

Mr. Richards Book Choice!!!!!!

THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON

By Kelly Barnhill

Many books we read when we're young want to teach us lessons about life. True, the things we learn in them can stay with us forever. But lessons can be so dull. Luckily, Kelly Barnhill's wonderful fourth novel, "The Girl Who Drank the Moon," educates about oppression, blind allegiance and challenging the status quo while immersing the reader in an exhilarating story full of magical creatures and derring-do.

Barnhill's language is lyrical and reminiscent of traditional fairy tales, but – never childish or stereotypical. She writes impressively from a variety of points of view, not only those of Luna and Xan, but also of Sister Ignatia and the mother who has lost her mind. Magic abounds, both beautiful and dangerous. Origami birds fly, but their paper wings also slice and cut. Enchanted but enigmatic images appear on rocks, and there are seven-league boots so "black . . . they seemed to bend the light." Almost every female character turns out to have some supernatural ability when needed, but maybe that is another hidden truth. We have the power to make things happen. Speak up. Ask questions. Trust your instincts. Valuable instructions for any reader.

"The Girl Who Drank the Moon" is as exciting and layered as classics like "Peter Pan" or "The Wizard of Oz." It too is about what it means to grow up and find where we belong. The young reader who devours it now just for fun will remember its lessons for years to come.

By DIANA WAGMAN OCT. 7, 2016, NYT Book Review