



The Kite Fighters

By Linda Sue Park

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In a riveting narrative set in fifteenth-century Korea, two brothers discover a shared passion for kites. Kee-sup can craft a kite unequaled in strength and beauty, but his younger brother, Young-sup, can fly a kite as if he controlled the wind itself. Their combined skills attract the notice of Korea's young king, who chooses Young-sup to fly the royal kite in the New Year kite-flying competition—an honor that is also an awesome responsibility. Although tradition decrees, and the boys' father insists, that the older brother represent the family, both brothers know that this time the family's honor is best left in Young-sup's hands. This touching and suspenseful story, filled with the authentic detail and flavor of traditional Korean kite fighting, brings a remarkable setting vividly to life.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Tradition and family loyalty come into question in this book by the recently named Newbery Medalist, set in Seoul, Korea, in 1473. Two brothers anticipate the annual New Year's Kite competition, wondering how to balance convention and love for one's talent. Ages 9-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-When Young-sup holds a kite in his hand, he knows exactly how to make it fly. His older brother, Kee-sup, struggles to launch his kite, but he knows exactly how to construct one that is beautiful in form and perfectly balanced. One day, the young king of Korea suddenly arrives with all of his attendants on the hillside where the brothers are playing with their matching tiger kites. He requests their help in learning to fly one, and then asks Kee-sup to make a kite for him. The boy is deeply honored and works diligently on it, a dragon flecked with real gold paint. Meanwhile, Young-sup is determined to win the kite-fighting competition at the New Year's festival. He practices on the hillside where the king frequently joins him, and their growing friendship leads to an interesting collaboration and a thorny challenge to tradition in Korea in 1473. The final contest, in which Young-sup flies for the king, is riveting. Though the story is set in medieval times, the brothers have many of the same issues facing siblings today. They play and argue, they compete for their father's attention, and eventually develop a greater understanding of one another. The author has drawn her characters with a sure touch, creating two very different boys struggling to figure out who they are. With ease and grace, Park brings these long-ago children to life.

Barbara Scotto, Michael Driscoll School, Brookline, MA

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From Booklist

In this novel set in fifteenth-century Korea, Young-sup and his older brother, Kee-sup, love the popular sport of competitive kite flying. Kee-sup's talent is designing, building, and decorating the kites. Young-sup is less the craftsman, but his senses are in tune with the shifting winds. Their practice sessions attract the attention of the boy-king of Korea, who becomes friends with the brothers and asks them to craft him a kite fit for a king, then fly it in the New Year's Day kite fights. The boys devise innovations to give them an advantage in the contest: a blue kite string that will be lost against the sky and a coating of crushed pottery to sever an opponent's line. But tricks are no substitute for skill, which Young-sup proves he has. Besides catching the excitement of the ancient sport, the novel deals with intense sibling rivalry engendered by Korean family tradition. The conclusion is predictable but satisfying. An author's note authenticates some historical points in the fictional story, which feels consistently well-grounded in its time and place. *Catherine Andronik*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eddie Bussell:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible The Kite Fighters? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time

together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

Elliott Preciado:

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Bryan Perry:

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Kimberly Plummer:

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