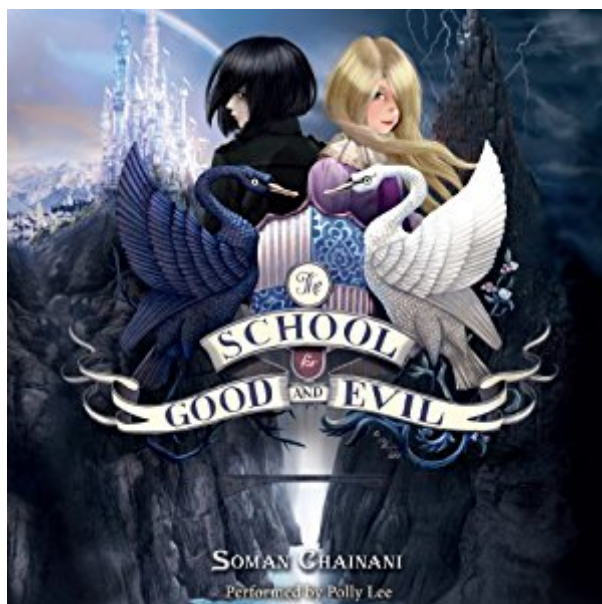


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The School For Good And Evil: The School For Good And Evil, Book 1



Synopsis

At the School for Good and Evil, failing your fairy tale is not an option. Welcome to the School for Good and Evil, where best friends Sophie and Agatha are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. With her glass slippers and devotion to good deeds, Sophie knows she'll earn top marks at the School for Good and join the ranks of past students like Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Meanwhile, Agatha, with her shapeless black frocks and wicked black cat, seems a natural fit for the villains in the School for Evil. The two girls soon find their fortunes reversed - Sophie's dumped in the School for Evil to take Uglification, Death Curses, and Henchmen Training, while Agatha finds herself in the School for Good, thrust among handsome princes and fair maidens for classes in Princess Etiquette and Animal Communication. But what if the mistake is actually the first clue to discovering who Sophie and Agatha really are... ? The School for Good and Evil is an epic journey into a dazzling new world, where the only way out of a fairy tale is to live through one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'[...]whether you are Good or Evil, an Ever or a Never, you must learn to respect one another, for no matter how different you may seem, you cannot exist without the other. The line between princess and witch is a thin one indeed...'The residents of the small town of Gavaldon are all raised on fairy tales, and they all believe them to be real. Every four years, The School Master takes two children over the age of 12 and one child is placed in The School of Good and the other Evil. It's been four years.Sophie, lover of pink and a self-proclaimed princess, dreams of going to The School of Good and meeting her Prince and living happily ever after. Agatha, lover of black and silence and solitude

with her cat, isn't quite sure if she believes in the schools but she knows if she was destined to go there would be no better place for her than The School of Evil. Sophie and Agatha are best friends and when both are chosen for The School's, it comes as quite a shock when their placements are switched. Agatha is definitely not Good and Sophie can't possibly be Evil...What worked for me: The writing is vibrant and extremely visual with alternating POV's between Sophie and Agatha which provided the reader with a glimpse of both schools through their eyes. Sophie was quite an unbearable character but I do believe that was the purpose (and only solidified her position with The School of Evil). Agatha managed to become the real heart of the story and a truly good person. Both girls struggle throughout the story to retain their friendship due to the constant stereotype that Good can't possibly be friends with Evil.What didn't work for me: The story was excessively long and would have benefited from some additional editing. Also, once I got the gist of the backwards type fairy tale going on it did become a tad predictable. I understand that it was a Grimm-type fairy tale and was dark and malevolent, but I really hated the way Sophie treated Agatha considering they were supposed to be best friends and considering Sophie was Agatha's only friend. The biggest flaw in my opinion was the ending though. It was so strange and seemed a bit out of left field. There's 'didn't see that coming! wow what a shocker!' and 'didn't see that coming because that doesn't even make any sense.' I requested this book solely because of that fabulous book trailer so my expectations were high from the start. This wasn't a disappointment but it didn't live up to my high expectations.Truer to a Grimm Fairy Tale rather than Disney, The School for Good and Evil was intense and distressingly amoral yet still contained what all fairy tales possess: a valuable lesson. One surety about this book, there is truly nothing like it. The School for Good and Evil is a fairy tale that's been shaken up; it's all backwards and mismatched but still manages to retain at least the structure of the classic fairy tale that we all know and love. If you're a fan of fairy tales (especially of the Grimm nature) then this is a story for you.

This premise had such promise. Unfortunately, about halfway through it started going downhill and never really recovered.I enjoyed the rocky friendship between the two main characters and I loved the way the two schools were portrayed. Unfortunately, the story was bogged down by Agatha and Sophie's almost obtuse inability to recognize the obvious fact that they were each other's happy ending, even once they were both on board with going home.About halfway through the book, the girls find out that True Love's Kiss is needed to send them home. They discuss having Sophie kiss the boy she likes, and after lamenting how impossible it seems, Agatha embraces Sophie and says, "We'll make this kiss happen." Sophie replies, "We?" and Agatha confirms, "We." For the life of me,

it sounded like they were going to kiss each other, so imagine my confusion in the next chapter when they're not back home. And, spoilers, they do kiss -- but not until the end of the book. The scene halfway through, despite how romantic it seemed, was actually just them talking about getting Tedros to kiss Sophie. Not well-written, in my opinion. A lot of this book isn't well-written, in fact. Scenes are confusingly-written, requiring several re-reads to parse what's going on. And other scenes are written like the author was imagining a movie version of the book. There are lots of dashes at the ends of sentences where they aren't needed-- I guess it's to signal haste or urgency, but it reads as amateurish--Eventually Agatha also falls in love with Tedros, despite hating his guts for the entire book up until then. So pointless, but sadly predictable. Sophie gains a last-minute love interest, but the two girls spurn the boys and choose each other. True Love's Kiss takes place between the two of them, which is great -- except that *right* afterward, they pat each other on the back about what great friends they are. Sure, a story ending without romance is great, but can it be done *without* this tired no-homo just-gals-being-pals trope? Despite the problems, I found the ending satisfactory. Unfortunately, reviews for the next two books in the series have made it sound like the stale, bland straight romances that were averted by the first book's ending reappear, so I don't think I'll be reading them. Maybe the movie version will be better. I hear it's got one of the producers for the Ella Enchanted movie working on it, so it's bound to have little to no resemblance to the novel.

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