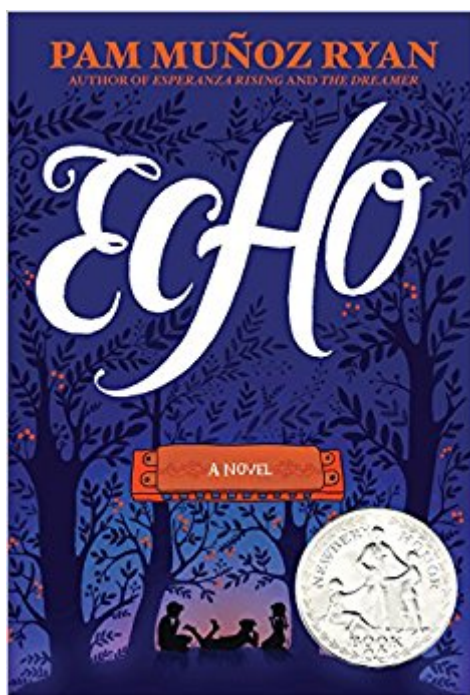


The book was found

# Echo



## Synopsis

2016 Newbery Honor Book New York Times Bestseller An impassioned, uplifting, and virtuosic tour de force from a treasured storyteller! Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo. Richly imagined and masterfully crafted, *Echo* pushes the boundaries of genre, form, and storytelling innovation to create a wholly original novel that will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 592 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (February 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439874025

ISBN-13: 978-0439874021

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 2 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 336 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,076 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Children's Books](#) > [Arts, Music & Photography](#) > [Performing Arts](#) #49 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life](#) > [Friendship, Social Skills & School Life](#) > [Social Skills](#) #99 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#) > [Historical Fiction](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 "Long before enchantment was eclipsed by doubt," a young boy named Otto lost in the woods is rescued by three sisters imprisoned there by a witch's curse. In return, he promises to help break the curse by carrying their spirits out of the forest in a mouth harp and passing the instrument along when the time is right. The narrative shifts to the 20th century, when

the same mouth harp (aka harmonica) becomes the tangible thread that connects the stories of three children: Friedrich, a disfigured outcast; Mike, an impoverished orphan; and Ivy, an itinerant farmer's child. Their personal struggles are set against some of the darkest eras in human history: Friedrich, the rise of Nazi Germany; Mike, the Great Depression; Ivy, World War II. The children are linked by musical talent and the hand of fate that brings Otto's harmonica into their lives. Each recognizes something unusual about the instrument, not only its sound but its power to fill them with courage and hope. Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy are brought together by music and destiny in an emotionally triumphant conclusion at New York's Carnegie Hall. Meticulous historical detail and masterful storytelling frame the larger history, while the story of Otto and the cursed sisters honor timeless and traditional folktales. Ryan has created three contemporary characters who, through faith and perseverance, write their own happy endings, inspiring readers to believe they can do the same. — Marybeth Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY

**Awards and Praise for Echo:** New York Times Notable Book, Publishers Weekly Best Book, LA Times Notable Book for a Global Society, ALA Notable Children's Book; "The story of Otto and the cursed sisters honor timeless and traditional folktales [and] Ryan has created three contemporary characters who, through faith and perseverance, write their own happy endings, inspiring readers to believe they can do the same." — School Library Journal, starred review; "A grand narrative that examines the power of music to inspire beauty in a world overrun with fear and intolerance, it's worth every moment of readers' time." — Kirkus, starred review; "Each individual story is engaging, but together they harmonize to create a thrilling whole." — Publishers Weekly, starred review; "A masterpiece." — Christopher Paul Curtis, author of Newbery Medal-winning *Bud, Not Buddy*; "Daring and beautiful." — Linda Sue Park, author of Newbery Medal-winning *A Single Shard*

What a wonderful story! Beautifully written. I was home sick with laryngitis and couldn't put it down. I have passed it on to my 14 year old daughter.

An excellent book that takes powerful themes of war, honor and creativity and explores them in ways that a middle school student can understand. I loved the ways all the strands come together at the end. As usual Ryan treats her reader with respect and delivers a first class story.

Very quick and enjoyable book to read as an adult. I would think anyone upper elementary age and

above would enjoy it.

Five of my students took initiative and started a book club; to reward them, I bought five copies of this book, so they could read whenever they wanted!

Very much enjoyed this book. Interesting characters and bits of history. Will encourage my daughter to read

This book is fantastic! I'm reading it aloud to my 8 and 11 year old. They are as hooked as I am!

I really can't say much on the book because I bought this for my daughter. I can tell you that she has been telling me all about this book and has been loving it!!

A Wonderful and rich story. I am impressed with the way the author weaves the different stories and unites them at the end. This is a novel that should be listened to rather than read. Highly imaginative.

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