



2018

Isle of Blood and Stone

Meagan Andrus

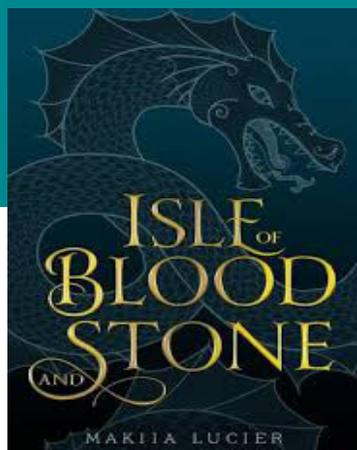
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Book Review

Isle of Blood and Stone

Author

Makiia Lucier

Illustrator

Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

389

Year

2018

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin Har-

ISBN

9780544968578

Eighteen years ago, the two eldest princes of St. John del Mar and the Royal Navigator were kidnapped and murdered in a devious plot set in motion by the rival kingdom of Mondrago. Neither kingdom fully recovered, and the wounds run deep. Now, two unsigned maps turn up in del Mar with hidden riddles and clues that seem to hint that the events of the past were not as straightforward as they were told. Elias, the son of the lost Royal Navigator and an expert mapmaker, decides to investigate the mysteries and clues left by the maps at the insistence of his friend Ulises, the King of del Mar. Together with Mercedes, a half-Mondragan royal and Ulises' cousin, the three unearth secrets and plans left buried for decades that maybe should have stayed hidden. It takes many clues, the help of a few trusted friends, and some hard truths to solve the mystery of what really happened to the royal family and both kingdoms eighteen years ago.

This adventurous tale is told with expertise in a richly-built and developed world, familiar but foreign enough to keep things exciting. While the book has some elements of fantasy to it, like sea monsters and royal families, the story is mostly a mystery, with a few hints of romance throughout. It has plenty of twists and turns, and the real culprit is left hidden in plain sight for readers to exclaim over when finally revealed. The characters are relatively well-developed, though some are left to be a bit more one-dimensional. In addition to an exciting mystery, the book features some hard questions that the characters and readers will ultimately have to decide for themselves: Can a person still be good if they've done evil things? What is the true meaning of family? And how can one forgive after being forced through difficult trials? *Isle of Blood and Stone* is a swashbuckling adventure-romance-mystery that will keep readers entertained and engaged until the very last page.

*Contains mild sexual content and moderate violence.