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Color Song (A Passion Blue Novel)



Synopsis

By the author of the acclaimed *Passion Blue*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of 2012 and a rare, rewarding, sumptuous exploration of artistic passion, comes a fascinating companion novel. Artistically brilliant, Giulia is blessed or cursed with a spirit's gift: she can hear the mysterious singing of the colors as she creates them in the convent workshop of Maestra Humilità. It's here that Giulia, forced into the convent against her will, has found unexpected happiness and rekindled her passion to become a painter—an impossible dream for any woman in fifteenth-century Italy. But when a dying Humilità bequeaths Giulia her most prized possession—the secret formula for the luminously beautiful paint called Passion blue—Giulia realizes she's in danger from those who have long coveted the famous color. Faced with the prospect of a life in the convent barred from painting as punishment for keeping Humilità's secret, Giulia is struck by a desperate idea: What if she disguises herself as a boy? Could she make her way to Venice and find work as an artist's apprentice? Along with the truth of who she is, Giulia carries more dangerous secrets: the exquisite voices of her paint colors and the formula for Humilità's Passion blue. And Venice, she discovers, with its gilded palazzos and masked balls, has secrets of its own. Trapped in her false identity in this dream-like place where reality and reflection are easily confused, and where art and ambition, love and deception hover like dense fog, can Giulia find her way? This stunning, compelling novel explores timeless themes of love and illusion, gender and identity as it asks, What does it mean to risk everything to pursue your passion?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every so often I find books that I really love and Victoria Strauss's newest Color Song is one of them. The first book Passion Blue I loved just as much. Color Song does stand on its own but you get a lot of background in Passion Blue that I think makes Color Song all the better. The books are classified as YA Historical Fiction and I do love YA books but I think these books are just perfect for the adult reader as well. I started Passion Blue a few days ago and was completely hooked so when I put it down I immediately dove into Color Song. What did I love so much about the book? "the art, the color, the passion, the writing, the characters, and ultimately the beauty of the story itself. Giulia has been living in the convent she was forced to enter and it is there that she is allowed to do the one thing she loves above all else and that is to paint. Giulia creates beautiful art but she also carries a gift that allows her to hear the singing of the colors she creates and uses. It's important to note that in 15th century Italy it was unheard of for a woman to be allowed to be a painter so it is only behind the convent walls that Giulia's dream can be realized. Maestra Humilita saw Giulia's gift and despite some obstacles has always supported her. When Maestra Humilita lays dying she gives her Passion Blue formula to the one person she knows will honor it the most? Giulia. However in doing so also puts Giulia at risk from others who are desperate to get their hands on the Passion Blue formula as well. Giulia decides to do the only thing she can do and that's to leave the convent. Giulia never wanted to be a nun and she refuses to be held prisoner and punished for refusing to hand over the Passion Blue formula.

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