

Amari and the Great Game Book Review by Leah

Amari and the Great Game is a fantasy adventure book written by B.B. Alston and published in 2022. The book is fairly long, with a total of 423 pages. This is the second book in the Amari series. This novel takes place in our modern world. Everything is normal, so it seems, but secretly there is a supernatural world where gnomes, secret agents, and magicians hide from the known world. The headquarters of the supernatural world is the Bureau, where people work hard to not let information of the supernatural world get out into the known world.

Amari, the main character of *Amari and the Great Game*, is on a field trip with her school to the local aquarium. Everything has been going well for her lately; she's had no fights at school, she's sitting next to her best friend Elsie right now on the bus, and most importantly, she's just found her missing brother Quinton. Quinton was captured by the Night Brothers, evil magicians, but now he has been rescued, although he is in a deep coma.

Amari and Elsie are laughing on the bus when all of a sudden, Elsie stops laughing. In fact, Elsie stops moving at all, and when Amari looks around to take in the scene, everything has stopped moving, even the bus. But why can Amari still move? It seems as though time itself has frozen. As soon as this time freeze has started, it has ended, and everyone on the bus begins to move again. Amari soon realizes that no one remembers being stuck in time.

Minutes later, an emergency alert blazes on Amari and Elsie's phones. They quickly check and see BREAKING NEWS written across their phones, with a message from the Bureau. It seems as though Amari was not imagining the time freeze, because at the Bureau, the supernatural world headquarters, time has frozen.

In the meantime, Amari is called to the magicians league, and she is asked to lead magicians into war with the Bureau. Amari quickly declines the offer, but she is told that consequences will follow, as the magicians are desperate to go to war and receive justice for how harshly they've been treated. Now, Amari is torn between her fellow magicians and the Bureau, her second home.

The book continues with traitors, dangerous games, and surprising plot twists in order to reveal what will happen to Amari in her journey through the supernatural world. Throughout the novel, Amari makes difficult decisions that affect not only her, but the whole supernatural world.

I would recommend this book to those who are 12+, because the book has a very deep plot. If you like action, I would recommend this book because it always kept me on the edge of my seat, and I kept on wanting to read more and more! I loved how the writer always incorporated suspense into every chapter, which kept me on edge and made me want to read more and more. I could barely ever put the book down! Also, if you like books such as Harry Potter or Percy Jackson, I would recommend this book to you because this book is basically a combination of both those series, and it is very fantasy based. On August 27, 2024, a new Amari book named *Amari and the Despicable Wonders* will come out. As of August 2024 there will be 3 books in this series, with hopefully more to come. This book offers an advanced reading experience, with a high vocabulary level. Also, the author talks a lot about discrimination that colored people and poor people face as well as struggles with friends, so the book has an important message to share. Overall, *Amari and the Great Game* is a great book.