



2009

The Silver Blade

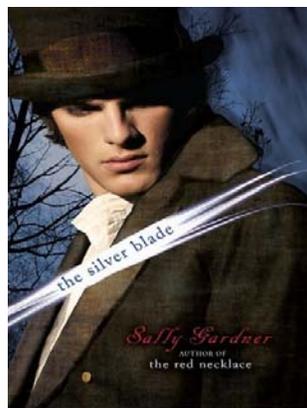
Ruth-Anne Brown

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Gardner, Sally. *The Silver Blade*. Dial, 2009. ISBN 9780803733770. \$17.99. 362 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: France--History--Revolution, 1789-1799--Juvenile fiction; Romanies--Juvenile fiction;

Magic--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Yann Margoza smuggles innocent victims, destined for the guillotine, out of France while the Reign of Terror rages. His false front to evade the revolutionaries is as a magician in the Circus of Follies. Yann inherits mind reading and the gift of light from his gypsy parents. After rescuing the daughter of a marquee, Sido, Yann falls in love. Sido's place in society drives Yann to become a hero in order to earn her family's approval. Yann's talents are sought after by the ruthless Count Kalliovski, who has risen from the dead after making a devilish pact. Yann must confront this man—his mother's murderer, his love's abductor, but worst of all, his father. The Count's dark deeds lead to his downfall. Yann and Sido marry, then escape to America to start life anew.

Gardner tells a mystic tale of hard times during one of the many revolutions of France. The theme of light overcoming darkness leaves the reader with a feeling of hope. Yann's ability to control others with the light that exists in each soul is original and refreshing. The characters are complex and stimulating, but there are too many. Gardner gives the precise feeling of fear and cruelty reverberating from a time where shouts egged on the slice of a killing machine.

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