



Vessel

By Sarah Beth Durst

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This atmospheric fantasy is, “from the gripping first line, a fast-paced, thought-provoking, and stirring story of sacrifice” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review).

Liyana has trained her entire life to be the vessel of a goddess. The goddess will inhabit Liyana’s body and use magic to bring rain to the desert. But Liyana’s goddess never comes. Abandoned by her angry tribe, Liyana expects to die in the desert. Until a boy walks out of the dust in search of her.

Korbyn is a god inside his vessel, and a trickster god at that. He tells Liyana that five other gods are missing, and they set off across the desert in search of the other vessels. For the desert tribes cannot survive without the magic of their gods. But the journey is dangerous, even with a god’s help. And not everyone is willing to believe the trickster god’s tale.

The closer she grows to Korbyn, the less Liyana wants to disappear to make way for her goddess. But she has no choice: She must die for her tribe to live. Unless a trickster god can help her to trick fate—or a human girl can muster some magic of her own.

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Vessel By Sarah Beth Durst Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Once each century, the desert deities inhabit the bodies of human vessels, bringing health and prosperity to their tribes. Liyana has trained all her life for this honor. But when she fails to summon her goddess, her tribe abandons her lest she bring them misfortune. She is rescued by trickster god Korbyn, who informs her that five gods are missing. Joined by three other vessels, Liyana and Korbyn set out to rescue them from an ambitious emperor who hopes to use the captive deities to gain control over the desert and its people. To do so, Liyana must defy taboo by learning magic. She must also confront the emperor himself if she hopes to save her friends, her people, and her gods from an uncertain fate. But can she do so without sacrificing herself? Durst has crafted a unique fantasy world populated with dangerous creatures and strong characters and woven together with magic. Liyana's inner struggle between upholding tradition and her own desire to live is obvious throughout. However, the third-person narrative gives her plight a somewhat detached feel. Additionally, the plot moves slowly at times. Nevertheless, the story is solid and will appeal to fans of romantic fantasy.—Alissa J. Bach, Oxford Public Library, MI(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Liyana is a vessel, the chosen one, nurtured, trained, and offered up by her clan for a great honor: giving her life so their goddess, Bayla, may return to earth to inhabit her body. But the goddess does not return. At the end of her day of sacrifice, Liyana is still alive, her clan having left her alone, disgraced, and in grave danger in the desert. *Vessel* is the read-alike for your *Hunger Games*–obsessed teens. From the quest to find the other clans' spurned vessels, to the two attractive love interests, to the intelligent, independent young heroine, this folkloric fantasy, while harkening to that ever-popular novel and movie, is unique in its own web of clever, complex characters and attention-absorbing adventure. Its setting alone is so vital that it becomes another character, a part of the action. Readers will feel the desert heat, the earth-numbing droughts, the vicious sandstorms and resulting sandwolves, and the bizarre sensations of a goddess living within the body of its human vessel. Brilliantly riveting, *Vessel*'s only disappointment is its single volume, a fate that relegates Liyana, her lovers, and her friends to their own vessel, a single book. Grades 7-12. --Frances Bradburn

Review

VESSEL [STARRED REVIEW!]

Author: Durst, Sarah Beth

Review Issue Date: July 15, 2012

Online Publish Date: June 27, 2012

Publisher: *McElderry*

Pages: 432

Price (Hardcover): \$16.99

Publication Date: September 11, 2012

ISBN (Hardcover): 978-1-4424-2376-3

Category: Fiction

When a summoning goes awry, Liyana must try to save her people and learn how to live for herself, in this sweeping adventure.

Chosen as a “vessel” to host the Goat Clan’s goddess, Bayla, and abandoned when Bayla doesn’t come, Liyana finds herself alone in the desert. Korbyn, god of the Raven Clan, rescues Liyana and provides her with a purpose: find the four other vessels who are also missing deities. Soon, Liyana and Korbyn pick up stalwart Fennik (horse god Sendar), princess-y Pia (silk goddess Oyri) and angry Raan (scorpion goddess Maara). Besides the desert’s many dangers, the ragtag group faces the massed army of the Crescent Empire, led by a young Emperor and his malicious magician, Mulaf. The tribes need their gods to save them from illness, starvation and drought, but the gods need to possess vessels to work magic—an arrangement whose logic several characters begin to question. Liyana is self-sacrificing but not a saint; stubborn, loyal, and curious, she finds new reasons to live even as she faces death. Durst offers a meditation on leadership and power and a vivid story set outside the typical Western European fantasy milieu.

From the gripping first line, a fast-paced, thought-provoking and stirring story of sacrifice. (*Fantasy. 12 & up*)

Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2012 ***STARRED**

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Durst, Sarah Beth. **Vessel**. Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster, 2012. 432p. \$16.99. 978-1-4424-2376-3.

Liyana of the nomadic Goat Clan is destined from birth to be a vessel for the goddess Bayla. When her goddess and those of many other tribes are kidnapped by a vengeful citizen of the Crescent Empire, vessels bereft of their divine possessors are killed outright or left to die in the desert. Survivors have little choice but to track down the abductors to save their deities and reclaim a place in their clan. Also struggling to survive is young emperor Jarlath of the Crescent peoples, who are suffering through a terrible drought. Believing the magic of a far-off lake will save his people, he attempts to protect the empire at the cost of losing all the neighboring tribes to a famine. With sand wolves and giant worms, the folklore of the tribes comes to life as magic wielding gods and goddesses join the cast.

Vessel is a fast-paced, thrilling adventure set in a hostile world filled with complex clan feuds and strong traditions. Throughout the book, characters share stories of their clans. The storytelling culture is reminiscent of other peoples with strong oral traditions, like many Native American tribes. In addition to the unique history Durst has created as backstory, the highly descriptive writing forms intense visuals for the reader so that characters, animals, and locations feel rich and realistic.

--VOYA August 2012, highlighted review

*"*Vessel* is a fast-paced, thrilling adventure set in a hostile world filled with complex clan feuds and strong traditions. . . . The highly descriptive writing forms intense visuals for the reader so that characters, animals, and locations feel rich and realistic." (VOYA, starred review)

Vessel

Sarah Beth Durst. S&S/McElderry, \$16.99 (432p) ISBN 978-1-4424-2376-3

In this powerful and melancholy fantasy, Liyana, a child of the desert, does not rebel against her fate as a vessel—a human whose mind is destined to die so that a goddess may occupy her body. Though Liyana is obedient, and her ritual performance is flawless, the goddess does not come, and her nomadic clan abandons her as unworthy. Unsure whether to try to live, she is still crouched at the empty campsite when a handsome,

unearthly boy steps out of the sands. Korbyn claims to be one of the manifested gods and says that five of his kindred have been trapped, their rightful vessels left empty. He asks Liyana to help him gather the other vessels and right the wrong. Though this means death for her, Liyana remains dutiful and joins his quest. With strong folklore elements, a striking setting, and thoroughly imagined characters, Durst (*Drink Slay Love*) has woven a story that does not shy from the bawdy, violent, or pragmatic realities of life. Ages 12–up.

--*Publishers Weekly*, August 6, 2012

* "From the gripping first line, a fast-paced, thought-provoking and stirring story of sacrifice."--*Kirkus Reviews*, ***STARRED**

Vessel

By Sarah Beth Durst

(Margaret K. McElderry; ISBN 9781442423763; September 2012; Fall Catalog)

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"Brilliantly riveting." (Booklist, ***STARRED**)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ella Butler:

With other case, little men and women like to read book *Vessel*. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Given that we know about how is important any book *Vessel*. You can add know-how and of course you can around the world by a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can know everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple issue until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel fed up to go to the library. Let's go through.

Maureen Guzman:

This book untitled Vessel to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Christopher Hardnett:

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Cheryl Lopez:

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