



The Weight of Feathers

By Anna-Marie McLemore

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For twenty years, the Palomas and the Corbeaus have been rivals and enemies, locked in an escalating feud for over a generation. Both families make their living as traveling performers in competing shows—the Palomas swimming in mermaid exhibitions, the Corbeaus, former tightrope walkers, performing in the tallest trees they can find.

Lace Paloma may be new to her family's show, but she knows as well as anyone that the Corbeaus are pure *magia negra*, black magic from the devil himself. Simply touching one could mean death, and she's been taught from birth to keep away. But when disaster strikes the small town where both families are performing, it's a Corbeau boy, Cluck, who saves Lace's life. And his touch immerses her in the world of the Corbeaus, where falling for him could turn his own family against him, and one misstep can be just as dangerous on the ground as it is in the trees.

Beautifully written, and richly imaginative, Anna-Marie McLemore's *The Weight of Feathers* is an utterly captivating young adult novel by a talented new voice.

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The Weight of Feathers By Anna-Marie McLemore Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—For almost an entire generation, the Palomas and the Corbeaus have been rivals in a steadily escalating feud that is fueled by hearsay and fantasized superstitions. Both families' livelihood is dependent on their itinerant performances, from one town to the next, and both family shows have turned competitive, with the Corbeaus performing tightropelike acts in the trees and the Palomas presenting mermaid exhibitions in the natural waterways. Members of the families are born with particular marks that brand them according to their lineage. The Corbeaus have a patch of feathers at the base of their hairline, and the Palomas have a series of patterned scales. No Paloma, under any circumstance, should dare touch a Corbeau, or vice versa, for fear that this simple act could cause a potentially fatal catastrophe. This mandate does not keep Lucien "Cluck" Corbeau from rescuing Lace Paloma from a chemical disaster. That fateful moment spurred the beginnings of their star-crossed romance and forever changes the lives of the two clans. In this tale of magical realism, the magic is so deftly woven into the fabric of the story, readers might overlook the more subtle moments. VERDICT Told with skillful poetic nuances, this Romeo-and-Juliet story of forbidden love will entice fans of Maggie Stiefvater's "Raven Cycle" (Scholastic) who wished for a little more romance.—Sabrina Carnesi, Crittenden Middle School, Newport News, VA

Review

"*The Weight of Feathers* is one of the most stunning books I have read in years, and one that I desperately wish I had written. Equal parts heartbreaking, insightful, and charming, it's a truly unforgettable read. McLemore's gift for finding perfectly unique turns of phrase astounds, but equally important is her ability to bring to life fully-realized characters that you'll want to live with long after you turn the last page of this exceptional debut." ?I.W. Gregorio, author of *None of the Above*

"Readers beguiled by the languorous language—a striking mix of French and Spanish phrases, wry colloquialism, lush imagery, and elevated syntax—will find themselves falling under its spell. The third-person narration alternates between Lace and Cluck, doling out twists and building to a satisfying, romantic conclusion. A contemporary, magical take on an ever compelling theme." ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"A gripping, beautifully rendered story with prose reminiscent of *Eva Luna* and a fantastical world as captivating as that of *The Night Circus*." ?Sabaa Tahir, author of *An Ember in the Ashes*

"Scales and feathers touch and burn in McLemore's stunning debut. The beauty of the language wraps around you, not letting go until long after the final page." ?Jaleigh Johnson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Mark of the Dragonfly* and *Secrets of Solace*

"Draws us into a world that's magical but still feels very, very real. The writing is beautiful, fluid, lyrical. I never wanted this story to end." ?Robin Talley, author of *Lies We Tell Ourselves*

"A gorgeous debut, lush and heart-tuggingly romantic, full of bittersweet magic." ?Jessica Spotswood, author of *The Cahill Witch Chronicles*

"An unmissable story... Will leave you enchanted till the last page. Beautiful." ?*Emery Lord, author of Open Road Summer*

"A dazzling debut full of imaginative flair, long-buried secrets, and hypnotic power. It drew me in with its

gorgeous passages and left me reeling with a fantastical story about love and struggling against the confines of family and creating a life all your own."?Nova Ren Suma, author of *The Walls Around Us* and *Imaginary Girls*

About the Author

ANNA-MARIE MCLEMORE was born in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and grew up in a Mexican-American family. She attended University of Southern California on a Trustee Scholarship. A Lambda Literary Fellow, she has had work featured by the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, CRATE Literary Magazine's *cratelit*, *Camera Obscura*'s Bridge the Gap Series, and *The Portland Review*. McLemore is the author of *The Weight of Feathers* and *When the Moon Was Ours*, which was longlisted for the 2016 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Users Review

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Christina Rogers:

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Daniel Hanson:

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