



2004

The Feverbird's Claw

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Kurtz, Jane. *The Feverbird's Claw*. Greenwillow Books, 2004. ISBN 0-06-000821-0. \$16.89.
295 pp.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Shortcomings

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Fantasy--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Moralin, an adventuresome girl on the verge of womanhood, has discovered how to get outside the protective walls of Delegua city. She leads a few inquisitive girls through a secret tunnel into the excitement of the outside world and into danger as they are captured by the fierce Arкера people. This book follows Moralin's journey through adventure, peril and eventually back home. When confronted with challenges, she struggles to remember the lessons she has learned in the fighting yards from her grandfather, and to hear the voice of Cora Linga, the Great One, regretting all the while how she took for granted her life at home.

This fantasy is difficult to follow and at times depressing. The author's use of incomplete sentences was distracting and, although, they helped to create an uncertain mood of impending danger, it made the storyline hard to understand. A few illustrations and more descriptive writing would have helped in visualizing the imaginary places and beasts. Also Moralin's continual fight to defend herself in life threatening situations was depressing and tiresome. She is always 'looking death in the eye' and just when Moralin is going to be saved and delivered safely back to Delegua, she is plunged into even worse circumstances. In addition, at the conclusion, the significance of the title *the Feverbird's Claw* is still unclear.