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Color Song (A Passion Blue Novel)



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Synopsis

By the author of the acclaimed Passion Blue, a Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of 2012 and Ã¢â ¬Å“a rare, rewarding, sumptuous exploration of artistic passion,Ã¢â ¬Â• comes a fascinating companion novel.Artistically brilliant, Giulia is blessedÃ¢â ¬â •or cursedÃ¢â ¬â •with a spiritÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gift: she can hear the mysterious singing of the colors as she creates them in the convent workshop of Maestra HumilitÃƒÂ . ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s here that Giulia, forced into the convent against her will, has found unexpected happiness and rekindled her passion to become a painterÃ¢â ¬â •an impossible dream for any woman in fifteenth-century Italy.But when a dying HumilitÃƒÂ bequeaths Giulia her most prized possessionÃ¢â ¬â •the secret formula for the luminously beautiful paint called Passion blueÃ¢â ¬â •Giulia realizes sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s in danger from those who have long coveted the famous color. Faced with the prospect of a life in the convent barred from painting as punishment for keeping HumilitÃƒÂ Ã¢â ¬â„¢s secret, Giulia is struck by a desperate idea: What if she disguises herself as a boy? Could she make her way to Venice and find work as an artistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s apprentice?Along with the truth of who she is, Giulia carries more dangerous secrets: the exquisite voices of her paint colors and the formula for HumilitÃƒÂ Ã¢â ¬â„¢s Passion blue. And Venice, she discovers, with its gilded palazzos and masked balls, has secrets of its own. Trapped in her false identity in this dream-like place where reality and reflection are easily confused, and where art and ambition, love and deception hover like dense fog, can Giulia find her way?This stunning, compelling novel explores timeless themes of love and illusion, gender and identity as it asks, What does it mean to risk everything to pursue your passion?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“This combination of page-ripping plot and insight into the creative process is as rare and luminous as the color Strauss imagines.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews

Victoria Strauss is the author of Passion Blue, praised in a starred review as Ã¢â ¬Å“a rare, rewarding, sumptuous exploration of artistic passionÃ¢â ¬Â• by Kirkus Reviews and selected as a Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of 2012. Her fiction for adults and young adults includes Worldstone and Guardian of the Hills. She is also the co-founder of Writer Beware, a unique anti-fraud resource that provides warnings about literary schemes and scams. Victoria Strauss lives in Amherst, Massachusetts. Visit her at www.victoriastrauss.com.

Every so often I find books that I really love and Victoria StraussÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s newest Color Song is one of them. The first book Passion Blue I loved just as much. Color Song does stand on itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s own but you get a lot of background in Passion Blue that I think makes Color Song all the better. The books are classified as YA Historical Fiction and I do love YA books but I think these books are just perfect for the adult reader as well. I started Passion Blue a few days ago and was completely hooked so when I put it down I immediately dove into Color Song. What did I love so much about the book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the art, the color, the passion, the writing, the characters, and ultimately the beauty of the story itself.Giulia has been living in the convent she was forced to enter and it is there that she is allowed to do the one thing she loves above all else and that is to paint. Giulia creates beautiful art but she also carries a gift that allows her to hear the singing of the colors she creates and uses. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s important to note that in 15th century Italy it was unheard of for a woman to be allowed to be a painter so it is only behind the convent walls that GiuliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s dream can be realized. Maestra Humilita saw GiuliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s gift and despite some obstacles has always supported her. When Maestra Humilita lays dying she she gives her Passion Blue formula to the one person she knows will honor it the most ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Giulia. However in doing so also puts Giulia at risk from others who are desperate to get their hands on the Passion Blue formula as well.Giulia decides to do the only thing she can do and thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s to leave the convent. Giulia never wanted to be a nun and she refuses to be held prisoner and punished for refusing to hand over the Passion Blue

formula. But how ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ how can Giulia survive out there in a manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s world? Well there is one way ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ by pretending to be a boy. Clothing herself in boyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s things Giulia escapes the convent on a mission to make her way to Venice. Could she maybe find work there as a painterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s apprentice? As Giulia she couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t but as Girolamo itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a possibility. So starts the journey of a young woman who dared to want more in a time when women had no rights.I absolutely loved Giulia. What a fantastic character. At eighteen she seemed years older in maturity and I loved her passion for art, color, and life and her willingness to risk everything to get it. The authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s writing is beautiful as she vividly describes 15th century Italy and all itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s trappings. I listened to the audiobook of Color Song which is narrated by Justine Eyre and she does a fabulous job. She has just the right tone of voice for the telling of GiuliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s story and the time just flew by listening to her. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m really hoping for another look into GiuliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life in the future!Highly recommended for fans of historical fiction!

"Color Song" is one of the best books I have read in the past few years. Giulia Borromeo lives in an Italian convent as the most talented apprentice of her maestro Humilita, an enormously gifted nun, teaching Giulia everything she needs to know about painting and drawing.When Humilita dies of illness she leaves her biggest secret with Giulia: the recipe of "Passion Blue", a color she had created and nobody else knows how to make it. The recipe is handed over to Giulia by her Maestra the day before she dies with the strict instruction to never reveal it to Humilta’s father, a painter in Padua who thinks he has the right to own "Passion Blue". Giulia promises.After her Maestra’s death Giulia’s final vows to become a nun are ahead of her, but her new Maestra, Domenica, blackmails the girl to hand over "Passion Blue" and leaves Giulia only one decision: to flee.The girl needs to take her life into her own hands to become what she craves most: a painter.The late 1500’s only leave her to become a boy to fulfill her dreams. An adventure of extraordinary courage and strength starts. Giulia needs to prove herself over and over again, always in danger to reveal her biggest secrets. Jealousy and envy betray her noble intentions more than once. Will she be able to live her dream?Victoria Strauss has created not only an entertaining but also emotionally touching novel of a life which will catch every reader’s attention. Victoria Strauss is a fantastic writer with the gift to paint situations and descriptions with words and create a vivid imagination of color, creativity and emotion.A truly passionate and fascinating story I truly recommend to everyone, not merely the lovers of art and painting.

I liked the general story line a lot. It really appealed to me as a woman whose tried her hand at the arts. Just a very nice story overall, very much a "feel good" book without unrealistic sex scenes, etc.

This is story every young person should be required to read. Many talents and gifts were never revealed by the people of that time and their archaic understanding of the role of women

I REALLY enjoyed reading this book. It is well researched, written and edited. One of the very best books I've read in years.

Loved the whole we'll written, clean, we'll developed story. Not too mushy just the right mix of fantasy and realism. Would recommend this book to readers sixteen and up. Such a dun read!

loved it

Slow at first but turned into a very good book

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