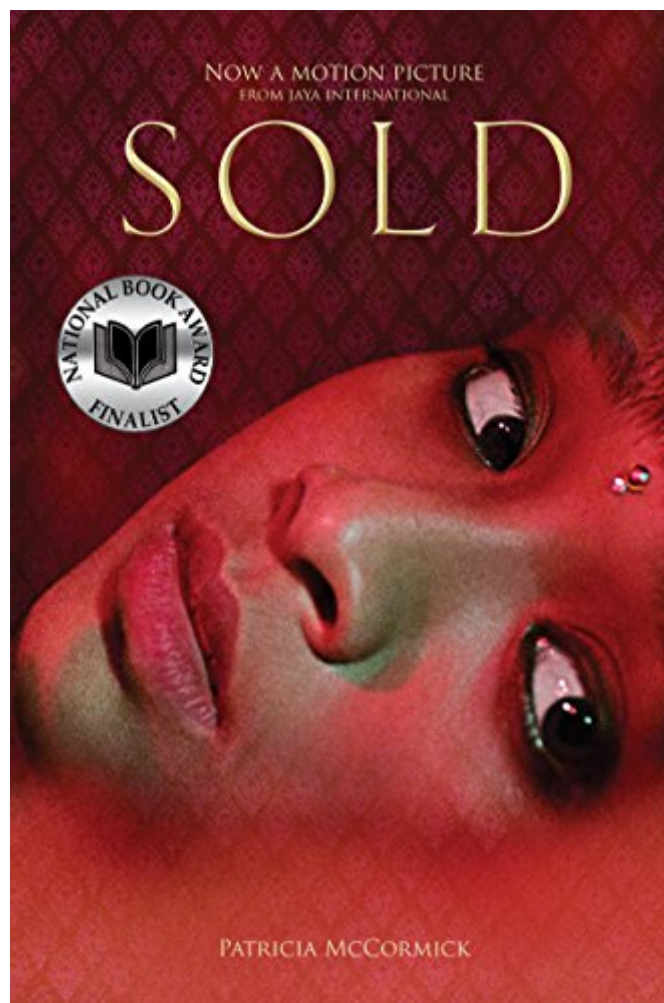


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Sold: Movie Tie-In Edition



Synopsis

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures, like playing hopscotch with her best friend from school, and having her mother brush her hair by the light of an oil lamp. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. An old woman named Mumtaz rules the brothel with cruelty and cunning. She tells Lakshmi that she is trapped there until she can pay off her family's debt—then cheats Lakshmi of her meager earnings so that she can never leave. Lakshmi's life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Still, she lives by her mother's words—Simply to endure is to triumph—and gradually, she forms friendships with the other girls that enable her to survive in this terrifying new world. Then the day comes when she must make a decision—will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life? Written in spare and evocative vignettes, this powerful novel renders a world that is as unimaginable as it is real, and a girl who not only survives but triumphs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very good book but also a pretty disturbing one. In terms of a choice for a middle schooler, I would really hesitate to recommend it. A lot would depend on the young adult's maturity and reading level. Whereas I have a 7th grader reading this book, the terms have occasionally stumped her and she comes back to me frequently for explanations of terms of vocabulary issues for Arabic names and terms...some of which are difficult to understand via context. I found it useful to Google certain things, like a tea shop and a house with a tin roof in Nepal, so she can see photos and better relate to the text. Other than that, the way the book is written, in first person, but in a passive voice...a writing style that takes a while to get used to. But for an adult or middle schooler who successfully navigates those little hurdles, the book is a quick and fascinating read. I couldn't put it down. The subject matter is very, very mature. There is not anything overly graphic, but again, this is a novel about a girl sold into prostitution at a very young age. After the first third of the book, it does address the fact that she is forced to sleep with many, many men and there are a few horrifying sections regarding the punishment of girls who don't obey the brothel's madam. This is an important book regarding the treatment of young girls sold into prostitution in India. I learned many things while reading it. Again, I recommend it for all, but unless your child or student is ready to handle things like the subject matter, I believe that girls and women over maybe 14 years of age should be the target audience.

Sold, by Patricia McCormick, is about a young girl that faces the horrors of human trafficking. Lakshmi, a 13-14 year old girl from Nepal is sold by her step-father to go live in a brothel. I know situations like this happen all around the world and this is sickening. What kind of parent would sell their young daughter for sex just for some money? On top of being sold for sex, this young girl had no idea what was going on in the beginning. Lakshmi's actions show the worries these young girls go through in these situations and how they all just want to be freed. Many girls are forced to stay in these unhealthy and dirty living environments until they are too sick to function. Before I read this book, I had no idea what human trafficking is. Who knew young girls could be sold for sex, especially without any say. The women in this brothel are brave and hopefully, like Lakshmi

they all find freedom in some way. I know that this book is based on the lives of many girls and not just one, but I wonder what individuals in these situations actually go through, and how likely are they to be saved. I believe that this book should be recommended to all young adults. It is very informational about the struggles people around the world face, and many of us Americans are blind to these situations.

Patricia McCormick's novel *Sold* was a very eye opening book. Before reading this book I was aware of the extreme circumstances that some girls are forced to be in, but I had never heard a first person experience from one of those girls. Even though *Sold* is a fictional book, you can really tell that a lot of time and research went into developing it. I have never read a Patricia McCormick novel so I didn't know if I would like the writing style, but it turns out she is a very good writer that knows how to keep a reader's attention. I also really enjoyed the layout she chose because it gave dramatic pauses between each part of the story. Although the book is well written and has a gripping story line, I still felt like it was just an okay book. This book has a good message about the need for protection that these girls have to have, but in some parts I felt like there was nothing going on. Lakshmi is a very strong young girl and I think that she can be both an inspiration to young girls and a great advocate in helping to decrease the grip human trafficking has on these countries. Overall I was impressed with the story and the information the author was able to include, but I found that the book was a little bit hard to follow at times. I would recommend this book to more of an older population rather than young adults, because it doesn't have that constant action that holds the attention of the younger generations.

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