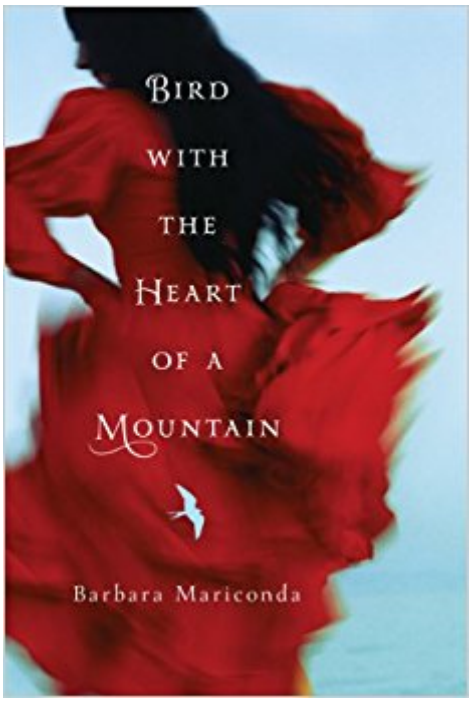
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Bird With The Heart Of A Mountain



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Synopsis

I throw back my tumble of black hair, roll one bare shoulder forward, then the other. The stack of bangles on each wrist shimmies and slides as my hands rise like birds in flight. Set during the turmoil of the Spanish Civil War, sixteen-year-old Drina yearns to dance flamenco. When she dances, she forgets who she is. She forgets what seems to be her legacy: I am nothing. I belong nowhere. Why does her mother forbid her to dance, the very thing that makes her feel alive? She wonders about the secrets her mother holds, about the rumored life she had before Drina was bornÃ¢â ¬â •a story that somehow still holds them both prisoner.From the wandering Gypsy campagna to the vineyard estate of a paternal grandmother she has never known and the dance halls of Seville where flamenco reigns, Drina fights to discover who she is and where she belongs. Not quite Gypsy, not quite Spanish, she must carve out an identity all her own and discover what it means to be a bird with the heart of a mountain. Full of mystery, loss, and longing, this powerful novel brilliantly captures a young girlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s yearning and her adventurous journey to discover her true home.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL650L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Skyscape; First Edition edition (January 14, 2014)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1477817339

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 5.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #778,881 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Dance #409 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #484 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Set in a 1936 Spain divided by civil war, in which the Republicans side with the

poor and Communist Russia and the Nationalists side with the rich and Fascist Germany, this novel centers on 16-year-old Drina, who is also caught between two sides of herself. Half-Spanish and half-Gypsy, the teen doesn't quite fit in her nomadic community and yearns for a place to belong. She escapes in the rhythm and the power of dance, despite her mother's aversion to it. Tragedy strikes and Drina loses her people, mother, and newborn little sister one fateful night. In an attempt to rescue the baby from the Spanish kidnappers, she comes into contact with her father's wealthy family and is tentatively accepted by themÃ¢â ¬â •especially because of her raw talent as a flamenco dancer. Eventually, she is called to dance for General Franco himself. Mariconda's sumptuous writing draws readers into Drina's storyÃ¢â ¬â •and teens will connect with the protagonists' ache to find a place in the world. The historical background isn't seamlessly incorporated and sometimes feels like an interruption instead of fully realized backdrop. Readers might begin to tire at the fact that every man who encounters the ingÃƒÂ©nue falls in desperate love with her. However, the vibrant descriptions of Drina's performances will enchant them, and the complex decisions she faces as her loyalties and dreams are tested will have them rooting for the dancer's happy ending. Unresolved threads suggest that a sequel is in the works, and fans of historical fiction and dance novels will be back for Drina's encore.Ã¢â ¬â •Shelley Diaz, School Library Journal

Barbara Maraconda's writing style is captivating, and the storyline is unique and beautiful. This book takes the reader on Drina's journey & envelops us in a mysterious culture in time gone by. Thoroughly enjoyable.

A quick, engaging read about Drina, a young girl during the Spanish Civil War who longs to dance. The daughter of a gypsy mother and a Spanish father she has never met, her life is disrupted when her mother dies following childbirth that resulted from her being raped by a Nationalist soldier.Circumstances bring her to her father, who is a successful flamenco dancer. Through the intervention of her grandmother, Drina gains acceptance into his family, and mentoring for her dancing. But she doesn't feel that she is truly a part of this world, and must decide which part of her will determine her future.

Since I knew little about the Spanish Civil War, this was interesting from a historical viewpoint as well as an entertaining story.

recommend this great historical fiction work. The author has a captivating writing style, endearing refractors, this is a great read.

Beautiful writing with descriptive analogies . Never had read anything by this author but will be searching for more. Passionate

Wonderful writing. Well researched. Brings alive a period of history I wasn't very familiar with except in a very broad sense. Even cameo character appearances make a real impact and the main character made a lasting impression.

This was a sad and touching story of how families were separated by opposing views in the Spanish Civil War. It was also a story of love and commitment.

Such a surprise! Couldn't put it down. Highly recommend this book. Barb Cassidy

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