Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Discovering Hope: A Pandora's Box Novel by S. E. Anderson", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/388. Entry version as of October 30, 2026.

S. E. Anderson

Discovering Hope: A Pandora's Box Novel

United States (2011)

TAGS: Hope Pandora Pandora's Box





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Discovering Hope: A Pandora's Box Novel
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	Worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2011
First Edition Details	S. E. Anderson, *Discovering Hope: A Pandora's Box Novel*. (Self-published), 2011, 198 pp.
ISBN	B006OALRCK
Genre	Alternative histories (Fiction), Bildungsromans (Coming-of-age fiction), Mythological fiction, Romance fiction
Target Audience	Young adults (Around 15 years)
Author of the Entry	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com
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Creators



S. E. Anderson (Author)

S. E. Anderson is a self-published author.

Source:

Official website (accessed: July 4, 2018).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary

In this tale we encounter a 15 year old modern Pandora, Pandora Katsaros, who is not a model for curiosity but a real girl. She is struggling with pains and challenges due to her parents' sudden death. Pandora tells the story in her own voice, and states: "The meaning of my first name is 'all-gifted and talented', which doesn't describe me in the slightest." (pp. 24–25). Pandora is depressed, grieving over her parents, thinking about the boyfriend who dumped her and about her good friend's brother who asked her out - typical teenage anxieties, heightened by the family trauma she experienced. Her mystical experience helps her cope with her life. She receives a box, a gift from a strange woman: "In this box, only the spirit of Hopelessness remains. This is why there is still Hope in the world." (pp. 424–425).

Throughout the book, Pandora, as the guardian, received heighten senses of seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting, while being busy with her budding romance. There is no real connection between these supernatural senses and the Pandora myth.

We know that Pandora is the guardian of the box and there is not further development of the concept or any reference to why her senses are heightened. Since this is the first book in a series perhaps the answers would be revealed later on in the series.

Analysis

This is a semi-realist novel about teenage emotions, which uses the fantasy device of the mysterious box to draw on the Pandora myth. Anderson explores the power of hope for young readers through the story of a protagonist struggling with the aftermath of tragedy. With each new ability Pandora will experience pain as well as reward. Like the mythical heroine, she is gifted with many abilities that can cause her joy or grief and she must overcome obstacles in order to control them.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and

Hope Pandora Pandora's Box

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Concepts	
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Death Friendship Isolation/loneliness Love Orphans Parents (and children) School Teenagers
Addenda	The review refers to the Kindle edition (this is the only edition).

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