 hours of sleep. Been awake for 24 hours and counting....

TL says

"Say that the book is a sculpture. You can walk around the story. You can touch it. You can view it up close or far away. That is why people love books. The stories interact with your memories, your experiences. They're personalized. Movies? Movies are a picture of that same statue. The parameters are set. The characters have defined faces. The scenes artistically rendered to one person's vision."

This was so much fun and adorable :)

I admit I found out about this way late, because I am terrible at keeping up with things sometimes *sheepish* Haha... whoopsie.

I was scrolling through my Amazon wishlist (stuff I marked private before my birthday) and came upon this, and on a whim bought it. I read a lot of literary fiction so my "light novels" don't number very many. I needed a bit of change of pace.. even if only for a day or two. This and *Two Steps Forward* were the calls to make :)

This one was a hard one to put down... right away you get drawn into Iris's world as she is with her little

brother on set... at first counting down the days till she can leave.

Different things that happen begin to change her view on things and even though I wanted to shake her sometimes, it was great to see her come into her own.

At first I was annoyed with Iris, parroting her father's attitude and especially Iris' dad for the way he acted and treated his kids. There's more to the family dynamic than what's on the surface, and I began to sympathize with them more... and they became "more human" to me.

Iris was torn between finding her own way and pleasing her dad, along with essentially "parenting" her little brother. Gods... I wanted to hug Ryder so many times throughout this after a certain fact was spoken. I loved how he still had a happiness for things though and kept himself going.

Gah, wanna say more but spoilers:(

Romance element: so cute! It's there but doesn't overwhelm the story

Snippets from *Elementia* Makes me wish it was a real series I could snag off a bookstore...anywhere. The snippets sounded so good! *pouts* Iris' song sounded amazing too, I bet it would have been on my "most played list" if it existed.

Everything comes together but not in a "wrapped up in a box with bow all tidied up" thing. The Thorne family doesn't magically fix its problems, it doesn't say anything about (view spoiler) which made it more satisfying for me, if that makes sense.

Other positives:

Loved most of the characters but Cate/Shoshanna, Eamon, Julian, Iris were my favorites.

Cate was just awesome, and a strong person.. I admired her for going after her dreams and not giving up.

The setting: 1. I'm a sucker for anything including Ireland 2. Miss McCarthy wrote it in a way that makes me want to visit these locations someday.

Once again, nothing critical to say ;-P. This was just a fun novel and the perfect read for a too-hot day outside.

Thamy says

I see why they compare this to Fangirl, but the story itself isn't the same.

3.5.

Iris is the granddaughter of a famous but deceased fantasy writer whose story is being filmed into a movie picture. She wasn't close to her grandmother and the last thing she and her family wants is more attention, which once culminated in her little brother being almost kidnapped by a crazy fan. Still, she slowly begins to understand what everyone's passion for her family's legacy is about and begins to love it herself as well.

This book... I don't know what my problem was with it but I'd read, read, read and it wouldn't end. It's not even long but I just couldn't get into it. If I have to guess, I'd say it's because I felt like the author had fooled

me. I got a contemporary YA to read but had to read large chunks of some fantasy book inside, plus long speeches defending the genre, which is far from being my favorite. By the way, that's why people compare it to Fangirl, which made us read a Harry Potter slash fanfic back then. I think that was what I found most similar about the two. The rest wasn't really.

Even though I didn't really like the book, it had so many positive points. Unlike Iris and her family, I'm not against fantasy and the book raises so many good points of its importance I kept nodding back to it. Also, the side characters are quite an interesting bunch. I love how Iris actually becomes friends of the two big stars in the movie. She doesn't date them, they don't come on to her or antagonize her. In fact, the best scenes happen when they're all having fun.

Moreover, the adult characters are deep and make sense. I felt so sad for Iris's grandmother, and she wasn't even in the book. There is a whole family dark secret side story going on that made me reflect a lot.

In other words, this book had content, had funny scenes, and the romantic couple was cute. So why didn't I like it? That's a question I couldn't answer for sure, I can just say this wasn't my thing, hence this rating.

Honest review based on an ARC provided by Edelweiss. Many thanks to the publisher for this opportunity.

Lisa Mandina says

So cute! And yet another book set in Ireland to make me want to visit even more!! Full review to come on Lisa Loves Literature soon.

Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

“Everyone else got to read Elementia and discover something about the world or themselves. Not me. I’d read her story and began drowning in a loss I’d never known was mine.”

Now A Major Motion Picture was a really fun reading experience about fandom, family, and finding yourself. We follow Iris Thorne as she and her little brother Ryder go to Ireland to see the filming of the grandmother's beloved fantasy series, Elementia. Iris is no fantasy fan and there's no live list for the rabid fandom, so she's determines to get the production shut down and return home to L.A. as soon as possible. But Iris starts to see the magic in her grandmother's story and gains a courage she wasn't sure she had.

Things I Liked

I really liked the **sides and filming notes** we get to see before the chapters. It really made everything seem real and let me get to know a lot of the different characters quickly.

There was really **solid humor** all throughout the story. It felt very conversational and natural, never forced. And it created some great banter and dynamics between characters.

My favorite part was probably the **friendships** we see develop and really flourish in the last half of the book.

They all felt so genuine and made me care about the individual characters more as well. I also liked the sibling relationship between Iris and Ryder.

I liked seeing some **diversity** in the story. Shoshana and Julian, two leads of the movie are half Filipino, and Shoshana is a lesbian.

Things I Didn't Like

Iris' **parents** were the WORST! Her mom was completely absent and pointless in the story, and her dad was a piece of work. I just didn't like them as all.

I **didn't really connect** to the Elementia storyline until around 70% of the book. Before that I just didn't really care and that kept my investment down.

This was a fantastically quick read that I knocked out in a few hours. It really surprised me in a good way after the beginning was a bit lackluster. I loved the friendships, always a win from me, and seeing Iris's journey gaining courage and bravery through her experiences. And the romance was adorable too.

I received a copy of the book from Sourcebooks Fire via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Colleen's Conclusions says

DNF at 30 percent. I REALLY wanted to like this book because it sounded like it was up my alley... it was set in Ireland, and it was about a movie being taken place there. I just started losing interest within 30 percent. It's not a bad book, I just missed the connection.

Kelley says

5/5

Now a Major Motion Picture by Cori McCarthy is a young-adult contemporary romance about Iris Throne the granddaughter of M.E. Throne, a famous high-fantasy author. M.E. Throne is known most for Elementia, which Iris could care less about because of the crazy fans that come with it. Iris is only concerned about making music and winning the fight with her dad about college. When film producers decide to start filming a movie version of the books Iris isn't very pleased and vows to get the movie shut down. Since Iris's father is always writing a new book and their mother always ends up hiding in the greenhouse Iris has become like a single parent to Ryder. Their dad isn't as thrilled with the movie being made as Ryder is so he makes Iris take Ryder to the filming in Ireland. This only frustrates Iris more because all she wants to do is work on her music and start recording. Things change when Iris meets Eamon O'Brien who is one of the actors on the set. Eamon who is a newly discovered actor is now in his first film surrounded by well-taught actors. After months of vowing to get the movie shut down Iris begins to fall for the production and become friends with everyone on set. Cate is the director and has put all of her heart and money into this movie. Iris begins to learn a lot from Cate and becomes a stronger person because of her. Cate and Iris are very much alike and Iris begins to see how hard it is for a women to succeed in a male dominated field.

I picked up this novel because of how accurate it sounded to real life when a novel becomes a movie. The amount of people that freak out because it will never be as good as the books happens a lot. I have been known to get very upset after seeing an amazing novel become a movie since they usually leave out my favorite scene. This novel seemed like it was going to hit on that hard and I was interested from the very beginning. I feel like sometimes the directors that they put on films aren't going to stay as true to the book as everyone wants them to. Since they have schedules and budgets the reader doesn't always get everything, but if you have a director that loves the novels I think they would make it as true as possible. That's what is shown in this novel because Cate truly loves the characters and the story, which makes her want to make it the best production that she can.

I was also very interested to see where they went with the feminism and the female empowerment that I felt when I read the summary. Having gone to college for technical theatre I was always looked at as just a woman and what could I possible do to help the people who assumed I knew nothing. Being a woman in a very male dominated world is extremely hard and sometimes very tough to push through. This novel is very good at making you feel for all the characters especially Cate because she has been through so much since the very beginning of her career. Being seen as just a women can be very hard and is very hard for Cate because of how good she actually is. I had a very good mentor when I first started out in theatre and Cate reminded me a lot of that person. Cate decides to put her heart and soul in the one thing that got her through her hard times and that is Elementia. Being able to find that one thing to push you through is sometimes the best option.

Iris is a very shy but stubborn and independent woman who believes that she doesn't need someone to make her happy. This begins to change when she meets Eamon, maybe not from the very beginning of the friendship but the reader can see the spark. Many of the boys Iris meets just want to learn more about her grandmother and the books but Eamon is different. Iris begins to realize that Eamon wants to know more about her life than her grandmothers and the world she created. They begin to have long conversations about their lives and being to breach the subject of Iris's hate of fantasy. This is a big deal for Iris because she has always kept her past to herself and never trusted someone enough to discuss some past events with. These conversations turn this innocent friendship into a very cute relationship that neither one of them believed could happen.

McCarthy has shown through this novel that sometimes it's hard for people to do the things they love. In every field or just in life people find it hard to do things that they want to do because they don't have the money or the support. I have been very lucky to have support from all of my friends and family with the things I do in my life but I have also seen the opposite of that as well. I do my best to support all of my friends and the people around me because I know some people aren't as lucky as me. I would recommend this book to anyone struggling with life or struggling with not believing they can do something. Even though it put in the perspective of a female and has very much a feminist background, I think anyone could take away a lot from this novel. I think anyone that loves a good fantasy book should also pick this up because the reader really learns about the world of Elementia. This novel really made me believe that I could do anything I put my mind to and that's always something a book should do.

Samantha (WLAPP) says

Iris was raised to resent her grandmother's world famous Elementia books, and her ire for the series deepened after a rabid fan crossed the line. Out of obligation though, Iris agreed to accompany her little brother to the set of the film adaptation. What she thought would be a most miserable trip, turned out to be

quite life changing.

From the cover and synopsis, I thought this book would be cute and fun, but it surprisingly had a lot of depth and tugged at my heartstrings.

Things I really liked:

- This book was jam packed with so many wonderful characters. Eamon was witty, amusing, and full of quirks that I couldn't help but love. He was so wonderfully perfect! I also loved every second I got to spend with Julian and Shoshana, and I thought Cate was ah-mazing!
- The friendships were strong. This was a production, which was facing a lot of adversity, and seeing the cast and crew bond together and help one another was a beautiful thing. The vibe was so contagious, even I wanted to pitch in.
- Talk about your adorable romances! There were a few in there, but Iris' was my favorite. It was so sweet and awkward and exactly what I wanted for her first love.
- You all know I loved my trip to Ireland, so the setting was a standout for me. They seemed to be filming in all the places I visited, which I loved, because I got to say, "I was there."
- It was hard fought, but I enjoyed getting to the root of Iris's family dysfunction, and seeing some progress made towards a resolution.
- McCarthy did a nice job weaving the Elementia story into the book. It was well integrated, and I liked the parallels that were drawn between that story and Iris' story.
- This book was really fun. I laughed and smiled a whole lot.
- Iris grew so much during this story! She learned a ton about her grandmother, her father, her brother, and herself, and it really opened up a whole new way of thinking for her.
- The ending was so good! I am always happy to get an epilogue, but I swear, you will love this one.

Overall: A sweet and charming story filled with romance, humor, family drama, friendship, and self-discovery, which left me with a big stupid grin on my face.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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