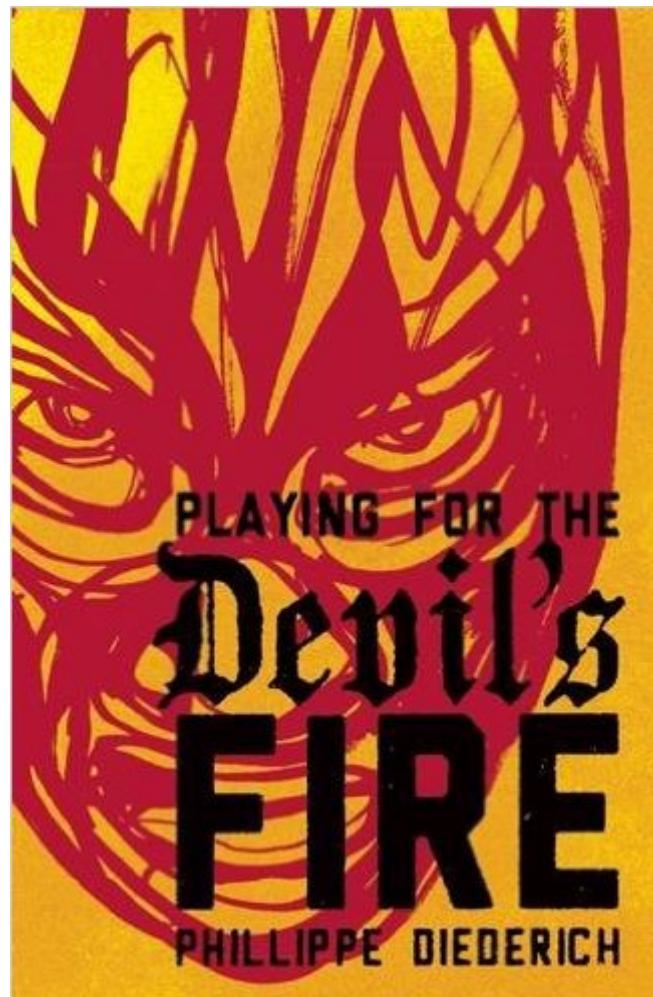


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Playing For The Devil's Fire



Synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Boli and his friends are deep in the middle of a game of marbles. An older boy named Mosca has won the prized Devil's Fire marble. His pals are jealous and want to win it away from him. This is Izayoc, the place of tears, a small pueblo in a tiny valley west of Mexico City where nothing much happens. It's a typical hot Sunday morning except that on the way to church someone discovers the severed head of Enrique Quintanilla propped on the ledge of one of the cement planters in the plaza and everything changes. Not apocalyptic changes, like phalanxes of men riding on horses with stingers for tails, but subtle ones: poor neighbors turning up with brand-new SUVs, pimpled teens with fancy girls hanging off them. Boli's parents leave for Toluca and don't arrive at their destination. No one will talk about it. A washed out masked wrestler turns up one day, a man only interested in finding his next meal. Boli hopes to inspire the luchador to set out with him to find his parents. Phillippe Diederich was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Mexico City and Miami. His parents were forced out of Haiti by the dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier in 1963. As a photojournalist, Diederich has traveled extensively through Mexico and witnessed the terrible tragedies of the Drug Wars. Â Â

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540 (What's this?)

Paperback: 232 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #319,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #55 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #72 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

Customer Reviews

In this painfully moving coming of age story, a group of boys are messing around with marbles, each hoping to win the treasure called the Devil's Fire. Their youth and innocence, however, is about to be stolen from them. A decapitated head is found on the town square, new money pops up everywhere, and the protagonist's parents mysteriously disappear. Readers of all ages will learn much about the plight of Mexican youth and the perils of getting involved in the narcotics trade from this well-written novel about Boli, his relationship with a failed luchador, and their quest to discover the truth about his parents' disappearance. High school teachers and librarians who wish to inspire their students to learn more about Mexico would do well to begin with this novel.

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