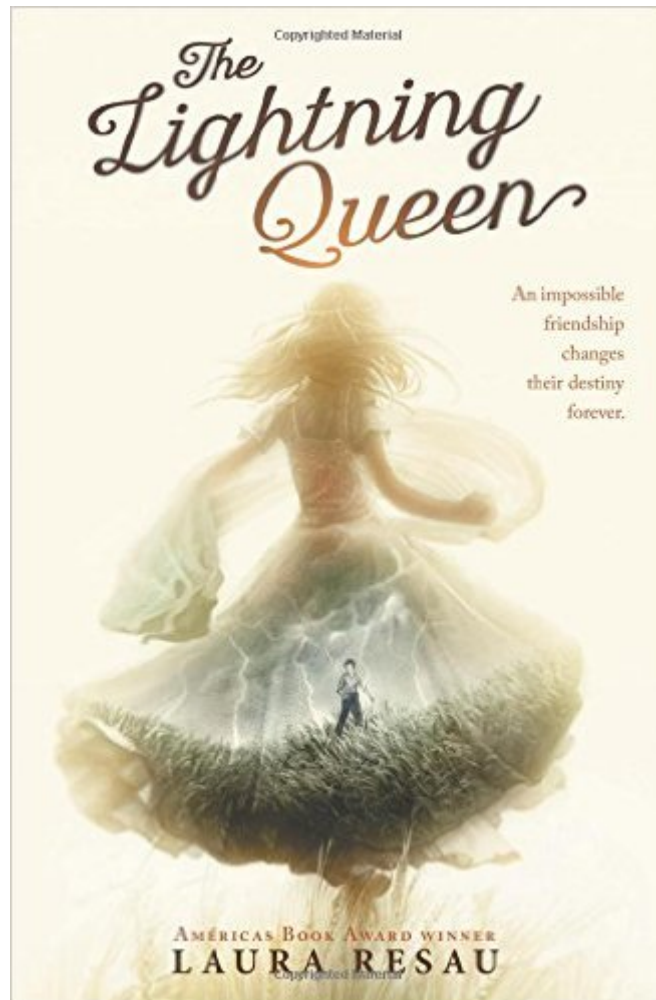


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# The Lightning Queen



## Synopsis

Nothing exciting happens on the Hill of Dust, in the remote mountains of Mexico in the 1950s. There's no electricity, no plumbing, no cars, just day after day of pasturing goats. And now, without his sister and mother, eleven-year-old Teo's life feels even more barren. And then one day, the mysterious young Esma, who calls herself the Gypsy Queen of Lightning, rolls into town like a fresh burst of color. Against all odds, her caravan's Mistress of Destiny predicts that Teo and Esma will be longtime friends. Suddenly, life brims with possibility. With the help of a rescued duck, a three-legged skunk, a blind goat, and other allies, Teo and Esma must overcome obstacles-even death-to fulfill their impossible destiny. Inspired by true stories derived from rural Mexico, *The Lightning Queen* offers a glimpse of the encounter between two fascinating but marginalized cultures--the Rom and the Mixtec Indians--while telling the heart-warming story of an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545800846

ISBN-13: 978-0545800846

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #268,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico](#) #4121 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Do you have a teen who likes stories that encourage reflection with a soupçon of magical realism? One of my favorite books from this year is Fort Collins writer Laura Resau's *The Lightning Queen*. Teo is a young Mixteco boy living on the Hill of Dust up in the Mexican mountains when magic happens: Esma, a Romani girl, comes through Teo's village. Her people bring movies to

Teo's remote village and Esma's grandmother, the Mistress of Destiny, tells predictable fortunes until she gets to Teo. She predicts that Teo and Esma will become lifelong friends--something that is seemingly impossible given Esma's nomadic life. But friendship is stronger than circumstance. It is hard for me to describe the heart, humor, and incredible poignancy in this story but you shouldn't miss it.

THE LIGHTNING QUEEN is one of the best books I've read this year. By turns beautiful, funny, sweet, and mesmerizing, it tells a unique tale of two marginalized cultures--and two fiery-spirited children from those cultures--that form a lifelong bond. For kids and adults alike, I can't recommend this engaging story highly enough. All of Laura Resau's books are compelling reads, but this one may well be my favorite.

As a fan of Laura's work, I've been awaiting the release of her next book, and *The Lightning Queen* is a beautiful work of art! The writing is fluid and magic-filled, and Esme in particular is a character that will stay in my mind for a long time. Now that I'm finished reading, I'm excited to share this book with my eight-year-old son, because I know this will expand his worldview in rich ways!

THE LIGHTNING QUEEN by Laura Resau tells the captivating story of a friendship that bridges the Rom and the Mexico Indian cultures. In this poignant story that weaves together historical and contemporary tales, an old man shares with his grandson the story of growing up in the remote mountains of Mexico and his encounters with a young gypsy girl. Inspired by true stories, this fascinating multi-cultural tale of friendship will draw readers into the world of mid-20th century Mexico. Librarians will find that fans of both historical and contemporary fiction will enjoy the bridge between the past and the present as well as between the cultures. With a hint of romance and magic, this fast-paced novel is a good choice for readers seeking stories focusing on the topics of cultural diversity and friendship. The book's end notes along with the author's website provide excellent background information and resources for teachers. To learn more about the author, go to <http://www.lauraresau.com/>. Published by Scholastic on October 27, 2015. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

4.5 Stars! This book had me at the cover. The story was amazing. A true story of friendship. You couldn't help but enjoy and care for all the characters and see their growth and development through the story. The story flowed perfectly. I would definitely recommend this to a friend!

The Lightning Queen combines magic, history, and culture, woven together in words that sing and sparkle. It is what I've come to expect and always find in Laura Resau's writing. Not just for younger readers. She captivates three generations in my family.

Even though I have read The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau within a day, the story of Esma and Teo stayed with me much longer. It stayed with me after I closed the book, it stayed with me as I recommended it to all of my friends (and my friend's children), and it still stayed with me as I try to write a review that is worthy of Resau's outstanding storytelling. I simply loved this story, its cultural aspects, the magical realism, and especially the prose.

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