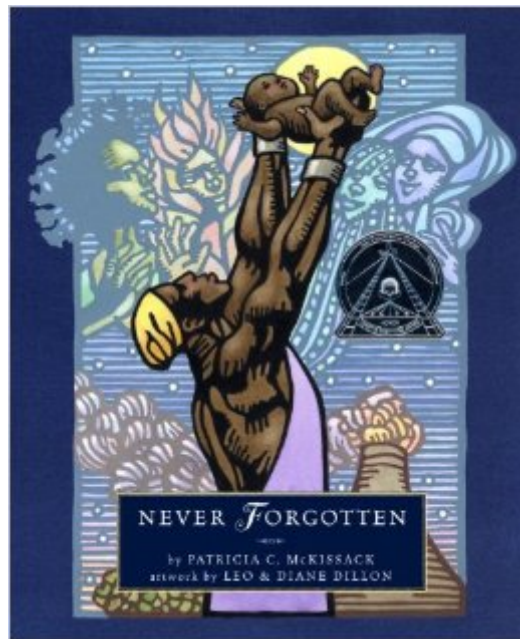


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Never Forgotten (Junior Library Guild Selection)



Synopsis

A 2012 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book This gorgeous picture book by Newbery Honor winner Patricia C. McKissack and two-time Caldecott Medal-winning husband-and-wife team Leo and Diane Dillon is sure to become a treasured keepsake for African American families. Set in West Africa, this a lyrical story-in-verse is about a young black boy who is kidnapped and sold into slavery, and his father who is left behind to mourn the loss of his son. Here's a beautiful, powerful, truly unforgettable story about family, memory, and freedom. "Forceful and iconic," raves Publishers Weekly in a starred review.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0710 (What's this?)

Series: Junior Library Guild Selection

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade; First Edition edition (October 11, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375843841

ISBN-13: 978-0375843846

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #179,100 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #321 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #483 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

Customer Reviews

The more I read children's literature the more I come to realize that my favorite books for kids are the ones that can take disparate facts, elements, and stories and then weave them together into a perfect whole. That someone like Brian Selznick can link automatons and the films of Georges Melies in *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* or Kate Milford can spin a story from the history of bicycles and the Jake Leg Scandal in *The Boneshaker* thrills me. Usually such authors reserve their talents for chapter books. There they've room to expound at length. And Patricia McKissack is no stranger

to such works of fiction. Indeed some of her chapter books are the best in a given library collection (I've a personal love of her *Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and other Wily Characters*). But for *Never Forgotten* Ms. McKissack took tales of Mende blacksmiths and Caribbean legends of hurricanes and combined them into a picture book. Not just any picture book, mind you, but one that seeks to answer a question that I've never heard adequately answered in any books for kids: When Africans were kidnapped by the slave trade and sent across the sea, how did the people left behind react? The answer comes in this original folktale. Accompanied by the drop dead gorgeous art of Leo & Diane Dillon, the book serves to remind and heal all at once.

NEVER FORGOTTEN By Patricia C. McKissack Artwork by Leo and Diane Dillon This is the most difficult book review, to date, that I have ever written. Nothing I write can do justice to this superb work of art. *Never Forgotten* is indeed a work of art. It is moving and touches the soul. *Never Forgotten* is a story of love, a story of memory, and a story of family. The lyrical meter and the artwork add to the feel, the moment of the story. *Never Forgotten* is a story of slavery, but it is told from the perspective of those left behind. This is Dinga's story, and even more than that a story of every family that ever had someone stolen from them for the purpose of slavery. Dinga is raising his son, Mufasa, alone after the death of his wife. But Dinga is raising his son with the help of the four Mother Elements - Earth, Fire, Water, and Wind. As the years passed there have been drums of warning - drums that spoke of an outside threat. But the threat was so far away that Dinga paid them little heed. When Mufasa was old enough Dinga began teaching him the skill of his family - blacksmithing. But one day as Mufasa gathered the brush for the fire he did not return. Dinga and the village searched for Mufasa, but could find no trace of the boy. Dinga asked the Mother Elements for their help but they were unable to stop the slavers and save Mufasa and stolen children of Africa. For several years Dinga lived in sorrow with no hope for his stolen son. But one day Wind returned and told Dinga a tale. A tale that made his heart celebrate - though his son was taken and lived across the ocean in a faraway land Mufasa had never forgotten. Mufasa used the skills his father had taught him and told of the father that had taught him well.

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