



Gwinna

Barbara Helen Berger

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Having grown a pair of wings and felt the longing for the freedom of the skies, twelve-year-old Gwinna goes to the Mother of the Owls, who sends her on a quest to find the songs of the wind.

Gwinna Details

Date : Published October 23rd 1990 by Philomel Books

ISBN : 9780399217388

Author : Barbara Helen Berger

Format : Hardcover 128 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Magic

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From Reader Review Gwinna for online ebook

Amanda Brown says

I read this when I was young, maybe when I was seven. Years passed and I forgot its name, but the story stayed with me as I grew up. I reread it when I was 23 when I finally bought it for my collection. Gwinna pretty much helped shape the person I grew up to be.

Ava says

I like Gwinna a lot. The pictures are beautiful!

Émile says

I read this book when I was ten or so. I've thought about it many times since then, but couldn't ever remember the name. I've looked for it and asked people about it, but no one ever knew what I was talking about it. Today I did some furious googling, and after nearly an hour, I finally found it and feel like crying. This is one of the most beautiful stories I've ever read. I'm buying a copy right now. I can't wait to hold it and read it and see the illustrations again.

June says

A woodworker and his wife, unable to have children, strike a bargain with the "Mother of the Owls." They will have a child, but after 12 years must give her to the owl mother. They hide her wings and are unable to give her up. The owls come and fetch her, the owl mother reveals her wings and Gwinna is free to follow her destiny.

I am a plot driven reader and if anyone enjoys more mystical stories this will be right up their alley.

Rachael Abude says

A stunning book that has stayed with me ever since my 5th/6th grade teacher read it aloud to us. The story was so moving to me as a child, and after briefly forgetting about it as an adult, I suddenly had something tickle my memory and then became absolutely determined to find it to share with my then 5 year old daughter. I had a difficult time finding it to purchase as I think it may be out of print now, but I did find a used copy online, and promptly bought it for us to read together. Turns out, she ended up loving it as much as I did. Definitely a special book with some of the most incredible illustrations I've ever seen in a children's book. I will save this book and continue to treasure it as part of my collection.

Marcia Aldrich says

Barbara Berger's children's books were among my favorites for my own children. I did not know she had written a longer chapter book for juveniles until in one of life's wonderful accidents I met her at a pot luck 4th of July party. I could not believe my good fortune. Gwinna was mentioned and I went to the public library and found it languishing on the bottom shelf almost forgotten. It will appeal to anyone who has a fondness for girls with wings and all that means.

Jackie "the Librarian" says

This lovely, strange fantasy is one of my favorites. A childless couple is given a magical child by the Mother of Owls, a girl with wings. Despite their efforts to hide her wings, the times comes when she must fly away to find her destiny.

The illustrations are hauntingly beautiful.

The sad thing is that this masterpiece is out of print, and disappearing from library shelves as copies get worn out. If you can find it, read it. If you come across it at a used bookstore, buy it!

Mary List says

Another treasure from the children's room at my local library. A very poignant tale, well told

Mo says

How did I not have this listed already? Sometimes I think this book created me.

Ilona Rapp says

I have read this book several times over to each of my five children. I hope, as well to read it to my grandchildren. The illustrations are painstakingly rendered and in a word...MAGICAL. They are marked by Ms. Berger's profound respect for nature and they impart a compelling innocence in Gwinna's features. The story is much more than a fairy tale, filled with hope, wonder and depth.

Sadly, the book is currently out of print. Limited copies, I believe, are available through a local Washington bookstore listed on Ms Berger's website, and are obtainable through used bookstores.

As more of my children are entering adulthood, I have recently bought extra copies to be sure they can re-read the story to themselves and any children in their lives. The books are quite simply, exquisite treasures.

Debbie says

This is one of my favorite childhood storybooks and I'm so glad I found it in a used book store. The best part

of *Gwinna* are the absolutely gorgeous pictures -- those are what really stuck in my head years later. A great addition to any library, and one I'll be reading to my own children some day.

Robert says

My daughters are performing in a modern dance adaptation of *Gwinna*. It was fun to read with my eight-year-old, but I found it a bit rambling and incoherent. The 25 page plot stretched to 100+ pages.

Enjoyable: 6/10

Honest: 6/10

Intelligent: 6/10

Uplifting: 6/10

Kaethe says

As a six year old, this book was really sad/scary/poignant. It's about an adopted girl whose parents don't understand her - she has wings and can fly, but they try to bind/stunt her wings - so she has to find her true place in the world.

Beautifully illustrated.

Lydia Butler says

This is the first chapter book I ever read to myself. It's also the first book I ever read more than once... It's one of those things that, should there be a natural disaster, I'm taking it with me.

Liaken says

This book is one of a kind. Beautiful pictures and a story that is unexpected in its profundity. In books like these, I think I come to expect that when the initial tension is resolved, then everything will be happily ever after. That is the usual formula. But in this story, tension follows tension as *Gwinna* becomes more and more herself. And it isn't easy. The story is told with compelling simplicity.
