

## May 2022 Midwest Book Review of *When Lightnin' Struck*

The May 2022 issue of the MBR online book review magazine *Children's Bookwatch* features a review of *When Lightnin' Struck*.

Here is the review:

Children's Bookwatch: May 2022  
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief  
Diane Donovan, Editor  
Midwest Book Review  
278 Orchard Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

[http://www.midwestbookreview.com/cbw/may\\_22.htm#YAFiction](http://www.midwestbookreview.com/cbw/may_22.htm#YAFiction)

The YA Fiction Shelf

When Lightnin' Struck  
Betsy R. Rosenthal  
[www.BetsyRosenthal.com](http://www.BetsyRosenthal.com)  
Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc.  
241 First Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1607  
<https://www.karben.com>  
9781728420523, \$17.99, HC, 272pp

<https://www.amazon.com/When-Lightnin-Struck-Betsy-Rosenthal/dp/1728420520>

Synopsis: It's 1928 in Odessa, Texas, and eleven-year-old James is struggling to find his purpose in life and to uncover a family secret. With his father struck dead by lightning and his mother in jail, he is taken in by his grandparents. Treated as a pariah at school, James is taunted as being cursed by his family's bad luck. But he finds a friend in Paul, a Russian immigrant, who is also treated as an outcast, and together, they battle the school bully. But James's life is turned upside-down yet again when he uncovers a family secret involving his beloved grandmother. His discovery leads him to find the sense of purpose he's been seeking.

Critique: Original, deftly crafted, entertaining, thought-provoking with its underlying message about bullying, *When Lightnin' Struck* by Betsy R. Rosenthal is an especially appropriate and unreservedly recommended addition to elementary school, middle school, and community library collections for young readers ages 9-13. It should be noted for personal reading lists that *When Lightnin' Struck* is also available in a paperback edition (9781728420530, \$7.99) and in a digital book format (Kindle, \$7.12).

Editorial Note: Before Betsy R. Rosenthal was a writer, she was a civil rights lawyer. She maintains an informative website at [www.BetsyRosenthal.com](http://www.BetsyRosenthal.com)

This review will also appear in the Cengage Learning, Gale interactive CD-ROM series "Book Review Index" which is published four times yearly for academic, corporate, and public library systems.

Additionally, this review will be archived on our Midwest Book Review website for the next five years at <http://www.midwestbookreview.com>