



Mountain Dog

By Margarita Engle

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When Tony's mother is sent to jail, he is sent to stay with a great uncle he has never met in Sierra Nevada. It is a daunting move?Tony's new world bears no semblance to his previous one. But slowly, against a remote and remarkable backdrop, the scars from Tony's troubled past begin to heal.

With his Tió and a search-and-rescue dog named Gabe by his side, he learns how to track wild animals, is welcomed to the Cowboy Church, and makes new friends at the Mountain School. Most importantly though, it is through Gabe that Tony discovers unconditional love for the first time, in *Mountain Dog* by Margarita Engle.

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2013

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Mountain Dog By Margarita Engle Bibliography

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- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-7—Eleven-year-old Tony has had a tough life and now his mother, an immigrant, is in prison for training fighting pit bulls. Fortunately, his great uncle agrees to take him in. Tío is a forest ranger who, along with his dog Gabe, rescues people lost in the wilderness. Suddenly, Tony is living far from Los Angeles in the Sierra Nevada. Written in free verse, this story is told from the perspectives of Tony and Gabe. The chocolate lab senses the boy's internal struggles as he deals both with his sadness about his mother and his wonder at this beautiful new place. Wise and kind, Tío begins to train Tony to work with the rescue volunteers and gives his nephew the best gift of all when he welcomes him into his home permanently, helping him gain the confidence he needs to begin planning a positive future. Gabe's insights into Tony's struggles and his vividly captured doggy enthusiasm and devotion keep the story upbeat. The bond that develops between the canine and boy makes this book an inspiring read that will be especially believable to dog lovers. Black-and-white drawings appear throughout the story, and these empathetic depictions of the characters, animals, and setting capture the spirit of the text. A thoughtful and sensitive story that touches on immigration, family, and other serious issues.—Carol Schene, formerly at Taunton Public Schools, MAα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Tony moves to Sierra Nevada with his forest ranger great uncle, following his mother's arrest for dog fighting. Tony quickly connects with Gabe, Tío Leonilo's search-and-rescue dog. With the help of Gabe, and through writing a blog and poetry, Tony settles into his new life of search and rescue; Cowboy Church, with its dogs and horses; loud Gracie from school; and trips to visit his mother in prison. He works hard to overcome his fear of math, which had always meant calculating dog bets, so that he can study veterinary science in college. Tony's transformation is told in free verse that alternates between Tony's and Gabe's voices. Clear, strong language captures Tony's pain, and while the ending is tidy, his relationship with his mom remains complicated and honest. The details about search and rescue, the Pacific Coast trail, and dogs and bears keep the book's action high and will appeal to wilderness fans. Black-and-white illustrations complete the package. Grades 3-6. --Suzanne Harold

Review

"Fascinating." ?*BCCB*

"A thoughtful and sensitive story that touches on immigration, family, and other serious issues." ?*School Library Journal*

"Once again, Engle fictionalizes historical fact in a powerful, original story." ?*Booklist, starred review on Hurricane Dancers*

"The unique juxtaposition of poetry and cruelty creates a peculiar literary tension." ?*VOYA on Hurricane Dancers*

"Unique and inventive, this is highly readable historical fiction that provides plenty of fodder for discussion." ?*School Library Journal on Hurricane Dancers*

"Like intersecting riptides, several first-person narratives converge in this verse novel of the sixteenth century." ?*The Horn Book Magazine on Hurricane Dancers*

“The subject matter is an excellent introduction to the age of exploration and its consequences, showing slavery sinking its insidious roots in the Americas and the price paid by those who were there first.”

?Publishers Weekly on Hurricane Dancers

“Taken individually the stories are slight, but they work together elegantly; the notes and back matter make this a great choice for classroom use.” *?Kirkus Reviews on Hurricane Dancers*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Debra Yarbrough:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this particular Mountain Dog book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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Pamela Prince:

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