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The Crane Wife



Synopsis

When Osamu, a lonely sail maker, nurses an injured crane one blustery night, he never suspects that this simple act of kindness will change his life forever. This retelling of a traditional Japanese folktale teaches readers young or old a lesson about life and love.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (October 1, 2002)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #495,259 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Collections](#) #500 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #19072 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This classic Japanese folktale, accompanied by stunning paintings by award-winning illustrator Gennady Spirin, gently explores the nature of love, promises, and betrayal. Osamu was a sail maker who lived high above the sea. "As he pulled the warp and weft of his sail together, he would often think to himself, How beautiful the cranes are. Of all the birds, they are the most like sails. It is as if the wind is held in their wings." One blustery night, a large crane crashes into Osamu's door and lies stunned on his porch. The lonely sail maker nurses it back to health and watches the graceful bird soar away. When this crane returns to Osamu's door in the disguise of a beautiful young woman, the drama really begins. They fall in love, and marry, but there comes a time when there is no longer food for them to eat. Yukiko tells her husband that she can make a magic sail for him to sell in the village, but that he must promise never to look at her while she is making it, and later, that he must never expect her to make another one. Both promises are broken, and in the

end, Osamu never sees her again: "He wove simple sails for the rest of his years, there at his window, gazing at the marsh and the white cranes. And each autumn, in the season of storms, he waited for a knock on his door." Spirin's moody, intricate watercolor illustrations evoke medieval Japan, and perfectly complement the spare, poetic prose of Odds Bodkin's skillful retelling. (Ages 5 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Medieval Japan provides the backdrop for the classic tale of a sail maker who nurses a wounded crane to health. "Bodkin's finely tuned version abounds with drama and emotion in its rich presentation of morals, and near-perfect pacing sets the stage for the pathos of the ending," said PW in a starred review. "Spirin's compositions, filled with Japanese motifs and period details, cast an otherworldly mood." Ages 5-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

A hauntingly beautiful tale with poignant and evocative illustrations.

Beautifully illustrated and a story that has a special meaning to me.. Lovely

Great lesson for children and adults alike. Beautifully illustrated.

Pretty photos

Very beautiful book and story.

I think adults may appreciate this one more than the children will. I've attempted to read it to my younger sisters (ages 4 and 6) and they're just not into it. It's a beautifully illustrated book with an interesting and tragic story, and you might want to save it for those a little older.

There wasn't much to the story, the art work is nice but not compelling. Still overall it was good. shipped in an envelope instead of hard packaging to it arrived slightly damaged. It got donated to the library book sale.

This is a fairy tale about real life. Set in Japan, poor Osamu will never marry. One stormy night, he encounters an injured crane, and takes it in, and feeds and tends it. After it heals, it flies away. And one day, another storm blows a beautiful woman to his door. He tends her and marries her, and she

gives him a wonderful gift. Twice. But he wastes her love and ignores her warning. Gennady Spirin's masterful illustrations are perfect for this story. What a joy to read a fairy tale this well-done.

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