



The Well of Sacrifice

Chris Eboch, Bryn Barnard (Illustrator)

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Eveningstar Macaw lives in a glorious Mayan city in the ninth century. When the king falls ill and dies, the city begins to crumble. An evil high priest, Great Skull Zero, orders the sacrifice of those who might become king, including Eveningstar's beloved brother. Suspicious of the High Priest's motives, Eveningstar attempts to save her brother, thus becoming an acknowledged enemy of the High Priest. Condemned to be thrown into the Well of Sacrifice, Eveningstar must find a way not only to save her own life but to rescue her family and her city from the tyrannical grasp of Great Skull Zero. Set against the vivid background of everyday life at the height of the Mayan golden age and illustrated with striking black-and-white paintings, Eveningstar's candid, gripping, and not-for-the-faint-of-heart account of the last days of a great city will have readers at the edge of their seats. Afterword.

The Well of Sacrifice Details

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Author : Chris Eboch , Bryn Barnard (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Well of Sacrifice for online ebook

Michelle says

What a great book. A beautiful, historical fiction. Well researched and well written. Morgan is reading this for class. Once I started reading it I couldn't stop. The best part is its stein female lead character.

Michelle says

I read this with my 13yo son. We laughed in the beginning because of the many different names in the book, but we ended up loving the story. When we finished it, and I asked him how many stars to give the book, he said, "Is that even a question?! 5!"

Katherine says

Classic

This book is a classic coming of age story that blends modern emotions of finding your place in the world with fictional history of a mayan girl. Well researched, this book is still a page turner filled with excitement for people of all ages.

Ciera says

A very graphic tale about a young girl named Eveningstar Macaw and her family. After the death of the king, the chief priest takes control and starts throwing innocent people into the well of sacrifice in honor of the gods...but Eveningstar begins to question his motives and looks into the case. In the end she must fight for what she believes in, deny the doings of the priest, risk her family's lives and face the well of sacrifice.

Sara Repasy says

Read for my daughters school.

Jason Golomb says

Chris Bloch's "Well of Sacrifice" is a fictional anthropological tour of Maya life set during the tenth century just as the Maya civilization has peaked and the mighty Mesoamerican civilization starts to crumble. This wonderful book, targeted at 6th grade and up, is strong in historical and cultural content and makes a terrific complement to an educational program, or in preparation for travel to the Yucatan or anywhere in Central

America where the Maya had significant presence. Imbued with cultural context, Bloch's narrative makes the educational content fully engaging.

While Maya nobility and royalty play a key role in the story, the focus of Bloch's book is on the common people, specifically one young girl named Eveningstar Macaw, and how, through the will of her personality, changes this one Maya city. The Story is not action-filled until the last 40 pages or so, but it moves quickly and Eveningstar is well-developed.

She's very respectful and religious, but not blindly so. She's free-thinking and logical, while also proscribing to her deep religious foundational beliefs (sacrifices and all).

Through Eveningstar, author Bloch takes the reader on a tour of Mayan society, and this what makes the book truly standout. We read about the Maya culture, religion, as well as their calendaring system. As Eveningstar finds her way through the difficulties of Mayan life, the reader learns about the society's professions, food, hobbies, trade, death rituals, medicinal and construction capabilities, and military. Bloch even builds a scene at a ball court, found at many Maya sites throughout Mesoamerica. The story concludes with a view into some of the climatological, military, religious and societal reasons as to why the Classic Maya age came to an end.

Bloch takes the archaeological-based realities of Maya life, and communicates it through a strong and simple narrative.

I enjoyed this book as an adult. It puts flesh on the bone of a people I know relatively little about. I'll ask my 11 and 14 year olds to read it before we travel to the Yucatan and visit Chichen Itza and Tulum.

Rob says

3.5 stars. A nice YA novel that touches on all the major aspects of Mayan culture circa 900 AD - ball games, temples, weaving, calendar counting, cenotes, war, human sacrifice, bloodletting, slavery, festivals, social class strata, and so on. The author does not shy away from human sacrifice and bloodletting rituals, a key component of this culture, but handles them simply enough so as not to be gratuitous for young teen readers. She also describes the Tzolk'in calendar and shows how its divinatory aspects were applied to everyday Mayan life. She refrained from the Haab and Long Count calendars for simplicity's sake I am sure! In short, if you are looking for a short book that describes what ancient Mayan life was like, so far as we understand it, this is an excellent choice.

Laurn says

3.5 stars

Although seemingly juvenile, this book captured my imagination and transported me to a mysterious world of the past.

I have read a very small amount of books set in this time period, and I have to admit, I was very curious about how this book would portray things. It read as a middle-school book, but served as a good platform for further thinking and imagination about what life was really like for the Mayan people.

Was this book the greatest? No. But it wasn't horrible. The characters were likeable and the story decent, like

any good middle school/YA novel. However, it was the mystery and enchantment of the unknown past that really had me hooked.

Bruddy says

I read this book for an ESL class I teach for middle schoolers. The book was chosen more for its subject matter--Mayan culture and history--than anything else. I thought the story--set in the 9th century and narrated by a young girl whose family is threatened by an evil priest-- periodically became weighed down by overdone descriptions of Mayan culture and customs. The author obviously knows a good deal about the Maya; however, I don't think the story she tells is always accessible or suitable for young readers. For example, she gives a detailed description of the Mayan calendar which I found myself having to read through several times to understand. The narrative is often undercut by excessive detail, which to me would be better placed in a history of the Maya rather than a novel for young people.

Chris Eboch says

Kirkus Reviews called *The Well of Sacrifice*, “[An:] engrossing first novel....Eboch crafts an exciting narrative with a richly textured depiction of ancient Mayan society....The novel shines not only for a faithful recreation of an unfamiliar, ancient world, but also for the introduction of a brave, likable and determined heroine.”

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Well here's another one I couldn't put down! Eboch has obviously done a lot of research here into Mayan culture at its height. At times, especially in the beginning, it read like a treatise on the Maya rather than a story, but it was fascinating to me nonetheless. I loved the main character, Eveningstar Macaw. The story really got going around the middle, and got very suspenseful in the second half of the book, as Eveningstar Macaw kept getting foiled in her plans just as you thought she was going to succeed. It didn't end as I expected, but given the author's reason for writing the book (to explain why Mayan cities were mysteriously abandoned) it made sense. Few fiction for children has been written set in the time of the ancient Mayans, so I'm hoping she'll write more like *The Well of Sacrifice*. It stands along with Alida Sims Malkus' Newbery honor-winning *Dark Star of Itza* as one of my favorite novels on ancient Central American civilizations. Outstanding and highly recommended.

Jaime says

THE WELL OF SACRIFICE by Chris

Eboch “We let the high priest destroy our now we are a city no more”(pg222)

Eveningstar is a brave girl in the ninth century that lives with the mayan people. Her brother Smoke Shell and sister Feather Dawn, mother, father and her slave small (also known as Shield).

THE WELL OF SACRIFICE BY Chris Eboch

When Evningstar goes to the forest to get some herbs for her mother's medical service. She spots a couple of

wild people one saw her move to a bush to hide. He got her and she saw his face he lets her go without telling his friends. Evningstar tells her big brother Smoke Shell he goes out to hunt them down he brings back prisoners one of them is the boy who let her go. She asked Smoke Shell to let him go with freedom that can not be possible. A few years later the king died then the high priest tries to become the king by killing every one who wants to be king.

Izzy Obert says

3 3/4

Austin Curtice says

The Well of Sacrifice by Chris Eboch is one of the few fiction books set in the Mayan Empire. The book was published in 1999 and was intended to give readers the feeling of what times were like when your whole empire was beginning to fall. The book is mainly written for 5-8 graders but can open up your imagination and can expand your view on this culture. The way Chris Eboch wrote the story makes it so the readers are drawn into it and can't get out until finished with the story. While you read this wonderful, fast paced read, the author creates these characters that make you feel like you are actually in that time period. The unique details that Chris Eboch includes for each character defies all books and makes you want more and more. When you finish the book, you wonder what happened next and why it all happened.

Hannah Wallace says

Eveningstar Macwaw is a young vibrant teenager who is growing up around the time of the Mayan collapse. Her family has risen up in rank from lowly peasants to nobles, thanks to her brothers heroic deeds. However after the death of their beloved King Flint Sky God, their city is thrown into turmoil. An evil high priest seeks to have all the power for himself, and seeks the life Eveningstar and that of her brother. Can she stop this evil priest in time to save herself, her brother, and the city?

I really liked this book. Granted it will probably never make the list of great classics, but all in a really good book. This was the first book where I started really getting into the Mayan Civilization. I developed a great love for these ancient people and started really looking into their history and livelihood. Recommend this book highly. Good starter book for reluctant female readers.
