



The Painted Boy

By Charles De Lint

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The Painted Boy By Charles De Lint

Jay Li should be in Chicago, finishing high school and working at his family's restaurant. Instead, as a born member of the Yellow Dragon Clan--part human, part dragon, like his grandmother--he is on a quest even he does not understand. His journey takes him to Santo del Vado Viejo in the Arizona desert, a town overrun by gangs, haunted by members of other animal clans, perfumed by delicious food, and set to the beat of Malo Malo, a barrio rock band whose female lead guitarist captures Jay's heart. He must face a series of dangerous, otherworldly--and very human--challenges to become the man, and dragon, he is meant to be. This is Charles de Lint at his best!

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The Painted Boy By Charles De Lint Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—De Lint returns to the imaginary location of *The Mystery of Grace* (Tor, 2009) in this novel set in the American Southwest. Jay Li is a 17-year-old Chinese American transplanted from Chicago's Chinatown to the desert. The title comes from the dragon tattoo on his back, which emerged from his skin when he was 11. Jay is a member of the Yellow Dragon clan, and, thanks to a mystical family inheritance, an actual dragon on a quest to protect mankind. His quest leads him to Santo del Vado Viejo, a town overrun by bandas, gangs, where he is taken in by Rosalie and Anna. Shortly after his arrival, it becomes clear that he is there to discover his dragon nature and to free the town from the gangs. Encounters with the “cousins” (animal spirits in human form), the gang leader El Tigre, and the mysterious Rita move Jay into an uncertain future that he only half understands. The novel travels back and forth between omniscient narration and Jay's first-person journaling, and while the threads work together, they are sometimes repetitive and oddly juxtaposed. Minor discordant notes regarding cultural and local knowledge may jar readers familiar with the geographic areas or cultural communities; the mythologies of both Chinatown and Santo del Vado Viejo seem superimposed on the locales instead of emerging organically from them. Characterizations are sketchy, making it difficult to invest emotionally in the players. The moderate pace does not negate the dramatic action, however, and that may be enough for de Lint's fans.—Janice M. Del Negro, GSLIS Dominican University, River Forest, IL. (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

When Jay Li turned 11, the image of a dragon grew on his back, a symbol of his belonging to the Yellow Dragon tribe. After six years of intense training from his enigmatic grandmother, he leaves Chicago's Chinatown to find a place or people to protect, as the yellow dragons once protected the emperor. Jay is attracted to Santo del Vado Viejo, an Arizona barrio overrun with gangbangers led by the menacing El Tigre, also from an animal clan. Drawn into the lives of the locals, both human and supernatural, Jay must awaken his inner dragon to rid the town of violence. De Lint's blend of Chinese and Mexican folklore is unexpected but complementary, transcending cultural differences, and his descriptions of the desert give it believable magic. Less successful is the storytelling itself: it's overlong, and the flat, distant narrative, which hops among multiple viewpoints (including Jay's superfluous journal entries), is heavy on exposition. Still, this imaginative story of mythological shape-shifters living among us will interest urban-fantasy fans. Grades 7-12. --Krista Hutley

About the Author

Charles de Lint lives in Ottawa, Canada.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Aultman:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this *The Painted Boy* book because book

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