

Nightingale's Nest by Nikki Loftin

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About the Book:

Twelve-year-old John Fischer Jr., or "Little John" as he's always been known, is spending his summer helping his father with his tree removal business, clearing brush for Mr. King, the wealthy owner of a chain of Texas dollar stores, when he hears a beautiful song that transfixes him. He follows the melody and finds, not a bird, but a young girl sitting in the branches of a tall sycamore tree.



There's something magical about this girl, Gayle, especially her soaring singing voice, and Little John's friendship with Gayle quickly becomes the one bright spot in his life, for his home is dominated by sorrow over his sister's death and his parents' ever-tightening financial difficulties.

But then Mr. King draws Little John into an impossible choice—forced to choose between his family's survival and a betrayal of Gayle that puts her future in jeopardy.

Inspired by a Hans Christian Andersen story, *Nightingale's Nest* is an unforgettable novel about a boy with the weight of the world on his shoulders and a girl with the gift of healing in her voice.

Honors and Praise:

"Unusual, finely crafted story of loss, betrayal, and healing." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"Magical realism meets coming of age in this sensitive and haunting novel . . . Read this aloud and have both boys and girls alike utterly enraptured." —BCCB, starred review

*"It was the writing, of course, that struck my attention first. Loftin gives the book beautiful sequences filled with equally beautiful sentences. . . . As for the characters, there wasn't a person here that I couldn't recognize as real. I was quite taken with the fact that Loftin continually sidesteps a lot of the usual middle grade tropes. . . . Smart and beautiful by turns, *Nightingale's Nest* does one thing that few will contest. Once you've read it, you'll have a hard time getting it out of your head."* —Elizabeth Bird, School Library Journal Blog

"It is Loftin's skill in depicting both the human and the arboreal characters that will engage and inspire readers. The lyrical, descriptive prose and the hopeful ending will linger long after the final chapter." — School Library Journal

"An extraordinary read—I had to tear myself away from it."—Katherine Catmull, author of *Summer and Bird*

"Perfectly captures the challenges of growing up and dealing with loss. Get ready to have your heart touched."—Shannon Messenger, author of *Keeper of the Lost Cities*

"Tugs and tears at the reader's heart. . . . lovely and magical."—Bethany Hegedus, author of *Truth with a Capital T* and *Between Us Baxters*

"Riveting. . . . This is a book you'll long remember."—Lynda Mullaly Hunt, author of *One for the Murphys*

"Loftin's eye for strange beauty in unexpected places often takes the reader's breath away."—Claire Legrand, author of *The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls*

"Will haunt your soul—and lift your heart."—Kimberley Griffiths Little, author of *The Healing Spell* and *When the Butterflies Came*

"A haunting, beautifully told story!"—Bobbie Pyron, author of *The Dogs of Winter* and *A Dog's Way Home*

"The kind of book I wanted to read slowly."—Shelley Moore Thomas, author of *The Seven Tales of Trinket*

"This is a work of tremendous heart."—Anne Ursu, author of *Breadcrumbs*