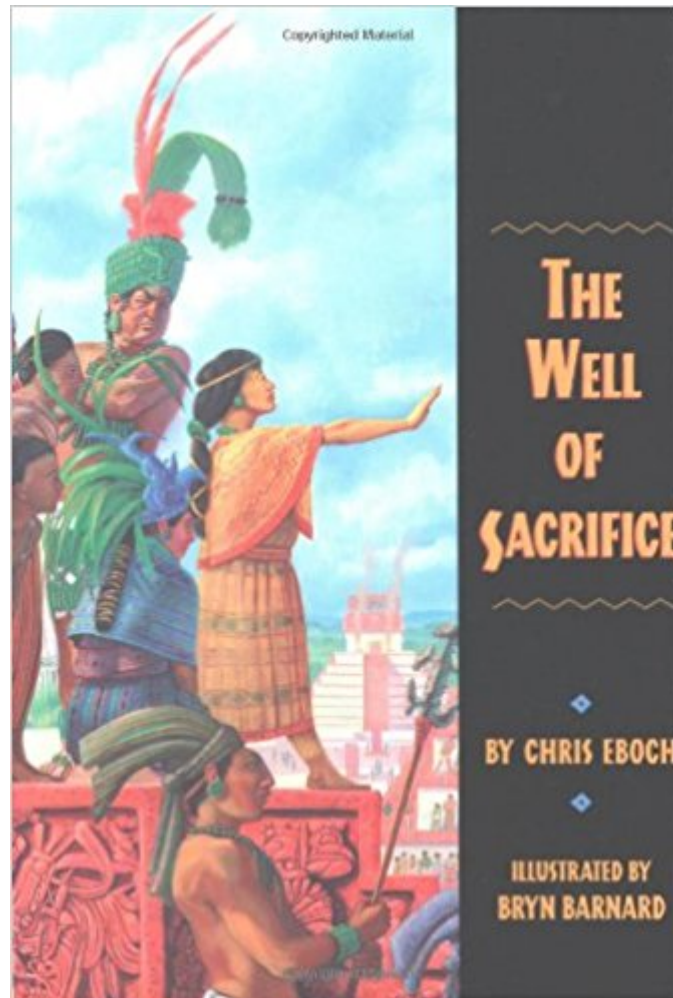




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The Well Of Sacrifice



Synopsis

Eveningstar Macaw lives in a glorious Mayan city in the ninth century. When the king falls ill and dies, the city begins to crumble. An evil high priest, Great Skull Zero, orders the sacrifice of those who might become king, including Eveningstar's beloved brother. Suspicious of the High Priest's motives, Eveningstar attempts to save her brother, thus becoming an acknowledged enemy of the High Priest. Condemned to be thrown into the Well of Sacrifice, Eveningstar must find a way not only to save her own life but to rescue her family and her city from the tyrannical grasp of Great Skull Zero. Set against the vivid background of everyday life at the height of the Mayan golden age and illustrated with striking black-and-white paintings, Eveningstar's candid, gripping, and not-for-the-faint-of-heart account of the last days of a great city will have readers at the edge of their seats. Afterword.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; First Edition edition (March 30, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395903742

ISBN-13: 978-0395903742

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #252,062 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence](#) #88 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #91 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

First novelist Eboch accomplishes quite a feat here: he manages to make the bloodletting rituals and human sacrifice practices of the Mayans the central point of this novel, yet creates a character readers will care deeply about: Eveningstar Macaw. Eveningstar, a resourceful and spunky girl, lives in a lavish city of gold near the jungle. Her brother, Smoke Shell, possesses the leadership qualities

of a fearless noble who may one day sit on the throne. Her older sister, Feather Dawn, self-absorbed and haughty, has two redeeming virtues: her skill at the loom and her beauty. But when the ailing king dies and his high priest, Great Skull Zero, commands that all possible successors be thrown into the well of sacrifice to drown or be saved by the gods, Eveningstar vows to save her brother and to stop Feather from being married off to the conniving Zero. Eboch cushions a plot of treachery and heroism with lush details of daily life in a ninth-century Mayan city that's beginning to crumble. Here, fathers wear green quetzal feathers; mothers cook tortillas, pumpkin and papaya; and beautiful girls with slanted foreheads wear rings in their noses and heavy jade and gold jewelry that pulls down their earlobes. Readers may blanch at some of the descriptions of ceremonies and sacrifices ("The king pulled the end of the rope through his tongue and dropped it into the bowl.... He danced with blood pouring down his chest"). Watching this unorthodox 12-year-old girl outwit a high priest, escape jail, rescue her sister and more makes for a fast-paced read. An author's note describes the historical context for the tale. Ages 9-up. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-8-Set in a large Mayan city during the ninth century, this well-written story follows the exploits of Eveningstar Macaw, the youngest daughter of a well-to-do merchant family. Rather than pursue the traditional custom of learning domestic arts and managing a household, she prefers to become a healer like her mother. When Eveningstar's brother, Smoke Shell, performs an act of heroism, the family is elevated to noble status. After the death of their popular king, Smoke Shell is considered a likely candidate as a successor, but an ambitious and unscrupulous high priest endangers anyone who is perceived as a competitor for the throne. After making an unsuccessful attempt to save her brother's life, Eveningstar becomes involved in efforts to thwart the plans of the high priest, risking her own safety. The adventures of this tenacious heroine are suspenseful and entertaining, providing readers with an exciting story and a realistic feel for everyday life in and ceremonial practices of the ancient Mayan culture. Well-researched historical fiction and a good read. Cynthia M. Sturgis, Leding Library, Milwaukee, OR Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

We used this for a unit study with my high school students. The reading level is not that difficult, but the material does contain very detailed, sometimes graphic portrayals of human sacrifice in various forms that were indeed done during the Mayan time period. They really enjoyed reading it, identifying with the characters well.

This book is a classic coming of age story that blends modern emotions of finding your place in the world with fictional history of a mayan girl. Well researched, this book is still a page turner filled with excitement for people of all ages.

Amazing book! Chris Eboch did an incredible job providing a historically accurate yet extremely gripping novel. Educational, inspirational, and emotional this book is a must read for everyone.

This book went perfectly with my vacation in Tulum, Mexico. Could not put it down and read it in one go. Some spelling mistakes in the book but did not spoil it at all.

Very good young adult book -- our adult book club like it. We always read one young adult book each year.

Tough topic for a kid's book, but well done and engaging enough for all three of my children.

An engaging story provided the perfect vehicle for well-researched historical and cultural information about the ancient Mayan civilization. More suitable for older children (5th-8th grade) because of the content, but a fun read-aloud as well.

I read this book with my sixth graders. We all enjoyed it. The only problem is that they said it ended terrible. I was a little bit more than agreeing on that. I wish it would have a follow-up book. Katie G

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