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When Jessica Sternhagen walks into a bookstore and finds a volume entitled "Her Lif" waiting for her, she thinks it's a joke. Who left the book for her? And shouldn't the title be "Her Life"? This printer's error turns out to be the first in a series of bizarre happenings. As Jessica reads, she realizes life is about to radically change. This stunning thriller by master storyteller Walter Sorrells raises as many questions as it answers about the power of books, the importance of free thought, and the potential our decisions have to change?and even save?the world.

Erratum Details

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Author : Walter Sorrells

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From Reader Review Erratum for online ebook

Susan says

Jessica is exploring an old bookstore that has, literally, sprung up in her Minnesota town, when she is handed a book titled "Her Lif" with her name on it. Curious, she begins to read and is amazed to discover that she is reading about her own life--which is disappointingly mundane until she flips to the last page and reads that she is to be murdered while reading the book. Jessica Sternhagen finds the ending unacceptable and runs for her lif(e) through the dusty stacks of the bookshop. Of course she escapes (with the book) and discovers an erratum sheet "correcting" the old ending stuck between its pages. Clearly her life has taken a turn from the mundane.

Of course there's an explanation--and Jessica is about to find out that things aren't always as they seem (thanks to 29 dimensions in the universe!)and her role in life is about to shift from "normal kid" to protector of the universe.

Teresa says

I liked a lot about this book, especially the idea that one decision or event can change people's lives so completely. That's actually a pretty scary thought.

The struggle the two main characters have with feeling like their lives are "wrong" missing something, and then the challenge of choosing between the life they'd had and the one that they could have, or should have, makes for some thought provoking passages. So was the contrast between their families.

Even the bad guys are interesting: Bob Robbins Jr., the ultimate salesman/politician, not very bright but smooth. And he can control 'people who don't have a very strong sense of themselves. People who are always thinking how they'll appear to other people, always comparing themselves, always afraid they aren't enough like other people? They're the ones they can take over. People like you are too strong.'"(p117)

The idea of the library as the protector of memory and therefore identity, the past AND therefore the future, was pretty cool.

The plotting was sometimes confusing (but it was for the characters, too), and I don't get how a book can be in a pond for hours and then be readable immediately after.

For kids who like meta-fiction: Inkheart, The Great Good Thing, etc

Michael says

This book is for middle school readers, but as an adult I still found it a highly entertaining read. Jessica

Sternhagen embarks on a rollercoaster ride of curious events that may alter her current timeline. She finds a book called "Her Lif" which details all of the events in her life leading up to the current moment. The kicker is, she can change the outcome of the events, which leads to an erratum note, detailing the error in printing or writing. I felt myself turning page after page, hungry to know what series of oddities would come up next. Walter Sorrells keeps you guessing as to what will happen next throughout the entire book as the overall mystery unfolds. It normally takes me awhile to read a book and I read this one in 3 days. I just couldn't put it down. If you're a fan of mystery, intrigue, suspense, and adventure, this book is for you. If you just want to have a fun read, this book is for you.

Julie Graves says

Erratum—an error in writing or printing.

Jessica has always felt like she doesn't belong. Her family feel the same way about her, but they accept her because they love her. Dale is her best friend because he too is a misfit. He lives in a very poor part of town. He has 8 brothers and sisters and his parents have been beaten down by life. His father lost his hand at the sausage making plant in town and has been sitting in front of the TV doing nothing but drinking for years. His mom is bitter and old-looking. Dale doesn't spend much time at home. He has dreams of what he would love for his family to be like. His father throwing the football out in the yard with him, and his mother baking cookies in the kitchen and caring for the family. Dreams that seem almost like reality.

When Jessica stops into an old bookstore that she has never seen before things are about to change. She finds a book in the store that has her name on it. The title is "Her Lif". As she starts to read she realizes that the book is the story of her life. When she reads that the owner of the store is about to kill her she barely manages to escape before it actually happens. From there things start getting weird. Her and Dale go to the local library where they manage to lose the book. While trying to find it they meet different people along the way and find that there are alternate universes and that it is up to Jessica to save this universe. The question is what reality is the "real" one?

Things start changing as a black hole opens up and starts deleting the town. It is imperative that Jessica find the book and set things right before the universe they know is obsolete. Dale is helping her until he finds his perfect family. Then he doesn't want things to change. It is just like he always dreamed. His father smiling and playing with him in the yard. His mother making fresh cookies in the kitchen and caring for her family. He starts to forget what his "old" life was and fits right in with his new. In the meantime Jessica finds that her family is not the same either. What she finds she does not like.

Once Jessica finds the book she has a decision to make. Will she keep what she knows is not real with a chance that the universe could be gone in an hour or a thousand years, or will she choose the reality that she does not like in order to preserve the universe the way that it should be?

I liked this story, but had a hard time following some of the science stuff in it. It was humorous and pretty fast-paced.

Roselyn says

I read this book originally when I was about 9 and it completely hooked me. I didn't quite understand the book fully at the time and though I did think about it after I eventually forgot about it until I randomly remember it a few weeks ago. I wasn't a hundred percent sure I wanted to re-read the book as if I didn't enjoy it as much as I did the first time I would ruin my memory of the book. But I read it and I am definitely glad I did.

When I first read it, I was fascinated and a more than a little creeped out. Well, the truth is, I still am - possibly even more so because I actually understand it now.

This book takes the multiple universe theory, the dark matter theory and mixes them together with a book that can control the universe simply through the power of words. So basically every action has huge repercussions - even the ability to change lives.

Many philosophical questions are raised in the book such as what if your life isn't real? and what would happen if you could change the path of your life? I liked how no real answers were provided, leaving it up to you, the reader, to think about it for yourself.

Erratum also posed questions about the bond of friendship and proved that true friends put each other before themselves even though it is easy to be selfish when things go in your favour.

The subject of good vs. evil was addressed and the book showed that no one is truly good or evil - at least in our universe that is - and that our perceptions are not usually reality when it comes to judging people's character.

This book had many funny scenes as well as many ones that were a little... should I say, gross? It had excellent pacing and interesting characters as well as an incredible title.

That brings us to the ending. Umm, I wasn't a huge fan of the ending (not the epilogue) as it kinda just summed things up and didn't leave room for imagining the rest. I would have preferred it to have ended where everything seems fine but then the last sentence reads that something was wrong. That would have been soooo much better.

I enjoyed the epilogue - it left some room for imagination and was an 'omgosh but I thought...' moment.

Children's books can be good, and are sometimes even better than a young adult book would be on the same subject as they focus more on the plot than character's romance.

Erratum is a quick read that takes your mind off other things by giving you a lot to think about.

Sandy says

Erratum : A list of corrected errors appended to a book or published in a subsequent issue of a journal. When Jessica Sternhagen finds a book titled *Her Lif*, the errors in her life begin. It seems that whenever Jessica makes a different decision, the book changes and everyone she meets wants her book! She discovers

that her destiny is to save the universe; those who want to steal her book want to destroy it. Jessica and her friend Dale work together to save her book and the universe with various adventures on the way. Suitable for upper elementary children, this book is adventurous without being too scary. The ending is a surprise and, I think, will make readers think about Jessica's decision.

Wynne says

This is one of the few books that have ever caused me to reflect upon my own life and my character. The book still puzzles and haunts me. I may fear it.

Ruth Paszkiewicz says

This book had an interesting premise, however most of its ideas have been done better elsewhere. I found the narrative voice too informal for a third person narrator. Some elements of the plot were over explained (badly), and other parts were not explained at all. Both of these elements are annoying and stopped me engaging properly with the characters. As well as having the least threatening villain I have ever encountered, the main characters were only mildly interesting, and had a very annoying habit of dropping or losing things - all the time.

If you feel tempted to read this book, I would direct you to 'The Neverending Story', 'Inkheart' or the Discworld series instead.

Chris Cutler says

There are so many good things about this book that I really struggled choosing a rating, but for overall feel I'm going to have to go with 3 stars.

The theme and thought-provoking part of the book gets 4 stars for sure.

The jumble and confusion of the plot was actually a well-executed technique, because it puts you in the same position as the heroes, who were having a *very* jumbled sort of day. On reflection, the book has impressive cohesion.

This is another story where books have power and libraries guard mankind from destruction, but the way it is envisioned here is very different than in any of the others I have read yet--and not because of the string-theory connection. In this universe books are important because they hold our memories, which in turn define us and the world we live in.

Another very good thing about this book is the way it handled character sacrifices. In many books a character will be willing to give something up or die, and then through miraculous events everything comes back and it's suddenly it all works out wonderfully. In Erratum, when someone gives something up or dies, the sacrifice is real. In a few instances the event is "un-happened," but this doesn't feel like an author betraying his characters for the sake of a happy ending.

Groomer Sarah says

Started out fairly interesting but the closer to the end you get the worse the story gets. Ended really badly...like it wasn't thought through. Felt roughly done and rushed. I got to the last 25 pages and had to force myself to finish it. Too bad because it seemed promising during the first half.

Jocelyn Montalvo Cullum says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12415011>

Rena says

The concept was good but execution felt clumsy and rushed.

Kristi says

While this book was entertaining, I felt that it lacked something. I really liked the idea of the main character discovering a book in a bookstore she'd never seen before titled "Her Lif" which actually described, in excruciatingly mundane detail, her life up until that point. When she flips to the end of the book, she is horrified to discover that she is murdered by the bookstore owner while reading the book. Of course, she takes steps to prevent such a thing from happening. And, once free of the bookstore and its murderous employees with strange flickering shadows in their eyes, she discovers an erratum sheet. An erratum sheet is a printer's correction and it says that she goes on to save the universe. Well, that's all well and good, but how?

She and her best friend have to struggle to keep hold of the book and prevent the evil vacuum salesman (who is out to destroy their universe, but only because he thinks he can control it) from getting his hands on it. Only Jessica, with book in hand, can prevent the destruction of that universe.

I liked the way that the book played with some ideas in physics and the idea of multiple timelines existing simultaneously. The book got somewhat muddled at times, but the ending was both sad and satisfying.

Miss Clark says

Hmm, well, it was an interesting read, what with all the alternate realities and parallel universes and 29 dimensions and Jessica's lonely fate as the guardian of the true universe, even though I had a good idea of how it was all going to go down for poor Jessica.

I also can only hope that this is the first of a series, because it had one heck of an open ending, not too mention The Battle of Bluntwick, so often referenced and never explained, leading me to think that it was a future event not yet occurred. Also, Miss Star? Jessica, obviously, from the future. Cerebrus = awesome. How does she get the dog?

Dale, the only other real player, could have benefited from some deeper characterization, as could all of our mystery characters that he and Jess run into, from Elwig and Margarine to the Director, etc. But Jess' characterization is solid and, as before, I hope there are more books forthcoming about her and Dale and, hopefully, Cerebrus.

There is a conversation between Jess and Dale about something more real than real, behind the veil and all that, but I lost my marker and will have to put it in when I reread it.

Lydia says

How can a librarian not help but enjoy this book! A fantasy about a normal young girl and her male pal, a fantastic library in an out-of-the-way Minnesota town, and a cast of characters who can be villains or friends? The structure of the book is well done -- alternating chapters to keep the suspense and action going. How wonderful to read a book without just a stereotypical librarian! In this fantasy, the library director, those in binding, the blind librarian in charge of the section for the blind, the dweeb in circulation, and the "lingual engineer" keep the question of destiny up for grabs.

I truly hope there is a sequel in the works!
