

THE MERCIFUL CROW

by Margaret Owen

Published in 2019

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary | <input type="checkbox"/> Action/adventure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fantasy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Horror |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonfiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

The Merciful Crow is set in a fantasy world named the Kingdom of Sabor. The kingdom faces a plague, where only the lowest class of people are immune. Each class of people are defined by names of birds and magical abilities called birthrights. At the bottom of the caste system, with no birthrights, are the crows. Since the crows are not affected by the plague, they must respond to the plague beacons and quickly kill those who are dying of it to protect the rest of the villages.

The book centers around Fie, the adopted daughter of a crow chief and her tribe. At the beginning of the book, Fie is unsure if she wants to become a chief. But she is forced to take on more responsibility when her tribe meets two boys trying to avoid the Queen's attempt to murder them. When the crow tribe agrees to help them, Fie is tasked with teaching them how to act like crows so they can survive.

Teens should read the book because it has a fairly unique world and plot. The world is a bit unusual because it has a distinct caste system, with each group having a singular magical ability. The setting seems to take inspiration from the bubonic plague as some of the characters use long beaked masks, and the plague itself, as well as the general fear surrounding it seem similar to that time period. The plot also has some unique elements as the author introduces a covenant that requires the characters to go on their journey, as well as the way Fie chooses to use magic. While the book does differ a little bit from typical fantasy books, anyone who enjoys reading fantasy novels will enjoy this book.

By Grace G, 11th grade, enjoys reading, fantasy and mystery