

Title: *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin*

Author: Roseanne A. Brown

Genre: Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Shan L., 8th Grade

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A Song of Wraiths and Ruin is a story about a boy named Malik and a girl named Karina. Malik is a boy from an Eshran village. Forced to leave because he was able to see apparitions that no one else could. He is an intelligent boy, good at riddles and puzzles. He can run fast, and can perform magic. He and his two sisters leave the village after their parents and grandmother died, and head to the capital of Ziran. His younger sister, Nadia, gets a wish granted by magic, but it comes with a price. Nadia is captured by one of the grim folk, one of the creatures in the chain of hierarchy under elements but above humans, called Idir. Idir says to save his sister, Malik has to kill Princess Karina with a spirit blade by the end of the Solstasia festival, the biggest event that happens every fifty years. Princess Karina is a strong willed person, whose father and sister died when she was young. She heads to a pub one night, and wins a book in a wager against a bard. It shows her a resurrection spell, and when her mother dies, she seeks out the ingredients to perform it. One of those ingredients is the heart of a king. Every Solstasia, seven champions are selected, one for each elemental god. The Champions compete in three challenges to determine which patron god will rule over the next era(50 years), and the winning Champion wins the prize that is determined by the royal family. This year, Karina says that whoever wins, will get her hand in marriage. She intends to kill the person who winds and takes his heart. Everyone who is expected to be picked is picked except for one person; Malik. He uses his magic powers to show that his patron goddess picked him. Under a false name and false pretenses, he manages to get close to the Princess, but doesn't expect to fall for her. Throughout the challenges, Malik and Karina get closer and closer, and both end up deciding not to kill the other. Karina realizes that there is a traitor in the council, and intends to find out who it is by the end of Solstasia.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot of this book kept me interested through the whole thing. Each new development led to a new question, which led to new ways to do everything. Malik slowly evolved his knowledge of magic. Karina was doing the same thing, even though neither knew what the other was doing.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of this book was just right, giving all the details for the parts where I wanted more details, but still not adding to much fluff that made the story confusing.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I would say that this book is appropriate for middle schoolers and above, because there were some implications that might not be appropriate for elementary schoolers.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to people who like magic and fast paced adventure stories, because this is exactly what they would like. And there is a bit of romance that adds a small kick to the book, and the action makes you want to keep reading.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Other information that would be helpful is that there is some discrimination that could make you mad, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't read it. I think it helps you learn about what could have happened if only a few things were different in the world.

Rating:

I would rate this book *5 out of 5 stars* because there were enough details to describe everything and give me a clear mental image, but not too much that it got boring and unreadable. Also, there was just the right amount of action to keep me reading, but not too much that it seemed like it was just one long battle. I think that people would really like this book and would want to read it, so thank you for reading this review!