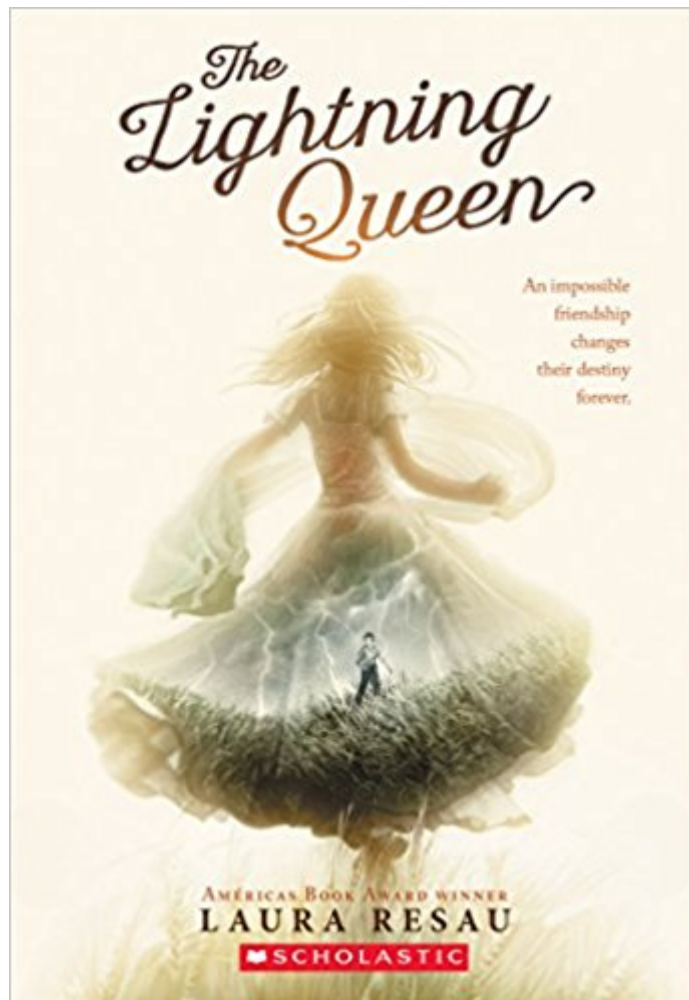


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The Lightning Queen



Synopsis

Nothing exciting happens on the Hill of Dust, in the remote mountains of Mexico in the 1950s. There's no electricity, no plumbing, no cars, just day after day of pasturing goats. And now, without his sister and mother, eleven-year-old Teo's life feels even more barren. And then one day, the mysterious young Esma, who calls herself the Gypsy Queen of Lightning, rolls into town like a fresh burst of color. Against all odds, her caravan's Mistress of Destiny predicts that Teo and Esma will be longtime friends. Suddenly, life brims with possibility. With the help of a rescued duck, a three-legged skunk, a blind goat, and other allies, Teo and Esma must overcome obstacles-even death-to fulfill their impossible destiny. Inspired by true stories derived from rural Mexico, The Lightning Queen offers a glimpse of the encounter between two fascinating but marginalized cultures--the Rom and the Mixtec Indians--while telling the heart-warming story of an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; Reprint edition (December 27, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545800854

ISBN-13: 978-0545800853

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,725 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Children's Books](#) > [Geography & Cultures](#) > [Explore the World](#) > [Mexico](#) #1265 in [Books > Children's Books](#) > [Growing Up & Facts of Life](#) > [Friendship, Social Skills & School Life](#) > [Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-7 If books were written in black and white, The Lightning Queen would be written in color. Esma, a young Romani girl, meets Teo, a young Mixteco living on the Hill of Dust in the mountains of Mexico, when her traveling caravan makes a stop in Teo's small village. The Romani bring with them the magic of cinema films, and after the loss of Teo's father and sister,

Esma gives him a reason to feel alive again. When Esma's grandmother, the Mistress of Destiny, reveals Teo's true fortune—that he and Esma will be lifelong friends and will save each other—Esma and Teo work hard to make sure their fortune comes true. Esma gives Teo the courage to save others and ultimately helps him to save himself. In return, Teo lifts Esma up just when she believes that her own dream is an impossibility. Esma and Teo go their separate ways; she becomes a shining star admired by the world, while he becomes a healer like his grandfather—and it is not until they are both in old age that they meet again. With the help of Teo's grandson Mateo and Esma's granddaughter Ruby, Teo and Esma rekindle their lifelong friendship. Like surviving a lightning strike, this book is rare and incredible. VERDICT The diverse characters, heartbreaking events, and historical and present-day backdrops are excellently executed. Highly recommended. —Selenia Paz, Helen Hall Library, League City, TX --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

* "This vibrant, intergenerational tale is nothing short of magical." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review * "If books were written in black and white, *The Lightning Queen* would be written in color. The diverse characters, heartbreaking events, and historical and present-day backdrops are excellently executed." -- School Library Journal, starred review * "This is a poignant, lovely work that weaves humor, heartbreak, and whimsy into a narrative spell that will surely capture readers' hearts." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children, Books, starred review --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

There are few things I enjoy more than beautifully written, engaging, and inspiring Young Adult books that are truly for all ages! I recently read two I adored by master storyteller Laura Resau: *The Lightning Queen* and *What the Moon Saw*. Both are set partly in Mexico and are filled with the same magic, beauty, and spirit that I feel when I'm there. I'm now reading a third book by Laura now, *Red Glass*, and it, too, is healing and life-affirming, and written with a simple grace. All three of these books offer mystery, romance, and adventure, and are imbued with a natural spirituality. They are also very exciting and full of life! Laura Resau's books tell of hero and heroine journeys that would surely help "young adults" find their true self. And for "older adults," they are a way to reconnect with or rediscover the true self we sometimes forget.

I read this book recently with my ten year old daughter and both of us loved it. It's a brilliant, beautiful, diverse story of friendship with a dash of magical realism, and incredibly beautiful writing. Laura Resau is an amazing story-teller with a fantastic ear for capturing different character's voices. I was enchanted by the writing throughout, and my daughter loved the adventure, the magical moments, and the quirky animal characters. It's a warm, creative book, with both heart and humor. In addition to being entertaining, there's much in this book that's worth discussing. I highly recommend it for both boys and girls, and young and old readers.

Do you have a teen who likes stories that encourage reflection with a soupçon of magical realism? One of my favorite books from this year is Fort Collins writer Laura Resau's *The Lightning Queen*. Teo is a young Mixteco boy living on the Hill of Dust up in the Mexican mountains when magic happens: Esma, a Romani girl, comes through Teo's village. Her people bring movies to Teo's remote village and Esma's grandmother, the Mistress of Destiny, tells predictable fortunes until she gets to Teo. She predicts that Teo and Esma will become lifelong friends--something that is seemingly impossible given Esma's nomadic life. But friendship is stronger than circumstance. It is hard for me to describe the heart, humor, and incredible poignancy in this story but you shouldn't miss it.

THE LIGHTNING QUEEN by Laura Resau tells the captivating story of a friendship that bridges the Rom and the Mexico Indian cultures. In this poignant story that weaves together historical and contemporary tales, an old man shares with his grandson the story of growing up in the remote mountains of Mexico and his encounters with a young gypsy girl. Inspired by true stories, this fascinating multi-cultural tale of friendship will draw readers into the world of mid-20th century Mexico. Librarians will find that fans of both historical and contemporary fiction will enjoy the bridge between the past and the present as well as between the cultures. With a hint of romance and magic, this fast-paced novel is a good choice for readers seeking stories focusing on the topics of cultural diversity and friendship. The book's end notes along with the author's website provide excellent background information and resources for teachers. To learn more about the author, go to <http://www.lauraresau.com/>. Published by Scholastic on October 27, 2015. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

Oh, wow. This book will blow you away. You know right from the start it is going to be powerful and not like anything you've read before. Like the MC Teo, I could sense I was in the presence of

something life-shaking with this novel. If the author's other books are anything like this one, I'm going to be a busy reader. The kind of book I could have finished in a day, but savored instead to make it last longer. Wish I had read the Mixteco pronunciation guide at the beginning rather than the end. Astounding voice. Engaging writing. Complex relationships. Bittersweet, but worth every tear. Fabulous cross-generational relationships. Contagious passion for marginalized cultures.

THE LIGHTNING QUEEN is one of the best books I've read this year. By turns beautiful, funny, sweet, and mesmerizing, it tells a unique tale of two marginalized cultures--and two fiery-spirited children from those cultures--that form a lifelong bond. For kids and adults alike, I can't recommend this engaging story highly enough. All of Laura Resau's books are compelling reads, but this one may well be my favorite.

Even though I have read The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau within a day, the story of Esma and Teo stayed with me much longer. It stayed with me after I closed the book, it stayed with me as I recommended it to all of my friends (and my friend's children), and it still stayed with me as I try to write a review that is worthy of Resau's outstanding storytelling. I simply loved this story, it's cultural aspects, the magical realism, and especially the prose.

4.5 Stars! This book had me at the cover. The story was amazing. A true story of friendship. You couldn't help but enjoy and care for all the characters and see their growth and development through the story. The story flowed perfectly. I would definitely recommend this to a friend!

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