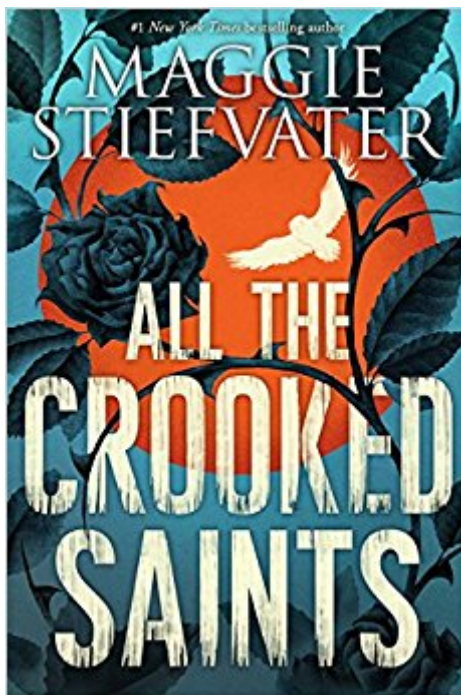


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All The Crooked Saints



Synopsis

Here is a thing everyone wants: A miracle. Here is a thing everyone fears: What it takes to get one. Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado, is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert stars. At the heart of this place you will find the Soria family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. And at the heart of this family are three cousins longing to change its future: Beatriz, the girl without feelings, who wants only to be free to examine her thoughts; Daniel, the Saint of Bicho Raro, who performs miracles for everyone but himself; and Joaquin, who spends his nights running a renegade radio station under the name Diablo Diablo. They are all looking for a miracle. But the miracles of Bicho Raro are never quite what you expect.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for The Raven King: "Expect this truly one-of-a-kind series to come to a thundering close." ? Kirkus Reviews, starred review* "Readers will snap up the final installment the second it's available." ? Publishers Weekly, starred review* "The prose is crisp and dazzling and the dialogue positively crackles." ? School Library Journal, starred review

Maggie Stiefvater is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the novels Shiver, Linger, Forever,

and Sinner. Her novel *The Scorpio Races* was named a Michael L. Printz Honor Book by the American Library Association. The first book in *The Raven Cycle*, *The Raven Boys*, was a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year and the second book, *The Dream Thieves*, was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. The third book, *Blue Lily, Lily Blue*, received five starred reviews. The final book, *The Raven King*, received four. She is also an artist and musician. She lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children. You can visit her online at maggiestiefvater.com.

I really enjoyed this book. It has a fairy tale, exaggerated feel to it. Reminds me of the stories parents used to say: "when I was your age I used to walk miles in the snow up and down hills to get to school" like a big fish story. In this way, it made the book unique. You never knew what was coming. It didn't feel bland, it didn't have an over used storyline like lots of books I have been reading lately. It was refreshing and interesting. I loved it. *All the Crooked Saints*, has cute little loves stories, but really no romance in the book. It is about miracles and a family performing miracles and hiding away from their darkness inside while bringing out the darkness inside the pilgrims who come for a miracle. If you liked Maggie Stiefvater's *Raven Cycle* series, you will probably like this. It has the same feeling to the book. The characters are very fleshed out and all felt different and unique. There is Beatriz who believes she has no emotions, and Joaquin who goes by the radio DJ *Diablo Diablo* at night, and there is Pete who comes to *Bicho Raro* not for a miracle but for a truck. And Daniel the saint of *Bicho Raro* that has had a troubled past. You get to learn a bit about each character and the one thing everything wants, and the one thing everyone fears whenever you meet a new character. Also, this is based in 1961 so the only technology you really see in this book is a radio. This is a standalone book, and it does close up nicely. I wish I did have more.

Yep. This book is all owls, and classic rock n roll! It's a quiet sort of story, set in the magical desert of Colorado. I don't want to say it was all quiet, although the overall tone was just so peaceful-and a bit detached. It reminded me of Cathrynne Valente's works in that way. This is a bit of a slow burner, but wow did I get attached to these flawed little snowflake characters! The plot was odd and excellent, and I'll try to keep it spoiler free. There are saints in the desert, performing miracle for pilgrims-but these miracles come at a price, as the saints know (though some have to learn). The pilgrims must face their own darkness to overcome these miracles, but what do the saints do? Ignore them, mostly, yet when that darkness rears its head at them, they have to face what they've been ignoring for so long. I don't want to spoil the characters either, as they're beautiful. Daniel, Beatriz, and Joaquin are so different, but have that wonderful sibling bond. The kind that likes to

sneak out at night and make sure parents never know. They may be the 'main' characters, but every character in here is given such attention that you really get to know them all. Stiefvater manages to spin their tales so delicately, and though flawed they're still so loveable. Somewhat absurd at times, but this is a bit of an absurdist story, so don't bring silly reality into it. If you've never read Stiefvater before, then her writing can be....different. Its lyrical. Beautiful. Poetic and flowly, punctuated with wit and grounding reality. Hard to explain is really the best way to put it. Or, like Cathrynne Valente. But her writing is as much a part of the book as the plot or characters, and you can't say that about every author. Stiefvater has found a unique voice. This book is one that I'm excited to have been given an ARC of, as I had it on preorder anyway, because I read The Raven Boys (if you haven't its worth it). This is a stand-alone book, which doesn't happen much anymore, so take a moment to get lost in the desert and witness miracles. It's a wonderful experience.

I'm a fan of Maggie Stiefvater and this book showcases many of her strengths. The writing is beautiful, the setting is so well described you feel like you're there at the Soria family compound high in the Colorado desert, and the characters are both interesting and believable--people it's a pleasure to spend time with. The story, however, is a little too fantastical, hyperbolic even, for me and it didn't engage me as much as I had hoped.

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