



Bamboo People

By Mitali Perkins

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Narrated by two teenage boys on opposing sides of the conflict between the Burmese government and the Karenni, one of Burma's many ethnic minorities, this coming-of-age novel takes place against the political and military backdrop of modern-day Burma. Chiko isn't a fighter by nature. He's a book-loving Burmese boy whose father, a doctor, is in prison for resisting the government. Tu Reh, on the other hand, wants to fight for freedom after watching Burmese soldiers destroy his Karenni family's home and bamboo fields. Timidity becomes courage and anger becomes compassion when the boys' stories intersect.

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Bamboo People By Mitali Perkins Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review Gr 7-10—With authenticity, insight, and compassion, Perkins delivers another culturally rich coming-of-age novel. Two teens on opposing sides of ethnic conflict in modern-day Burma (Myanmar) tell an intertwined story that poignantly reveals the fear, violence, prejudice, and hardships they both experience. Chiko, a quiet, studious student whose medical doctor father has been arrested as a traitor, is seized by the government and forced into military training. Chiko is groomed for guerrilla warfare against the Karenni, a Burmese minority group living in villages and refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. After he and his patrol stumble into land mines, Tu Reh, an angry Karenni and rebel fighter, must decide whether or not to save him. Tu Reh's home was destroyed by Burmese soldiers, and he struggles with his conscience and his desire for revenge and independence. Both Chiko and Tu Reh are caught in a conflict that neither fully understands. Family, friendships, and loyalty have shaped their lives. But as young soldiers, they face harrowing situations, profound suffering, and life-and-death decisions. Both boys learn the meaning of courage. Chiko and Tu Reh are dynamic narrators whose adolescent angst and perspectives permeate the trauma of their daily lives. Dialogue and descriptions are vibrant; characters are memorable; cultural characteristics are smoothly incorporated; and the story is well paced. Perkins has infused her narrative with universal themes that will inspire readers to ponder humanitarian issues, reasons for ethnic conflict, and the effects of war. The author's notes provide helpful background information on Burmese history and the ongoing military regime's repression of minorities.—Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC α(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

When 15-year-old Chiko is pressed into military service by the Burmese government, he finds himself involved in an ongoing war with the Karenni people, one of the many ethnic minorities in modern Burma. A scholar, not a soldier, Chiko soon gets wounded and finds himself at the mercy of Tu Reh, an angry Karenni boy only slightly older than he is. Will these two teens, who should be natural enemies, find a way to friendship? Perkins' latest novel—told in the individual voices of the two boys—explores that possibility while introducing a considerable amount of factual and contextual information about present-day Burma. Though occasionally didactic and a bit preachy, this is nevertheless a story that invites discussion of the realities of warfare rooted in long-standing antagonism and unreasoning hatred of “the other.” A particularly good book for classroom use. Grades 5-8. --Michael Cart

Review

"With authenticity, insight, and compassion, Perkins delivers another culturally rich coming-of-age novel." --★ *School Library Journal Starred Review*

"A graceful exploration of the redemptive power of love, family, and friendship." --★ *Publishers Weekly Starred Review*

"First and foremost, a compelling story." -- *Boston Globe*

"A tender tale of parallel sorrows and dreams." -- *Sacramento Bee*

"Thrilling jungle survival story." --*Stanford Magazine*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Inocencia Hensley:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Bamboo People, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Iris Robertson:

The book untitled Bamboo People contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice examine.

Ralph Ainsworth:

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