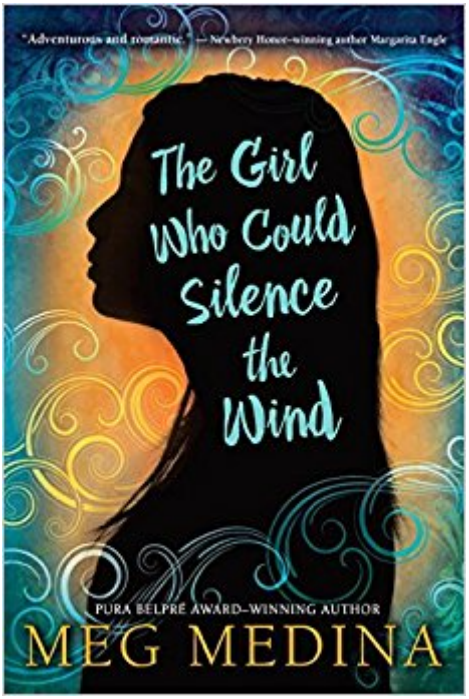
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The Girl Who Could Silence The Wind



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Synopsis

SoniaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s entire village believes she has a gift, but itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s only in leaving home that she finds out who she truly is. A compelling tale from a rich new voice in young adult fiction.Sixteen-year-old Sonia Ocampo was born on the night of the worst storm Tres Montes had ever seen. And when the winds mercifully stopped, an unshakable belief in the girlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s protective powers began. All her life, Sonia has been asked to pray for sick mothers or missing sons, as worried parents and friends press silver milagros in her hands. Sonia knows she has no special powers, but how can she disappoint those who look to her for solace? Still, her conscience is heavy, so when she gets a chance to travel to the city and work in the home of a wealthy woman, she seizes it. At first, Sonia feels freedom in being treated like all the other girls. But when news arrives that her beloved brother has disappeared while looking for work, she learns to her sorrow that she can never truly leave the past or her family behind. With deeply realized characters, a keen sense of place, a hint of magical realism, and a flush of young romance, Meg Medina tells the tale of a strongwilled, warmhearted girl who dares to face lifeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s harsh truths as she finds her real power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With a hint of magical realism and a Latin influence, THE GIRL WHO COULD SILENCE THE WIND tells the story of 16-year-old Sonia Ocampo with an enchanting narrative... Sonia’s satisfying story of self-discovery combines friendship, family, love and adventure. A book for those fond of alluring storytelling.Ã¢â ¬â •Shelf AwarenessMedina creates a compelling narrative within a Latin American

culture where parents cling to old ways and their children thread their paths between hope and despair, trying to find a viable future. Though touches of magical realism appear in the novel, the real magic here arises from the story of a girl struggling to see beyond othersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ perceptions and find her own way in a society that seems to offer few options.Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist Online

Meg Medina is the author of TÃƒÂ- a Isa Wants a Car, illustrated by Claudio MuÃƒÂ oz. The daughter of Cuban immigrants, she grew up in Queens, New York, and now lives in Richmond, Virginia.

I really enjoyed this story. My daughter and I were having a little argument because we were raised Catholics but she says she doesn't want to have a religion that we should stop believing these stories that have been fed to us throughout the years.

Met the author more than once. Liked Milagros, The Girl from Away. Purchased two copies of that one directly from her (one to read and one to lend). The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind was right up there with Milogras. Highly recomend both ---- and this is coming from an adult reader!

My grand daughter will love this.

Read this before sending to my granddaughters- wonderful writing, beautiful story- I loved the mix of magic and realism.

I had a difficult time getting into the plot of the story - stop reading about 75 pages into it.

I had no trouble getting into MedinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s novel. I finished it quickly in one sitting, but I found myself disappointed when I reached the end, not because I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like it, but because I was sad to see it end. I enjoyed the characters sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d created and wanted more.While itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s set in the imaginary Latin American village of Tres Montes, the story connects to many important contemporary issues, most notably immigration. Opportunity is all but gone in the small village of Tres Montes. For the men, employment is all but limited to working in the mines. Young boys watch their fathers work their lives away in the mines, only to watch them grow old and increasingly weak from the toll the mining work has taken on their bodies. Sonia travels to the capital as a hired employee for the wealthy MasÃƒÂ n family, but her brother

Rafael risks paying someone, much like a coyote, to get him north. An easy target, Rafael falls prey to the many dangers that continue to claim so many immigrants trying to make it to the United States for a better life. Kidnapped and ransomed, Rafael ultimately dies. MedinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s novel could easily be paired with the documentary Which Way Home that follows several unaccompanied child immigrants as they journey through Mexico en route to the U.S. on a freight train they call ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Beast.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•While quite different from The Queen of Water, the two novels share some common themes and would complement each other well. Both address issues of classism and racism through looking at the ways in which urban society is considered progressive and refined, while rural society is viewed as backwards and uneducated. Gender also plays an important role in the novel, as the reader sees the multiple ways in which the women of the story find themselves at the mercy of men with power. Perhaps it is because I was a teacher, but I found PanchoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s character to be one of the more powerful aspects of the book. As a bright boy with an incredible imagination, Pancho weaves beautiful stories, but few see him as anything but a poor orphan. If heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s noticed at all, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s typically with scorn or annoyance. Yet, as a child with little power or protection, Pancho represents the vulnerability of so many children in our society. For me, his story was a quiet reprimand or reminder that we could all be doing more to protect those who represent that same vulnerability.The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind is beautifully written, with hints of magical realism and endearing characters. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not necessarily a happy ending, but it is one of hope. A hope most clearly stated in one of my favorite lines of the book: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“. . .they confessed they had always had a soft spot for old mountain stories like his, for tales of humble people and the courage that it took to live their days. For true stories of magic and love.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a book IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d highly recommend both for the experience of reading it in and of itself, and also for the powerful discussions it could bring into the classroom. The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind has received a number of awards and recognitions as a CBI Recommended Reads (UK), Mock 2012 Pura BelprÃƒÂ© honor book, REFORMA, Heartland Chapter, Best Books 2013 Bank Street College.Our free EducatorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Guide for using The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind is available at our wordpress blog Vamos a Leer.

Sixteen-year-old Sonia Ocampos just wants to be treated like a normal person. She was born under unusual circumstances, so her village believes she has a special gift of protecting them from harm. Sonia has carried the burdens of the village of Tres Montes all her life, but when a young villager dies despite her many prayers for his safety, she is convinced sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a fraud. Eager

to escape the many demands made on her, Sonia accepts a job as a maid in the faraway Capital city ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ even though it means leaving Pancho, her secret love.However, when her older brother Rafael turns up missing, her magical gifts are the only thing that can help her find him. With PanchoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s help Sonia soon realizes that what she once considered a burden is actually a gift in disguise.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The girl who could silence the windÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is magical realism. The very real lifestyle of poor Latino miners struggling to make a living while enduring life or death situations to escape to freedom and better jobs in the North is interspersed with Latino religious beliefs of milagros (miracles). To help readers who are unfamiliar with the Latino culture, a glossary explaining the definition for the various Spanish terms used in the book would have been helpful.Recommended for ages 12 to 15.

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