



Halfway

Stephanie Void

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The world of Halfway is the anti-Harry-Potter: the wizard school is part of a shadowy organization that takes the students by force from their families. And the outside world isn't much better: if you are a wizard, you are looked upon with fear because of what you represent.

In the midst of this, in secret, twins are born: a boy and a girl. They are Halfway, the rare offspring of humans and a now-extinct race of faeries.

But the twins don't remain a secret for long. Temet, the boy, is taken as a child by the wizards. Cemagna, the girl, vows to rescue him. But the only way to escape the wizards is to keep running...

This book is Book 1 of the Wizards and Faeries series.

Halfway Details

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Author : Stephanie Void

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From Reader Review Halfway for online ebook

Larissa says

3.5 STARS: A very enjoyable read, I recommend you check it out.

Halfway was a very quick exciting read. Cemagna and Temet's world is one of Wizards and Fairies, but there are many questions about the world that remain to be answered. The story alternates between the two lead characters' perspectives, both of whom are very likable and intriguing. Temet struggling to cope with the idea of living with the people who kidnapped him, and Cemagna leaving behind all she ever knew to find a brother who may not even want to have anything to do with her.

I enjoyed that Halfway was such a quick read because there was always something exciting or important happening, but at times it was a drawback for me as well. At times things seemed rushed, which made some of the characters' decisions seem rash because they were so hurried.

Overall though I thoroughly enjoyed Halfway and will definitely be reading the sequel. I would recommend this book especially to fans of original world-building, and magic.

Jaime says

This book proclaimed itself to be the anti Harry Potter. Now other than the fact there is a school for magical folk this was nothing like Harry Potter at all. One of the main character is half human, half fairy and is kidnapped away to magic school, where he spends all of 3 minutes of the book there. 10 years is just thrown out of the window from both characters story lines., leading to a lack of character development. The ending of the story was just as hurried.

I really wanted to love this book but at most it was ok. The idea was there but personally i felt the book could have used another 100 pages to build the story a bit further.

Would i recommend reading this, probably not.

Would i read the next book in the series, probably not unless i had nothing else to read.

Karen says

I really enjoyed Halfway. It was quite a short book and only took me two evenings to read. If you've read Running From Secrets by the same author, you will have come across one of the main characters in Halfway before – Cemagna. Saying that, Halfway is it's own story so you do not have to read Running From Secrets first.

From the synopsis you'll already know that Cemagna and her twin brother Temet grew up in hiding, and this is their story. The chapters were split between each of the protagonists and written in first person for Cemagna and third person for Temet. I know this probably sounds confusing but it worked really well and never dragged me out of the story.

Both Cemagna and Temet were good strong characters, each with their own story, although Cemagna was my favourite. She seemed more ‘real’ to me than Temet and her journey through this story was most definitely harder than Temets, or maybe I just love female kick-ass protagonists! Saying that, I really did enjoy Temet too although I would have loved to have learned more about the Wizardly Order and what Temet was learning.

Halfway was a definite page turner. There were plenty of surprises along the way and the plot was intriguing. If you’re looking for a quick read with plenty of magic and action, then I most definitely recommend you grab yourself a copy of Halfway!

Tahlia Newland says

Halfway is a short novel, presumably the first in a series, about magical Twins. They are half fairy, which is a rare and potent mix. They live with their fairy mother on a remote isthmus, seeing no one as they grow up. A few days after the boy’s talents manifest, a ship appears and the boy is abducted and taken to a school for wizards. His sister and mother’s attempts to reach him, manifest the girl’s talents but fails to rescue the boy and ends in tragedy.

Ten years later, the girl finds a way to leave the isthmus and goes in search of her brother. He, thinking her dead and that he had no where else to go, had remained at the wizard school, but now he faces a nasty test by tutors jealous of his abilities.

It’s such a short book, that there’s little to say about it. I read it in one enjoyable sitting, but I felt that it would have benefited from a slightly fuller treatment.

The characters only just emerged as fully fleshed characters for me near the end. The story, though well enough told, is flawed in that, even though she thought she was on an island, the girl never in ten years searched for a way to get off. I find that somewhat unbelievable. How did she live there alone from the age of 10 to the age of twenty? Then, after seeing no one her whole life, a random man comes to steal the fruit she lives on and she leaves with him as if she has been desperate to leave for some time. It would have been much more believable and would have strengthened the girl’s character a great deal, had she found a way off and made the trek herself. The boy could also have made an earlier escape attempt and failed.

There were some interesting surprises and challenges near the end. The story concludes well and sets us up nicely for the next instalment.

If you’re looking for something good to read in one evening, then this is perfect, but I’d recommend having the next instalment ready to go, because as it is, it’s very much just the start of something.

Maya says

I really wanted to like this one. The premise sounds promising, and anything that has Harry Potter in the synopsis catches my eye. This was just not good. Not at all.

The plot was WAY too rushed and not really that well thought out. Honestly, the plot that was in this book alone could have lasted at least two longer books. Or at least one longer book. We weren't in the character's head for a long enough period of time for me to want to connect with them, much less actually care for them. By the end of the book, I knew less about the world than I did to start with.

I definitely won't be reading anything else by Stephanie Void.

Majanka says

This review was originally posted on I Heart Reading

As far as self-published books go, Halfway by Stephanie Void is pretty decent. The book is a very short read, and probably only took me about one hour and a half to get through. The writing is aimed at the younger group of young adults, and the story seems fitting for that age range as well. While the writing isn't spectacular, and the characters aren't that intriguing or well-developed either, what earned this book a fair share of stars is the world-building.

The setting of Halfway is a world inhabited by Wizards and Faeries, but very different from the fantasy worlds I'm used to reading. I found this change refreshing. While the world-building could be a bit more detailed, and I was left with more questions than answers by the end of the book about how this strange world works, what the rules are, etcetera, I did find it a very enjoyable read.

The two main characters, Cemagna and Temet are brother and sister. One day, Temet is kidnapped, and thus Cemagna's world falls apart. She sets out on a journey to find her brother back, even if by now he may not want her in his life anymore. Meanwhile, miles away, Temet struggles with his new life in the Wizardly Order, his new-found abilities and the loss of his family.

I loved the fact that the two main characters are brother and sister, and they had a very special, loving bond. More often than not we see siblings who don't get along, and it was refreshing to see siblings who got along for a change. While I didn't find the characters particularly inspiring – I sometimes wondered why the heck they made the choices they did – they were interesting to read about. The story alternates between Temet and Cemagna's perspective. If I had to choose, I would say Cemagna was my favorite character. Her journey was tougher, longer, and the stakes higher. She also felt slightly more developed than Temet.

All in all, this book definitely isn't bad but it isn't ground-breaking either. I enjoyed it and it was a quick, fun read. Ideal for a quiet evening when you have nothing else to do. This book is the author's debut though, and it certainly shows potential. If the story was more fleshed out, the characters were given more depth, then she'd have a true gem in her hands. Right now, the book feels a little rushed. Not bad, but not in my top ten either, so a good three stars to Halfway.

Rachel says

I received my copy of Halfway through the goodreads giveaway. Thank you!

Like others have written, this book was a quick and interesting read. The story was fast paced and kept me

entertained through the whole book. The characters were cute and easily likeable. I would have liked the book to be more descriptive about the world and the people of the story but it was an enjoyable story.

I definitely will look forward to reading the second book to the series.

Book Chatter-Cath says

The magic and world building in Halfway is different from other books I have read and makes for a very refreshing read, and the characters are like-able and entertaining.

The story moves quite quickly, but I really enjoyed its pace and the ever changing surroundings with interesting and quirky characters along the way.

There are lots of unanswered questions, and family secrets yet to be revealed in this riveting tale of magic and wonder, mystery and intrigue.

Halfway has definitely kept me on my toes and guessing until the very end.

A very different tale of magic, love, betrayal and family.

A worthy 4 Star read :]

I've just bought book 2 in this new and exciting series and cant wait to continue with Cemagna and Temet's story.

Gita Sturtevant says

Very good

Don't miss this precious novel of sibling loyalty love and great deep love for all. Thank you amazon for the pleasure

Neysa (Papier Revue) says

[FOR MORE REVIEW, CHECK OUT : <http://mnkbooklife.blogspot.com/>]

[A paperback copy was provided by the author for review purpose. Thanks Stephanie!]

"Where do we belong, Temet? Where do you belong when you grow up alone and broken?"

—Cemagna

The first thing that drew me to Halfway was its cover. I loved that swirling white text, and I love the simple yet haunting feeling it gave out.

When I saw the cover, I know that this book would be quite nice.

But when I read the blurb of Halfway, I know it going to be a different story.

I know that I would like to read this one.

Halfway told us about the life of Temet and Cemagna, the brother and sister who grew up never meeting

anybody beside their mother, Nessy, as they lived in a secluded peninsula, all by themselves. They thought that they were both normal. That they were both human, and nothing's wrong with Nessy, and that their life would continue peacefully. But when Temet accidentally awakened his power and learned his true nature, and the people from an organization—the one whom Nessy had a dark past with—kidnapped him, will life be ever the same for the three of them?

One thing that really stood out from this book was its amazing tension building. I loved how Stephanie was able to build the tension on every page of Halfway. The hint was dropped here and there, and they were totally successful on keeping reader thrilled and wanting to know more and more. It seems like I can't flip the page fast enough.

The world building of this book was great as well. It really gave us a glimpse of otherworldly setting, while still keeping it realistic that reader would have no difficulty picturing it. The detail of the surroundings was given in just the right amount as well, paying attention to the small things, such as the Order pin, gas mask, etc, that made us easily sucked to the stories, and might believe that somehow somewhere, that world really exist.

While the world detailing was amazing, however, I found that for the character naming, it was not the case. I personally think that too many unimportant character was being named on the beginning, and on top of that, with an unusual name.

I mean, I perfectly understand that it was part of the culture, strange name like Cemagna and Aylward and Von Chi, and sure, it was easy to remember most of the main character.

But early on the book, there were just too many names being thrown at the reader, and it just made me go "Um, who's this again?" and flipped back to see who the character was. Turned out they didn't hold an important role, and I was like, "Okaaay".

It got better later on the book, though.

I also feel that on some important scene, such as when Temet was taken to the Order, was not long and delved into enough. The fast pace of this book might fit most scenes of this book, but on some certain scene, I think it would be better if the pace was slowed down a bit, because it seemed like it was hurried, therefore making it losing some of its tension.

The characters of this book were also varied. Some of them was really great and three-dimensional, but some of them was really hard to imagine and to be believed that they were real.

Temet, as our main character and the so-called Halfway along with Cemagna—half human and half faerie—that made the title of this book, what he lacked, in my personal opinion, was emotion. Or maybe not exactly emotion, but rather, reaction. When he was told that he must come to the Order or commit suicide, he chose without any reaction—shocked, horrified, oh-my-God-my-normal-life-is-gone inner thought, or whatever—at all. The same when he said his mother was faerie. He just said it like it was a common fact. Like everyone had a faerie for a mother. Like it was the most normal thing in the world. And no dear, it wasn't.

Throughout the story, though, His character showed a significant change, and he grow into someone quite interesting.

Although his reaction was still a bit lacking, I think it's nice to read about a character who was holding to his grudge and grow up with hatred. Not lovely, I know, but it really was a fresh read and pretty realistic, and that was what made him believable.

Cemagna, our other main character as well as Temet's sister, on the other hand, was a perfectly well-rounded and interesting character. She had a strong personality, distinct voice, and was really believable. I love how

her childhood—where she was raised alone, and never met anyone beside her mother, Temet, and Aylward until she was twenty—really reflected upon her personality and action when she was released into the real world.

Thing that was not really clicked with me about her was that her inner thought about Ormas. First, their love was insta-love already I didn't feel the chemistry between them. And then, she thought on some dire moments that "Ormas's eyes were . . ." or "Ormas's shoulders were . . .". And to be honest, it kinda ruined the tension that had been greatly built so far.

One character I really like, surprisingly, was Nessy, Temet and Cemagna's mother.

I really loved how she was unstable as a person, and yes you might notice, I adore imperfect character!

Their flaw was what made them felt human, and Nessy had some flaws that were serious enough to make her imperfect, but not make the reader hate her.

She also seemed like a character that would have her own stories outside Halfway. Simply said, she really popped out of the book, and felt truly alive and flesh-and-bone to me.

Some things that I'm not quite fond of this book were :

It's quite confusing to read a first-person-PoV to a third-person-PoV on one book, switching back and forth between Temet's chapters and Cemagna chapters.

Some other thing was, there were also inconsistencies, such as when Temet said that someone want to take him somewhere, when, in fact, that someone didn't say so. Other person did.

Also, the same case happened with the magic mastering difficulty on this book. For Cemagna—who can make a mere water move, and the control a freaking airship later—or for Temet—water and then a boat—it seemed like an easy feat to do various magic without ever being taught or guided, and yet other people said magic had to be practiced and learned. It was like, where was the practice part, they become suddenly so awesome?

There were also some important things not explained enough, but rather being told as a one-line information. That was really not enough.

And lastly, the Insta-love between Cemagna and Ormas. I can't feel any chemistry at all from both of them, and it felt like their romance was just being thrown off. It was just, well, a no for me.

Overall, if you're in the mood for some fantasy read, and would love to try something new with a great tension and world building, you should give this one a try.

Dianne says

This was a good start to a new series about wizards, fae and magic. A short, fast read with two strong main characters, twins separated when they were young. The story is split between the two of them during a 10 year period before they found each other. Well-told.

London says

I gave this book two stars because I was disappointed. It had a very good idea, and kept me interested. But I

feel it was poorly written. It seemed more of a rough draft, it was rushed, and sketchy. It was a VERY quick read. I read it in two nights, reading for an hour or two each. I would recommend it if you are bored and want some short to read. Like I said, it kept me interested, and so I don't regret reading it. Not sure if I will read the second book though.

Miranda says

This book has a very interesting premise and the overall story is very strong. However, the writing level doesn't quite hold up to everything else. It still has a "work in progress" feel to it. The two main characters are developed well enough, but the supporting cast not so much. I did enjoy the way the story goes back and forth between the two main characters; that worked rather well.

I got this book for free from onehundredfreebooks.com

Lady Entropy says

DNF

Mars says

It's... not bad. 3 stars sounds about right.

Pretty amateurish, but crisp and entertaining.

Except for the battle scene, once you get past the first dozen pages or so the writing solidifies somewhat and becomes quite decent. Mostly.

On the downsides: written for *very* young adults, lacks elements of common sense (e.g. a merchant praising something he's about to buy), the only battle scene in the book is really very, very bad (it's unclear what's happening, it's repetitive, and just not very entertaining), and in general the story rather lacks any sort of moral or meaning.
