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The Smoking Mirror (Garza Twins) (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Carol and Johnny Garza are 12-year-old twins whose lives in a small Texas town are forever changed by their mother's unexplained disappearance. Shipped off to relatives in Mexico by their grieving father, the twins soon learn that their mother is a *nagual*, a shapeshifter, and that they have inherited her powers. In order to rescue her, they will have to descend into the Aztec underworld and face the dangers that await them. American Library Association, 2016 Pura Belpre Author Honor winning novel.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

Series: Garza Twins (Book 1)

Hardcover: 238 pages

Publisher: IFWG Publishing (March 15, 2016)

Language: English, Spanish

ISBN-10: 1925496023

ISBN-13: 978-1925496024

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,463,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Latin American](#) #19886 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

The marketing departments for book publishers think they have to categorize books in order for them to sell. They want to reach a targeted market, so they pigeon-hole works into categories like middle grade novels, young adult novels, romance novels, mystery novels, and so forth. I hate that, for it limits audiences. Fine writing is fine writing; the human condition is the human condition, no matter what age a character is or in what situation we find him or her. Millions of readers of the Harry Potter novels proved that; although the books were marketed as children's books, they appealed to a much wider audience. And that brings me to David Bowles's *The Smoking Mirror: Garza Twins Book One*. Bowles is a skillful writer, and his book, although targeted to a middle

grade audienceâ€”is instructive, witty, and charming. It is the tale of twins Juan Angel Garza and his sister Carolina. They are tasked with saving their mother, who has been taken into the underworld. And what Bowles imparts is the idea that all of us have the power to accomplish extraordinary tasks if we have the motivation. And love for their mother is certainly a powerful force. Iâ€™m not discounting the fact that this is a book that children will love and learn from. But I am saying that anyone, no matter what age, will identify with these kids and will enjoy Bowlesâ€™s well-crafted, exciting adventure. He takes us into the underworld of Aztec and Mayan mythology. His gods, goddesses, and creatures come from tales told to him as a child, and they are directly from the Aztec/Mayan myths. In his acknowledgments, Bowles admits that he stayed true to what heâ€™d read about the underworld in those myths, but he also embellished a bit. Any child of American Hispanic origin will relish this tale simply because it explores the roots of their culture.

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