



Sun, Moon, and Stars

By Mary Hoffman

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Sun, Moon, and Stars By Mary Hoffman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hoffman and Ray look to the heavens in this sparkling collection of myths and legends from around the world, a follow-up to their companion book *Earth, Fire, Water, Air*. Hoffman's colloquial tone whisks readers through a volume chockablock with captivating tales inspired by the wonders of science and the natural world. With examples from ancient Egypt and Julius Caesar's Rome, the beginning segment establishes the sky as storybook, map and calendar. Subsequent sections on sun, moon and stars combine lesser-known tales with those of Phaeton, who meets his death trying to drive his father's chariot of the sun across the sky; Caribbean trickster/spider man Anancy, who gives the moon to his children; and the "Circle of Beasts," a description of all 12 signs of the zodiac. Hoffman also provides brief, captionlike superstitions, sayings and traditions in spreads entitled "Sunlore," "Moonlore" and "Starlore." As accompaniment to a text spanning cultures, lands and histories, Ray offers a varied tapestry of dreamlike images that combine elements of fantasy with intricate folk art borders and motifs. For each passage, she sets a dramatically different stage, incorporating dazzling costumes and designs from Native American, Aztec and Japanese traditions, among others. Many of the paintings also glitter with flashes of gold or silver, befitting a book about the brightest lights of the sky. All ages.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6-In this splendid collaboration following *Earth, Fire, Water, Air* (Dutton, 1995), the author's lean style again complements the artist's lush one. More than 20 legends and myths from around the world surrounding the "appearance and movement of the sun, moon, and stars" are interspersed with bits of factual information and lore. Succinctly but resonantly retold, the stories show the sky as a blank screen on which every culture projects its imagination. There are Latvian, Aztec-Mayan, Korean, Hindu, and Australian-Aboriginal examples, as well as better-known Greek (Phaeton, Cassiopeia), Norse, English, and Japanese tales. A brief section "About the Stories" cites some very eclectic sources. The brilliant pictures, spattered with silver and gold, exactly suit the heavenly subjects. Ray adapts her signature style to suggest the artistic traditions of each story's cultural origin. Folklike frames, intricately patterned textiles, and naive compositions are both dense and accessible, and the depth and variety of hues are a delight. A more romantic or engaging introduction to myths of the cosmos could hardly be imagined.

Patricia Lothrop-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI

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From [Booklist](#)

This companion piece to the duo's *Earth, Fire, Water, Air* (1996) combines facts and lore and Ray's glorious pictures into a resource that can be used in many ways. "The sky is a vast storybook . . . but it doesn't tell the same stories to everyone." Following an introduction that explains how the ancients looked at the sky, the book is divided by each element in the title. Stories from various cultures, including the Egyptian, Korean, Chinese, Aztec, and Navajo, are augmented by bits of information and lore that enrich the book. Hoffman's story selection is excellent and carefully sourced; most of the retellings will hold readers' attention, though the prose is occasionally stiff. Ray's pictures, on the other hand, soar. Spreads, sidebars, and full-page pictures are intricately designed and executed, touched as usual with bits of silver and gold. A particularly handsome piece of bookmaking that will spark imaginations. *Ilene Cooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucia Morrone:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information today can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Sun, Moon, and Stars as the daily resource information.

Marquita Oswald:

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