

OF HER OWN DESIGN

by Birdie Willis

Published in 2024

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other:

Brie Page is a 16 year old living in the small town Holden, and is struggling with an extreme case of writers block and navigating her personal life. After making a bargain for a pen at bookstore run by a strange bookseller, Brie would suddenly find herself with the ability to write stories that come to life - but would only realize it until it too late. When her world gets caught up in her stories, Brie has to work past her fear of facing reality in order to save her friends and family from fiction.

Of Her Own Design was a creative and carefully curated graphic novel. Each character has their own distinctive design, and so does the book itself. In the beginning of the book, the real world is dull and devoid of color, signifying the way Brie perceives reality, and her stories were full of color. This would change at the end of the book, with her no longer hiding away from her troubles and escaping from her stories, reality now full of color. It was a great representation of the inner and outer conflicts that may be going on in a high schoolers life, and the story itself was an interesting concept.

At times it was hard for me to understand what was happening due to the way it was written. Since many different artists worked on the book the art style constantly changes, and while there's nothing wrong with that it did make it hard for me to recognize a character sometimes until their name was spoken. I also think some arcs in the story went by faster than they should've making the character progression feel (only slightly) off to me. Still, I think its a good book. People who enjoy fantasy and even those who are writers themselves might enjoy it.

By Isabella P, 12th grade, enjoys reading contemporary, fantasy, horror, and action/ adventure