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# The Ugly One



## Synopsis

A quiet, deeply moving story. "The Bulletin" Twelve-year-old Micay walks around her fifteenth-century Incan village shielding the scarred side of her face that inspired the cruel name Millay, or "Ugly One." She escapes to her huaca rock, avoiding the villagers who shun her. Her world shifts dramatically when a stranger gives her a sorry-looking baby macaw. The bird becomes her dear companion on a journey that ultimately leads her to a new role as shaman in Machu Picchu's Sacred Sun City. Told in an engaging storyteller's voice, this is a stirring tale of a girl who finds her own strength.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544439171

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (30 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I wish I had read this amazing book when I was a young girl. The wisdom in this sweet story is phenomenal. Every young girl who feels awkward and uncertain about themselves at a young age will receive volumes of wisdom, love and insight from this WONDERFUL STORY!!! I highly recommend it!! The main character Micay, who is nicknamed Millay is a young girl who at the age of 12 has endured something which has left her face with a big scar. The author weaves a wonderful story with her meeting a healer who comes to her village that helps to change her life. Her shame and vulnerability is something every young girl can relate to. This is the age that ideas of "who we

are to become" in the world start to formulate, but it is also a very vulnerable time for someone with a very visible wound. Of course, there is an antagonist, (and you will just have to BUY this book to hear all that!) that provides another amazing layer that all young children have to deal with. So in that regard this book is for everyone. Yes, it is primarily for young girls .... but like all GREAT and wonderful stories full of wisdom, this book can, and should be read out loud to ALL children of the age of 12, to provide the wisdom and love that is needed for these young minds to grow and develop into responsible and capable young people. What I also love about this story is that it is set in Peru and the author uses words from their native language "Quechua." This was the main language of the Incan people and throughout the story the characters use these magical words. This technique really helped me to feel transported into their world. I was learning something deeper about the Incan people, and that was cool.

Micay is a twelve year old Incan girl living in Peru at the time when the culture at Machu Picchu is at its height. She believes she is ugly and hideous because she has a scar running from her eye to her lip, and spends most of her time hiding from other people, who aren't exactly enlightened about talking to people with scars - she gets told to hide her face a lot. Poor kid is so messed up that she won't even let her Mom kiss her goodnight! One day, a stranger arrives in the village for one day, leaving a small gift for Micay: a baby macaw. It is so young that Micay chews food and then gives it to the small bird, as it is too young to eat by itself. The bird becomes Micay's wings out of the prison she and the villagers have made for her. By far, the worst one is Ucho, a loathsome young man who sounds as if he could use a good punch. Not that the rest of the villagers are a whole lot better - they call her Millay, which means "Ugly One." Nice. Micay follows her bird to the village shaman, who speaks in riddles and takes her as an apprentice. They heal injuries and illnesses, speak about dreams, and try their best to help end the drought that is causing their people to starve. Her bird is with her at almost every moment, and he is as valuable as any person in helping Micay and her people to survive.-----I'm not going to go into any more detail about the book so as not to spoil it. I also don't want to write book reports for those who doesn't want to read the book. :-)  
)However, I found the book interesting and a good read for most middle schoolers, although a ten year old who reads especially well would enjoy it, too.

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