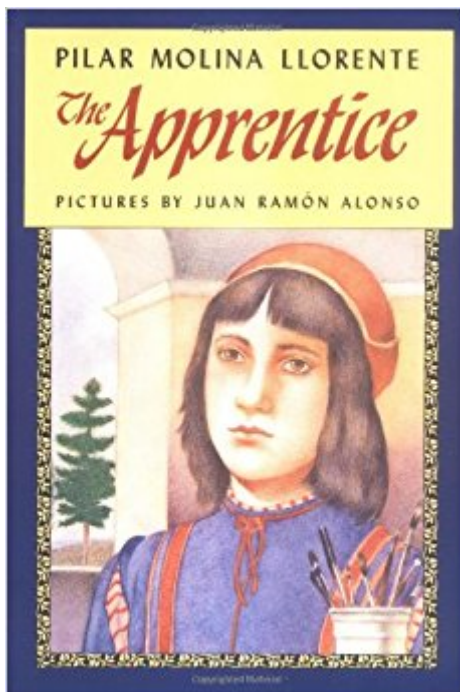


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The Apprentice



Synopsis

In Renaissance Florence, thirteen-year-old apprentice Arduino's dreams of being a painter are challenged after he discovers the extreme measures the Maestro Cosimo di ForlÃ¡fÂ§ will take in the name of jealousy. Arduino faces a decision that could cost him his only chance to realize his life's dream.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Set in Renaissance Florence, this import from Spain begins as a gothic. Arduino, a 13-year-old boy from a family of prestigious tailors, convinces his father to apprentice him to a master painter, only to find that the Maestro is ill-tempered, miserly and , out of jealousy, has secretly imprisoned a gifted, orphaned apprentice in the attic. At this point Llorente's plotting turns operatic, with fortuitously timed illnesses (the Maestro's), the entrance of a benevolent duke with a handsome commission to bestow and Arduino, the newest boy in the atelier, suddenly calling the shots. Each of the characters is a type of extreme, either saintly or heinous or impassioned, although the Maestro manages, at various stages, to be all three. A motif about individual freedom only adds to the ballast. This title is the first by Llorente and Alonso to appear in the U.S. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Originally published in Spain in 1989, a story that begins as an instructive look at apprenticeship in Renaissance Florence (no particular century or historical characters) and ends as a melodrama about a mysterious prisoner in a master painter's attic. Narrator Arduino is a prosperous tailor's son

who prevails on his reluctant father to apprentice him to Cosimo di Forl, an accomplished but mean-spirited painter who starves his young helpers and secretly keeps one in chains because the boy's ability outshines his own. Arduino discovers and befriends the talented Donato; and, when Cosimo falls ill midway through a major commission, he reminds him of the prisoner, who emerges to save the day and succeed his dying master. This predictable, old-fashioned tale, hinging on Donato's unlikely incarceration and told without subtlety, is a far cry from Johnny Tremain. Still, it's a slim, fast-paced read--and a rare translation of Spanish fiction. (Fiction. 9-12) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I read this aloud to my 5 and 7 year old and they would beg me to "go on to the next chapter" every time I tried to stop reading.

Bought this for one of our read alouds for homeschool. Cant wait until we read this one!

My kids (age 10 and 8) are always begging for "one more chapter." The book draws you into life during the renaissance for an apprentice. It also teaches about art. Very well done.

We read this as part of our homeschool curriculum. My son begged for one more chapter every night! This was definitely one of our favs for the year. A page-turner!

The Apprentice is a simple but charming story of a young boy's dream to become a painter in Renaissance Italy. In order to achieve his dream, young Arduino must overcome challenges that test his courage, loyalty, and passion for painting. Throughout the story, the reader learns about the social customs and statuses during that time period among men and women, which make this story not only an entertaining read but also a possible book for an art history classroom. The illustrations add to the story, making it an overall delightful read.

This is quite well done for the age range noted. It does start a little slowly, so have your reader persist, it really starts to grab the reader around pp 25-30. The mystery in the tower room is a great gothic touch. The young reader will be gratified that justice is done in the end and hard work is rewarded. The historical back-drop is well done and this is one of the only historical fiction works out there for children. I would love to find something for high-schoolers, or at least grades 6-10. The

fantasy works and female romances that are available are not the genres I need.

The Apprentice is a wonderful and breath-taking book. Arduino wanted to be an artist and not a tailor. His father granted his wish and sent him to be an apprentice to Cosimo di Forli, a famous artist. But one night, Arduino found out a terrible crime that his master had committed and what he was hiding in his attic. Would Arduino give up his dream of being an artist and reveal the terrible secret? Read and you will find out. I am surprised that this book only has two reviews so far. It deserves many more.

I thought this book had an interesting plot line. The story was interesting and you felt for the characters. The only problem I had with it was that I am in ninth grade, I just finished reading it for school, and the reading level is definitely for a younger person, the language seemed basic and it is very simple. However, it is easy to understand and you did not get lost in pages and pages of description about one dress or facial expression. I thought the characters were well developed in spite of the short length of the story. I recommend this book for younger kids, or people who like a quick easy read.

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