



# My Diary from the Edge of the World

*Jodi Lynn Anderson*

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## **My Diary from the Edge of the World** Jodi Lynn Anderson

Told in diary form by an irresistible heroine, this playful and perceptive novel from the New York Times bestselling author of the May Bird trilogy sparkles with science, myth, magic, and the strange beauty of the everyday marvels we sometimes forget to notice.

Spirited, restless Gracie Lockwood has lived in Cliffden, Maine, her whole life. She's a typical girl in an atypical world: one where sasquatches helped to win the Civil War, where dragons glide over Route 1 on their way south for the winter (sometimes burning down a T.J. Maxx or an Applebee's along the way), where giants hide in caves near LA and mermaids hunt along the beaches, and where Dark Clouds come for people when they die.

To Gracie it's all pretty ho-hum...until a Cloud comes looking for her little brother Sam, turning her small-town life upside down. Determined to protect Sam against all odds, her parents pack the family into a used Winnebago and set out on an epic search for a safe place that most people say doesn't exist: The Extraordinary World. It's rumored to lie at the ends of the earth, and no one has ever made it there and lived to tell the tale. To reach it, the Lockwoods will have to learn to believe in each other—and to trust that the world holds more possibilities than they've ever imagined.

## **My Diary from the Edge of the World Details**

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Author : Jodi Lynn Anderson

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# **From Reader Review My Diary from the Edge of the World for online ebook**

## **Engel Dreizehn says**

I liked it. The first POV diary format gives personal-intimate insight to the strange (but to her mundane) world the protagonist inhabits. A world where Sasquatches aided in the civil war, your relatives could be witches, mermaids haunt the coasts and dragons make regular migration rounds akin to geese. Yes I like how the wonders were treated as mundane but at the same time it emphasizes the point of appreciating the wonders of the ordinary-everyday world. The POV also gives insight into the protagonist's love for her family, which is also another running theme.

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## **Kim Bahr says**

A student recommended this book to me, so I had to read it. It took me a little bit to get into the story. Loved the relationship and uniqueness of each member of the family. A twist at the end was unexpected, but I'm not sure it was fully explained.

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## **Katrina says**

I had really low expectations for this book. I expected it to be a cheesy, goofy alternate world book. My Diary from the Edge of the World is nothing like that. I read it in a day, and I was thoroughly captivated. I absolutely LOVED the characters. There was independent, reckless Gracie; sweet yet obnoxious Millie; naive, hilarious Sam; mysterious Oliver; etc. Everyone felt real and they were all so precious and gah.

Other characters that I loved were Gracie's mom and dad. I also liked the faerie, Tweep, even though she(I am actually not sure if the faerie was a girl or a boy?!?! ) is in, like, 5% of the book. This was only because Tweep basically lived off Skittles. Basically me.

Anyway, Gracie's mom was stubborn, resilient, spirited, wild and loving. She is beautiful and an amazing mother. She cares about her children a lot, and is involved in their lives.

I can't say I know too much about depression or mental illness, and I've read several reviews that say Gracie's dad was depressed or had a mental illness. I don't think I can say much about this topic since I wouldn't really know what I am talking about, but I enjoy reading books with mental illness rep.

The family is so well written and they love each other and it is so sweet. They trust each other so much and they know each other down to the bone.

I actually didn't mind the whole alternate world thing. I wish some of the creatures were more embellished, and detailed though. But otherwise well done.

There were too small things that annoyed me though:

-Gracie felt like she was 9 or 10. Definitely not 12. She was quite whiney at times, and she was very annoying during several scenes

-Gracie felt a lot like Grace from All Fall Down. They are both reckless, rebellious, wild and get into danger easily. During the book Gracie got into several dangerous stunts, and so did Grace from All Fall Down(although I am not quite done All Fall Down yet, I still see the similarities.)

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### **Arezu Wishka says**

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### **Clarissa says**

Gracie Lockwood lives in a world much like our own. Her family are US citizens living in a small town in Maine, her father is a scientist/meteorologist, her mother plays the violin. She has an older sister and a younger brother. However, the world Gracie lives on is flat, wild sasquatches and other fantastic creatures have driven most people into the Eastern edge of the country. Migrating dragons sometimes burn down buildings. When it is time for people to die, strange clouds come for them, and take them away. If a cloud doesn't get you when you die, you become a ghost living in the underworld, and coming up to the surface of the earth from tunnels and underground caverns. Ghosts can be dangerous capturing people and turning them into ghosts too.

One day a cloud comes and hovers outside Gracie's house. The family decides to flee, they hope to outrun the cloud, and escape to the Extraordinary World, a place rumored to exist beyond the edge of the world. A world like Gracie's but without magic, a place where the transcontinental railroad wasn't destroyed by sasquatches, a place where you don't have to pay a guardian angel to protect you from the ghost ships who prey on travelers. This is the bittersweet story of the Lockwood families search for the mythical edge of the world.

My one criticism is that the book is written as Gracie's diary, and the writing seemed too sophisticated to be the diary of a twelve year old. But I feel weird complaining that the writing is too good.

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### **Brandy Painter says**

Let me say the one good thing I can: The MG voice here is strong and well done. It definitely gets you invested and keeps you reading. However, that also left me feeling greatly betrayed and incredibly angry by the time I reached the end of the book. I wanted to rage and shake my fists at the sky, "I READ 400 PAGES FOR THAT???" Ugh. Engaging voice aside, it is just not worth it. The story takes place in an alternate

modern US world where fantastical creatures (dragons, mermaids, sasquatches, etc. exist and so infrastructure (highways, railways, etc.) did not develop as they did in our world. What was able to develop was bad fast food. Plenty of Taco Bells and Dairy Queens to be found! It got to the point where I was ready to set the book on fire if Taco Bell was mentioned one more time. The world being so similar to ours was a big problem for me. The history of the US and its technological development would be VERY DIFFERENT if the entire middle of the country were uninhabitable. Where were the First Nations peoples? Wouldn't regions have developed their own governments and ways of surviving? The. World. Makes. No. Sense. You want to know what else this alternate world has besides fantastical creatures? Ominous clouds that show up in your town, then your street, then your house. They hover just outside waiting to take the soul of an unknown occupant. Dun Dun Duh. Want to try to outrun the cloud? It will follow you. There is no escaping the Clouds of Death. The whole plot of the book revolves around an attempt at this. Road Trip! Gracie (the main character) and her family hightail it out of their town trying to not let the doomed person from their house die. And that's the book. Family road trip to escape a Death Cloud. (They pick up an orphan and Sasquatch on the way. Hilarious right?) The ending made me furious from a thematic angle and a plot/storytelling angle. Also a characterization angle. It is the thematic angle that made the most upset though which I can't talk about without spoiling the book. See cut below if you're curious.

(view spoiler)

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### **Lexi says**

This is one of the best books I have ever read. It was full of adventure and mystery. The ending was kind of sad, but I was on the edge of my seat every time I read this book and couldn't wait to see what happened next. I would definitely recommend this book.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

This book was incredible! It reminded me of that 1990's sadly short-lived television show *So Weird*, and the way it shows the unity and importance of family was really excellent. This is a great book, I really recommend it. Even if you're an adult, it's totally worth it, believe me. :)

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### **Lila Kims says**

I swear, this book will always - no matter how many times I read it - make me tear up.

It may be an MG geared strongly toward a female audience (like, you know those books that you can't imagine a boy reading because it's obviously not for them?? It's weird! and I'm digressing...), but it's deep enough to be three YAs rolled up into one - I kid you not.

The Lockwoods are the most precious family I've ever gotten to know in a book. I just want to wrap my arms around each and every one of them and cry on their shoulders and tell them they're amazing. They are so very beautiful.

Read it. It'll make you laugh. It'll make you cry. It'll make your heart pound.

THIS is my idea of a good book, although "good" does it no justice whatsoever. Calling it "good" is like calling a mountain a boulder.

Read it. Read it. Read it.

Please.

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## **Melissa says**

Well, this had an interesting premise/universe. What happens to civilization in a world that has real supernatural beings (ghosts, sasquatches, mermaids, dragons, etc)? Oh, and the world is flat. Travelling across the US is difficult. Sailing the oceans is moreso. At one point there was an Industrial Revolution but ghosts put an end to that so that manufacturing occurs in isolated pockets around the world. There are still devices that are the same in our world (cars, Winnebagos, Sega Genesis games), but their prevalence is much reduced. Much of the US is supposedly unsafe due to dragon migrations and sasquatches - yetis kept the transcontinental railroad from being completed. All of which is neat and intriguing, but that's really all. All this wonderful potential has little effect on the protagonist's family's journey to the Edge of the World where they hope to find the Extraordinary World (our world) and escape the Dark Cloud which is following them - Dark Clouds come for someone who is about to die. My fault with this story is that with all this potential nothing much happens. It's almost boring and much of that may be due to the 1st person narration and diary format.

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## **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

I totally loved this middle grade book! I didn't even realize it was a mystical book and I read the blurb before I read it awhile back! My brain!

We have dragons that burn down the T.J. Maxx on their way migrating. We have sasquatch, witches, giants, trolls, fairies, unicorns, pegasus, mermaids, kraken, witches, ghosts and everything else I can't think of!

Not all of these creatures make a big appearance in the book but a few of them do.

This book is written in diary form from Gracie and it's totally awesome! Gracie's little brother Sam is sick and a cloud is coming to take him away. Yeah, you get taken by clouds when it's your time. But Gracie's parents are not ready for that and they decide go in a Winnebago across country to try to get to the Extraordinary World. So, Gracie, her sister, Millie, her mom, dad and a boy from her class named Oliver, set off on this adventure. (Read the book to find out about Oliver)

They make their way to the Smokey Mountains to stay a few days with their dad's mom who is a witch. She

is so cool and she has ghosts that hang out in her back yard even though it's against the law. But whatever!

The family end up back on the road once they get the directions from grandma ma to the Extraordinary World. Now only a few people in the world believe of this place. Most people laugh at Gracie's dad because he believes in it. I mean Magellan found out the world was flat and and stuff and he disappeared and that's all I'm saying about that.

Along the way the family ends up with a Sasquatch in their pull along camper. Oliver names her Daisy, she ends up with them for a good bit because they are afraid to let her out and get eaten. Until later . . .

They get help from some pegasus, an angel named Virgil, and some other peeps along the way. They also find a man who has these extraordinary beasts in a lookie loo along the way. Lets just say at one point they are all set free.

They find a pirate that takes them to the end of the world and do they find the Extraordinary World? Well, I know that's for me to know and you to read the book and find out!

I loved this book so much, the characters were awesome. The creatures were awesome,even though some didn't play a large part like I said but still. The sadness of what happened and the idea of a family sticking together to try to stay a family.

I would recommend this to anyone that likes middle grade books and the creature feature!

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

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### **Wendi Lee says**

Gracie lives in a world remarkably like ours. She eats at KFC, shops at Wal-mart, and dreams about going to Disney World someday. But her world is also filled with yeti, sasquatches, vampires, and Clouds - beings that appear when someone is about to die. When a Cloud appears outside Gracie's back yard for her younger brother, Sam, her family decides to leave their small town and travel in search of the Extraordinary World (a planet that sounds remarkably like ours, and best of all, one without Clouds).

Gracie's world is so much a part of this book. I love all the details, the Smoky Mountains transformed into a haven for witches, LA all but abandoned except for angels. The bits and pieces of the history of this place (Mitsubishi failed because of all the poltergeists invading their factories, the North won the Civil War because of supernatural help) are woven in deftly and don't feel like an intrusion into the story. And ahhhhh, the story. Can there be anything more heartbreaking and compelling than a family trying to protect their littlest member?

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### **Tracy Cervantes says**

This book was just beautiful. It captured the middle grade voice perfectly, and since it is a tad longer than the average MG, the reader really feels the transformation of the main character. Gracie and her family start off

like any other - they irritate each other, they argue, they are perfectly imperfect. It's actually refreshing how the author has captured this stage of life through Gracie's diary entries.

Thankfully, too, there are Sasquatches and dragons, and giants and ghosts and witches to mix things up.

The emotional scope of this novel was surprisingly grand, and very satisfying. Though it's a little sad, since they're trying to outrun a Dark cloud that threatens to take Gracie's little brother, it's bittersweet and glitters with little gems of wisdom. Gracie's reflections and lessons learned are ones the reader readily responds to. In this carefully crafted emotional arc, I can't help but heartily agree with a sentiment expressed at the end:

"Maybe... Oliver just wasn't willing to accept the world we've been given. Maybe he was trying to turn it into what he wants it to be instead."

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### **Chrissy Kruger-gruendyke says**

I am not sure I can actually put into words how good this book is. My 7-year-old daughter and I purchased this book from an indie bookstore here in Milwaukee. It was a "staff pick" and sounded interesting for us to read together. It tells the story through one little girl's diary entries in an alternate world full of all the magical and make-believe creatures you can think of. But those creatures and make-believe circumstances were woven and integrated into the daily observations of this little girl in an extremely authentic way. The author truly honored and respected the spirit of a child in the creation of this alternate world. My daughter and I could not wait for bed time so we could sink into the story some more together. There is a lot of sadness in the story too but it is handled delicately and beautifully. This story is a marvelous journey. My daughter and I were both crying at the end...I could not even vocalize the final words of the text because I was so choked up. This is the first book that has moved us both like that. And I will be recommending this one to everyone. Definitely a wonderful story to read with your children.

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### **Zyra says**

3.5 stars

I am little conflicted on this one. Its really lengthy book with slower pace but written in interesting diary format.

Its a beautiful book on sweet family adventure set in an different world from ours.

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