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Legacy of Orisha: Children of Blood and Bone

Braxton Church

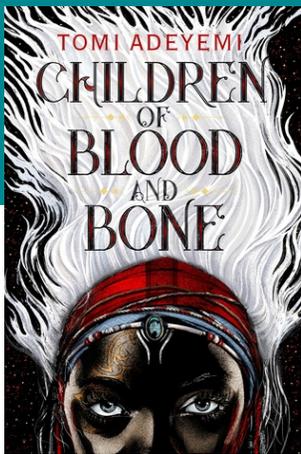
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Book Review

Legacy of Orisha: Children of Blood and Bone

Author

Tomi Adeyemi

Illustrator

Reviewer

Braxton Young Church

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

Pages

525

Year

2018

Publisher

Henry Holt Books for

ISBN

9781250170972

The night the magic disappeared was the night Zélie's mother was slaughtered. The cruel King Saran ordered the death of all the maji, people blessed by the gods with magical powers. Eleven years later, the King discovers a lost magical scroll, and when the princess Amari steals it, Zélie regains her magic the moment she touches the scroll. Now Zélie, with her brother Tzain and the princess Amari, must travel across the land of Orisha to return magic to their world. But the prince Inan, who hates magic as much as his father, develops magic of his own after having touched the scroll himself. With his magic he hunts down Zélie to keep magic out of Orisha. But because of their shared magic, Zélie and Inan develop an unlikely friendship. The two of them try to find a way that magic can exist in the kingdom, despite King Saran's hatred of the maji. But as more and more maji regain their powers, the darker side of magic comes to light, and Inan sees how destroying magic might be the only way to keep Orisha safe. So he makes a choice. Betrayed by Inan, Zélie finishes her journey to the god's ancient temple that only appears every few centuries. She succeeds in bringing magic back to Orisha, giving the maji a fighting chance against King Saran.

While a fantasy novel, the book is heavily influenced by the Nigerian people, culture, and mythology. With this book, Western readers glimpse a culture half a world away and gain a better understanding of the larger world. African-American children and teens will particularly enjoy imagining themselves saving Orisha. These characters will empower readers to find their own inner strength. Additionally, this novel doesn't shy away from the dangers inherent with magical power. While readers will want Zélie to bring back magic, the novel makes readers think about the destruction magic will bring into the land of Orisha. The novel not only empowers readers, but adds a new dark twist to fantasy.

*Contains moderate violence