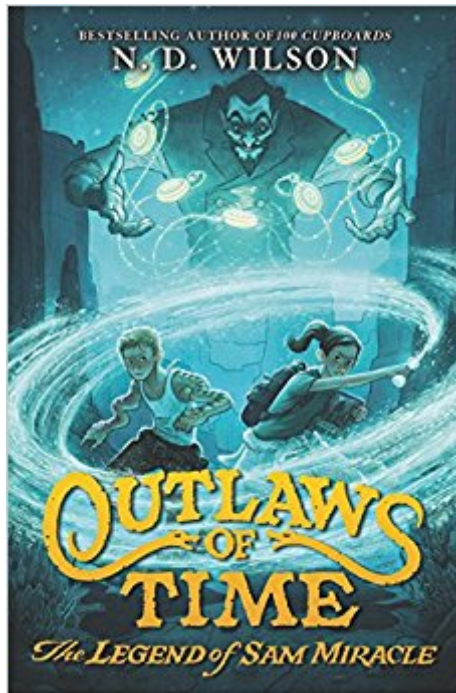




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Outlaws Of Time: The Legend Of Sam Miracle



Synopsis

This new fantasy-adventure series from N. D. Wilson, bestselling author of 100 Cupboards, pits a misfit twelve-year-old against a maniacal villain with a deadly vendetta. This one-of-a kind story is must read for fans of Brandon Mull and Soman Chainani, and the start of a thrilling tale from a masterful storyteller. Sam Miracle's life is made up of dreams, dreams where he's a courageous, legendary hero instead of a foster kid with two bad arms that can barely move. Sometimes these dreams feel so real, they seem like forgotten memories. And sometimes they make him believe that his arms might come alive again. But Sam is about to discover that the world he knows and the world he imagines are separated by only one thing: time. And that separation is only an illusion. The laws of time can be bent and shifted by people with special magic that allows them to travel through the past, present, and future. But not all of these "time walkers" can be trusted. One is out to protect Sam so that he can accept his greatest destiny, and another is out to kill him so that a prophecy will never be fulfilled. However, it's an adventurous girl named Glory and two peculiar snakes who show Sam the way through the dark paths of yesterday to help him make sure there will be a tomorrow for every last person on earth.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

Gr 5—Sam Miracle has always been different. An orphan who lives in a group home, he often blanks out and finds himself in vivid dreams that seem almost real. Sam is also disabled; his arms were shattered in an accident he cannot remember, and though they are healed, they are immobile and painful at times. He soon discovers he is part of a small group of people who can walk through time and that he has lived the same life over and over—dashing around time trying to live long enough to stop an evil outlaw who wants to end the world. Now the time of the final conflict approaches, and with the help of another foster kid, a girl named Glory, and his companion through time, Father Tiempo, Sam sets out to meet his destiny. There's tons of action and adventure in this book, most of which is set in the old West, but though Wilson tries, he does not successfully manage all the time threads. Younger readers will most likely be confused by the constant, intricate time line shifting as well as the small details of Sam's past adventures, which are revealed too slowly. Other major hindrances are the problematic elements of stereotypical wise Native American elders and Sam's disabled arms being cured through magic. VERDICT Though some action scenes are satisfying, overall this time-twisting tale takes too long to sort itself out. Recommended only in libraries where the author's previous works are very popular. —Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County Library System, NM

—“An entertaining romp that lays groundwork for future installments in the Outlaws of Time series.” (Publishers Weekly) —“A wide world of incredible magic.” (Booklist) —“On the charges of wild action, mind-bending fantasy, unforgettable characters, and enough fun plot twists to blow the ten-gallon from any reader's head, the verdict on N. D. Wilson's Outlaws of Time: crazy guilty.” (Peter Lerangis, New York Times bestselling author of the Seven Wonders series) —“A lightning fast adventure with one breathless action scene after another.” (J.A. White, author of the Thickety series) —“An exciting adventure with relentless action and more twists and turns than a sidewinder snake on the hunt.” (Michael Northrop, New York Times bestselling author of the Tombquest series) Praise for the Ashtown Burials series: —“A wild fantasy romp.” (Kirkus Reviews)

All in all, I can't wait to read the next books in this series. If N. D. Wilson was going

for thrilling, suspenseful, and enjoyable, he certainly succeeded with *Outlaws of Time*. The unique story of Sam Miracle, a boy who finds himself at the center of this ever-repeating and changing conflict between Good and Evil, takes the classic hero story and gives it a twist. Sam, accompanied by instantly lovable companions like Glory and Father Tiempo, jumps back and forth in time trying to save his sister and defeat El Buitre, a nefarious villain who's built his empire by manipulating time. The concept of snake arms, I confess, seemed quite absurd to me before reading this book, but I must say that Wilson pulls it off and sells the idea very well. It almost makes me want to have Sam's quirky snake powers. The only thing that really annoys me is that it has no proper ending. I know it's because the story isn't over, and the author wants you to buy the next book, but I still think there could have been something more. Aside from that, I think Wilson has crafted a very good children's book: The kind that keeps older audiences of any age enthralled.

"If you could stand still in time, you would feel it hissing around you like wind made of sand." From the prologue to *Outlaws of Time: The Legend of Sam Miracle* From the first sentence of this first book in N. D. Wilson's new *Outlaws of Time* series, we are swept up (in wind made of sand?) into yet another of Mister Wilson's masterful blends of fantasy and reality. Sam Miracle, a twelve-year-old boy with stiff, straight arms that don't bend at the elbows, lives at St. Anthony of the Desert Destitute Youth Ranch with several other Destitute Youth, spending much of his time rereading old westerns and daydreaming about cowboys, runaway stagecoaches and guns. What he doesn't know is that those daydreams aren't just daydreams. They're memories, his memories, from another time. He's died many times trying to defend the world, and, with the help of a time-walking priest, a girl called Glory and two bizarre rattlesnakes, he's going to have to give it one more try. N. D. Wilson paints a three dimensional, real, rough-hewn world with vultures and exploding trains and cowboys and guns and wicked outlaws, a brilliant time-hopping western adventure, deftly mixing fantasy and fact and history and wild imagination. His message, if you wish to start extracting nicely packaged little messages from dynamite fiction, is that with great power comes not only great responsibility, but often great personal discomfort, as well as an obligation to lay down your life in the line of fire, if it comes to that. In Mister Wilson's stories, there is always a cost. It's not just fluff, like so many other middle grade novels published nowadays. It's wonderful, mind-blowing stuff, fiction with a good message, if you like, but, honestly, fiction

that's just plain fun to read.

Growing up I loved all types of stories and speculations about time travel. I was fascinated by time travel until I stopped being fascinated. I realized it was all just speculation and now tend to stay away from time travel (even though I watch DC comics The Flash tv series). Not so with N.D. Wilson. This isn't a time travel story. Time is definitely involved. Travel may or may not happen. But even if it does, this is so much more than time travel. It's a battle for eternity. The entire human history hangs on this boy named Sam. What is everyone willing to give up to help Sam? What is Sam willing to give up to save the world? I give this book a five star because: The writing is engaging and unique. It's style is fresh and enjoyable. The plot is captivating and fun. You just want to keep moving forward. The characters feel like family... Well, not all the characters. But you'll find out soon enough. And the overall feel is a wild west, superhero epic battle for all of humanity. Don't let time travel dissuade you. Don't let time travel entice you. Read Outlaws of Time because you may one day have to make difficult decisions as well... Or just enjoy the snake arms.

ND Wilson as ever is an amazing author. This new series promises to be yet another thrilling ride and I can't wait to see in what ways the plot develops in the next book(s). If you've never read any of Wilson's books before he has a somewhat unusual style of bringing fantasy into everyday life. This book I think certainly shows continued development as an author, the story-line flows well and the jump in characters viewpoints were done both smoothly as well as in way that helped the story develop. Sam as a character is intriguing as he both struggles with physical difficulties as well facing his past weaknesses. I especially enjoyed the different time periods as the character bounced through time as well as enjoyed Wilson having them start out in another 'normal' dull part of the U.S.. Henry in Kansas will probably always be my favorite Wilson character, but Sam (as well as multiple other characters!) shows promise to be just as amazing.

When first I heard that N.D. Wilson's upcoming work would be a novel incorporating time travel, I was skeptical. That element has, in my opinion, been done nearly to the grave and mostly executed poorly; and I saw the book as a likely delayer of Ashtown Burials IV--the release of which I have long been anticipating. However, the actual reading of the "Outlaws of Time" proved my initial inclinations regarding it unfounded. The book itself is excellent, and the writing exhibits some of the best elements of Wilson's signature style, yet it is in its unique portrayal and use of time and time travel that the volume truly distinguishes itself. Time is viewed in terms more of magic (in the best

sense of the word) than mere materialistic science. It is, in part, this that makes it, in my estimation, superior to all the time-travel narratives previously published in all of the various forms of media. I highly recommend this truly great work.

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